

MACMILLAN
English
DICTIONARY

FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS

NEW EDITION

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THIS PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE
CONTAINS SAMPLE PAGES FROM THE
SECOND EDITION OF THE
MACMILLAN ENGLISH DICTIONARY:

- a full contents list
- pages from the letter E
- full pages of colour illustrations
- pages from the Improve your Writing Skills section
- pages from the Expand your Vocabulary section
- a Language Awareness article

with additional pages on the features of
the dictionary.

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FEATURES OF THE MACMILLAN

Full coverage of British and American English spelling, pronunciation and meaning

Menus in longer entries take you straight to the right meaning

Clearly labelled subject-specific vocabulary

Simple, clear definitions are written using only 2,500 of the most common words

The most important words to be used for writing and speaking are highlighted in red and graded with stars

Over 1,000 illustrated words, many in two colour, with separate full-colour sections

66

ardor /ɑ:(r)də(r)/ the American spelling of **ardour**

A **ardour** /ɑ:(r)də(r)/ noun [U] 1 very strong feelings of admiration or determination = LOVE: *He carried out the task with ardour.* 2 literary very strong feelings of love

arduous /ɑ:(r)djuəs/ adj extremely difficult and involving a lot of effort: *an arduous task* ♦ *The journey was long and arduous.* — **arduously** adv

are¹ /weək ə(r), strɒŋ ə(r)/ see **be**

are² /ɑ:(r), cə(r)/ noun [C] a unit for measuring area in the METRIC SYSTEM. One are is equal to 100 square metres.

area /'eəriə/ noun ★★★

1 subject/activity	4 size of surface
2 part of town/building	5 in football
3 part of surface	

1 [C] a particular subject, type of activity etc: *Mathematics is a subject which has links with all other curriculum areas.* ♦ *What is your main area of concern?* ♦ *His particular area of expertise is engineering.*

2 [C] a part of a city, town, country etc: *Bus services in rural areas are not very good.* ♦ *I went on a tour of Vancouver and the surrounding area.* ♦ ♦ **of** *My family has lived in this area of England for years.* 2a, a part of a building, space etc used for a particular purpose: *You can park only in designated areas* (=places available for this purpose). ♦ *Visitors should wait in the reception area.*

3 [C] a place on the surface of something such as a part of your body: *Be sure to apply sunblock to sensitive areas of your skin.*

4 **area** or **surface area** [C] MATHS the amount of space that the surface of a place or shape covers. Area is expressed in square units, such as square kilometres or square miles: *The surface area of the screen should be at least one square metre.*

5 **the area** [singular] the PENALTY AREA on a football field: *He scored from the edge of the area.*

area code noun [C] a DIALING CODE

arena /'sɪrɪmə/ noun [C] ★

1 a large area that is surrounded by seats, used for sports or entertainment: *a circus arena*

2 the people and activities involved with a particular subject or activity: *Today, businesses must be able to compete in the international arena.* ♦ *Publishers must move into the electronic arena.*

aren't /ɑ:(r)nənt/ short form 1 the usual way of saying or writing 'are not'. This is not often used in formal writing: *We aren't going to Spain this year.* 2 the usual way of saying or writing 'am not' in questions: *I'm looking thinner, aren't I?*

Argentine /ɑ:(r)dʒɪntaɪn/ adj see **Nationalities table**

Argentinian /ɑ:(r)dʒɪn'ʌniən/ noun [C] see **Nationalities table**

argon /ɑ:(r)ɡɒn/ noun [U] CHEMISTRY a gas that is in the air and that does not produce a chemical reaction when mixed with other substances. It is sometimes used in electric lights.

argot /ɑ:(r)ɡɒt, 'ɑ:(r)ɡɒt/ noun [C/U] words that are used by a particular group of people = JARGON: *military argot*

arguable /ɑ:(r)ɡjuəb(ə)/ adj 1 if something is arguable, you are not completely certain whether it is true or correct: *Whether good students make good teachers is arguable.* 2 formal if a fact or statement is arguable, there is evidence that it is true or that people agree with it: *The judge held that there was an arguable case of libel.*

arguably /ɑ:(r)ɡjuəbli/ adv ★ used for stating your opinion or belief, especially when you think other people may disagree: *This is arguably the best club in town.*

argue /ɑ:(r)ɡju/ verb ★★★

1 [I] if people argue, they speak to each other in an angry way because they disagree = QUARREL: *Those girls are always arguing!* ♦ ♦ **with** *Don't argue with me - you know I'm right.* ♦ ♦ **about/over** *We used to argue over who should drive.* 1a. [I/T] to discuss something with someone who has a different opinion from you: *The programme gives people a chance to argue their ideas.* ♦ ♦ **about/over** *They are still arguing over the details of the contract.*

argyle

2 [I/T] to give reasons why you believe that something is right or true: *Successful economies, she argues, are those with the lowest taxes.* ♦ ♦ **for/against** *Woolf's report argued for (=supported) an improvement in prison conditions.* ♦ ♦ **that** *Reuben argued that it wasn't worth spending \$25 million to cut seven minutes off drivers' journey times.* ♦ ♦ **Several people stood up to argue against** (=say they do not support) *moving the students to the new school.*

Collocation

Adverbs frequently used with **argue** 2

■ consistently, convincingly, forcefully, passionately, persuasively, plausibly, strongly

PHRASE **argue sb into/out of (doing) sth** British to persuade someone to do/sto do something: *I've managed to argue him out of going to the match.*

→ TOSS²

argue

argument /ɑ:(r)ɡjʊmənt/ noun ★★★

1 [C] an angry disagreement between people = QUARREL: *a heated argument* (=extremely angry disagreement) ♦ **without an argument** *They won't accept higher prices without an argument.* ♦ ♦ **have an argument (with sb)** *I've had an argument with my girlfriend.* ♦ ♦ **get into an argument (with sb)** *Every time we visit my family, he gets into an argument with my sister.* ♦ ♦ **about/over** *I try to avoid arguments about money.* 1a, a discussion or debate between people with different views, opinions etc: **win/lose an argument** *We can win this argument if we present the facts clearly.* ♦ ♦ **about/over** *The party is involved in an argument over economic policy.*

2 [C/U] a reason or set of reasons that you use for persuading other people to support your views, opinions etc: *The Court of Appeal rejected her arguments.* ♦ ♦ **His main argument is stated in the opening chapter.** ♦ ♦ **for/against** *There are powerful arguments against releasing them from prison.* ♦ ♦ **You could make an argument for working shorter hours.**

Metaphor

An argument is like a **fight** or **war**, with people attacking each other's opinions and defending their own.

She tried to defend herself against his attacks on her ideas. ♦ *She shot down his argument.* ♦ *That is an indefensible point of view.* ♦ *I decided to pursue another line of attack.* ♦ *We had a big fight last night, and I went home early.* ♦ *There was a lot of conflict over what to do next.* ♦ *They clashed over who to appoint.* ♦ *It was a real battle of wits.* ♦ *We did battle with the council about the plans.* ♦ *I've crossed swords with them before.* ♦ *Tom is always the first to leap to her defence.*

→ ANGRY, CRITICIZE, IDEA

argumentative /ɑ:(r)ɡju'mentətɪv/ adj showing disapproval someone who is argumentative often argues or disagrees with people

argy-bargy /ɑ:(r)dʒɪ'ba:(r)dʒɪ/ noun [U] British informal noisy arguments

argyle /ɑ:(r)ɡaɪl/ noun [C/U] a pattern on clothing such as socks or JUMPERS, consisting of different coloured diamond shapes

Unique boxes show how many familiar words and phrases have metaphorical meanings

ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Cross references to related words, phrases and illustrations for developing vocabulary

rearm

1236

reasonable

rearm /ri:'ɑ:(r)m/ verb [I/T] to supply someone with new weapons, or to be supplied with them, especially as a preparation for war ≠ **disarm** — **rearmament** /ri:'ɑ:(r)mənt/ noun [U]: a **rearmament programme**

rearmost /ri:'ɑ:(r)məʊst/ adj *formal* furthest from the front

rearrange /ri:'eɪrɪndʒ/ verb [T] 1 to arrange people or things in a different order or in different positions 2 to arrange for an event, meeting etc to take place at a different time = **RESCHEDULE** *The meeting has been rearranged for Tuesday.* — **rearrangement** noun [C/U]

rear-view mirror noun [C] a mirror fixed inside the front window of a car that lets the driver see what is happening behind it — **picture** → **car**

rearward /ri:'wɔ:(r)d/ adj, adv *formal* in or towards the back of something

reason¹ /ri:'z(ə)n/ noun ★★★

1 [C] a fact, situation, or intention that explains why something happened, why someone did something, or why something is true: **for** *The police asked her the reason for her visit.* • **reason for doing sth** *Could you explain your reasons for choosing this particular course?* • **why** *The reason why so many people caught the disease is still not clear.* • **(that)** *The reason these cars are so expensive is that they are largely built by hand.* • **for a reason** *The woman cannot be named for legal reasons.* • **give a reason** *Our application was rejected, but the council gave no reason for its decision.* • **for the simple/obvious/good reason (that)** *We can't take you all, for the simple reason that there isn't enough room in the car.*

Collocation

Adjectives frequently used with **reason 1**

- compelling, good, legitimate, logical, main, major, obvious, primary, principal, simple, valid

Verbs frequently used with **reason 1** as the object

- cite, explain, give, outline, pinpoint, provide, specify, state

2 [U] a good or clear cause for doing something or thinking something: **for** *With plenty of orders coming in, there is reason for optimism about the company's future.* • **reason to do sth** *Is there any reason to believe that she isn't telling the truth?* • **there is every reason to do sth** (=there are very clear reasons) *There was every reason to expect that he would agree.* • **with reason/not without reason** *He has refused to pay, not without reason.* • **have no reason to do sth** *She has no reason to shout at you.* • **see no reason/not see any reason** (=when there is no obvious reason for something should happen) *I can't see any reason for refusing their invitation.*

3 [U] a way of behaving that most people accept as sensible: *She had reason on her side.* • **listen** / **to see** *reason finally saw reason and gave me the gun.* • **reason prevails** (=wins) *Fortunately, reason prevailed and she did not marry him.* • **within reason** (=according to what is sensible) *Let your children have their freedom, within reason.*

4 [U] the human ability to think in an intelligent way, make sensible decisions, and form clear arguments: *His assessment of the situation is based on sheer emotion, not reason.*

PHRASES all the more **reason** used for emphasizing that what someone has said or done is another reason why they should do a particular thing: *But some of those kids can hardly read or write!* 'All the more reason why they should get the best education on offer.'

due to/for reasons beyond sb's control used for saying that you are not responsible for something that has happened, especially when you are sorry about it: *due to reasons beyond our control, all flights are suffering delays.*

for no (apparent) reason without an obvious cause: *Sometimes the dog would bark for no apparent reason.*

for one reason or another used for saying that there is more than one reason for something: *His travel articles are always, for one reason or another, fascinating.* **for reasons best known to himself/herself etc** used for saying that you do not understand why someone does something: *George, for reasons best known to himself, was wearing a flower in his hair.*

for reasons of economy/safety/security etc used for showing why a particular thing is done: *The design was changed purely for reasons of safety.*

for some reason used for saying that you do not know why something happened, especially when you think there is no good reason for it: *For some reason, they wouldn't let me help them.*

give me one good reason used for emphasizing that you do not think there is a good reason for doing something: *He's lied to us before, so give me one good reason why we should believe him now.*

have your reasons *informal* to have a personal reason for doing something that you are not going to discuss with anyone: *I suppose she has her reasons for not joining us.*

no reason *spoken* used when you do not want to tell someone why you have done something: *'Why did you ask him that?' 'No reason.'*

the reason behind sth the real explanation or cause of something, which is not immediately obvious: *The reasons behind his decision were never made public.*

→ **STAND**

Get it right: reason

After **reason**, use the preposition **for**, **not of**:

✗ *The main reason of poverty is unemployment.*

✓ *The main reason for poverty is unemployment.*

✗ *A doctor can't operate if he doesn't know the reason of the illness.*

✓ *A doctor can't operate if he doesn't know the reason for the illness.*

Other words meaning reason

cause the reason that something happens or that you feel a particular emotion: *The probable cause of death was drowning.* • *Fifty years after the war, scholars still disagree about its causes.*

excuse a reason you give in order to explain why you did something bad or wrong: *She gave some excuse about being too sick to finish her essay.*

explanation a fact or set of facts that tells you why something happened: *There was no obvious explanation for his sudden disappearance.*

grounds a word used in official or legal situations, meaning a good or fair reason for doing something: *His repeated violence towards her was given as grounds for divorce.* • *Permission for the march was refused, on grounds of public safety.*

motivation someone's personal reason for doing something: *The other runners' times were fast, and that gave me motivation to push even harder.*

motive someone's personal reason for doing something, especially something dishonest or illegal: *Police are unsure about a motive for the crime.*

pretext a false reason you give for doing something in order to hide your real reason: *He got into the warehouse on the pretext of making a building inspection.*

purpose the goal that you want to achieve: *The purpose of Tuesday's meeting is to finalize the schedule.*

reason² /ri:'z(ə)n/ verb 1 [T] *formal* to make a particular judgment after you have thought about the facts of a situation in an intelligent and sensible way: **(that)** *We reasoned that they would not dare leave before dark.* 2 [I] to have the ability to think in an intelligent way, make sensible decisions, and form clear arguments

PHRASAL VERBS **reason out** [T] **[reason sth out]** to find a successful way of dealing with something by thinking about it = **THINK OUT**

reason with [T] **[reason with sb]** to try to persuade someone to do something by explaining why you think it is sensible: *It's no use trying to reason with people like that.*

reasonable /ri:'z(ə)nəb(ə)l/ adj ★★★

1 someone who is reasonable behaves in a sensible and fair way = **RATIONAL** ≠ **UNREASONABLE**, **IRRATIONAL**: *I'll come back when you're in a more reasonable mood.* • **be reasonable** *Come on, be reasonable – I didn't mean to do it!* 2, used about people's decisions, actions etc: *We have taken all reasonable precautions to avoid an accident.*

2 if something is reasonable, there are good reasons for thinking that it is true or correct: *It's reasonable to*

Helpful example sentences, based on real-life spoken and written English, show how and when the word is used

Get it right boxes at individual headwords help you to anticipate mistakes that you might make and show you how to correct them. These boxes often also highlight common collocations, present alternatives to over-used words and point out the differences between words that are easy to confuse.

Special boxes for building vocabulary, choosing the right word, British/American differences, and word origins

Thousands of synonyms and antonyms

Extra collocation information based on data from the World English Corpus

R

I'm **easy** *spoken* used for saying that you will accept any choice or decision that someone else makes: 'Shall we eat at home or go out?' 'Whatever you like: I'm easy.' **it is all too easy (for sb) to do sth** used for saying that it is very easy to make a mistake or to do something that will cause problems: *For most people it is all too easy to put on weight.* ♦ **It is all too easy for someone in authority to think that they are better than everyone else.** **it is easy (for sb) to do sth** used for saying that someone thinks a situation is simple, when it is really very complicated or difficult: *It's easy for people in cities to think that small towns have no crime.* ♦ *It is easy to forget that many problems remain to be solved.*

on easy street *informal* rich

that's easy for you to say *spoken* used for telling someone that although something may be easy or simple for them, it is not easy or simple for you **within easy walking/driving distance** close enough to walk/drive to in a short time: *Parking is available within easy walking distance of the museum.*

— **easiness** noun [U]

→ FREE¹, OPTION

easy² /'i:zi/ adv ★★★

PHRASES **breathe/rest easy** to relax and stop feeling worried: *Just three more questions and then you can breathe easy.* ♦ *I won't rest easy until I get my passport back.*

sth comes easy (to sb) used for saying that it is not hard for someone to do something

easier said than done *informal* used for saying that something is a good idea but will be difficult to achieve: *Some people want the UN to withdraw, but that's easier said than done.*

easy come, easy go *spoken* used for saying that someone has spent money quickly, after getting it easily, and that they should not worry because they have spent it **easy does it** *spoken* used for telling someone to do something carefully or gently, especially when they are moving something large

go easy on sb *mainly spoken* to not be very angry or severe when you are dealing with someone: *Go easy on her: she's only a kid.*

go easy on/with sth *mainly spoken* used for telling someone not to use, eat, or drink too much of something: *Didn't the doctor tell you to go easy on the salt?*

take it easy **1** *informal* to rest and not do things that will make you tired: *Take it easy and don't tire yourself out.*

2 *spoken* used for telling someone to be calm when they are upset or annoyed: *Hey, cool down! Take it easy.*

3 *mainly American spoken* used for saying goodbye to someone: *I'll talk to you later. Take it easy. Bye.*

easy-care adj **easy-care** clothes do not need to be IRONED after they are washed

easy chair noun [C] a large comfortable chair

easygoing /'i:zi'gəʊɪŋ/ adj relaxed, calm, and not getting easily upset about things

easy listening /'i:zi 'lɪs(ə)nɪŋ/ noun [U] MUSIC relaxing music without complicated tunes or a strong beat

easy-peasy /'i:zi 'pi:zi/ adj *British informal* extremely easy. This word is used mainly by children or when speaking to children = SIMPLE

easy terms noun [plural] BUSINESS *British* a way of paying for something that involves making several payments over a period of time

eat /i:t/ (past tense ate /et, eɪt/; past participle eaten /'i:t(ə)n/) verb [I/T] ★★★ to put food into your mouth and swallow it: *We sat on the grass and ate our sandwiches.* ♦ *Don't talk while you're eating.* ♦ *I've eaten too much.* ♦ *Finish your lunch – you've hardly eaten anything.* **a.** to eat a particular type or amount of food: *Do you eat meat/fish/eggs?* ♦ *I find it difficult to persuade my family to eat a healthy diet.* ♦ **eat properly/healthily/sensibly** (=eat food that is good for you) *Many people who live alone don't eat properly.* ♦ **eating habits/patterns** (=what someone eats, and when they eat) *It will take time to change your children's eating habits.* ♦ **eat well** (=have a lot of good food) *We always ate well at Aunt Milly's.* **b.** to have a meal: *We don't eat breakfast together, except at the weekends.* ♦ *Beth ate her evening meal in the hotel.* ♦ *What time shall we eat?* ♦ **+at** *We ate at a small Chinese restaurant several streets away.* ♦ **sth to eat** (=food) *Which can we get something to eat?* ♦ **a bite to eat** (=a quick

meal) *Do you want to grab a bite to eat before we go?*

PHRASES **eat sb alive** **1** **eat sb alive/for breakfast/lunch** to defeat or deal with someone easily **2** if insects eat you alive, they keep biting you: *We were being eaten alive by midges.*

eat like a bird to eat very little

eat like a horse *informal* to eat a lot

eat sb out of house and home *humorous* to eat too much of someone's food when you are a guest in their house **eat your heart out** *humorous* used for saying that you are doing something much better than a famous person does it

eat your words *informal* to admit that you were wrong about something

have sb eating out of your hand to make someone like or admire you so much that they agree with everything that you say

what's eating sb? *spoken* used for asking why someone is annoyed or unhappy

→ HUMBLE¹

PHRASAL VERBS **eat a way** [T] **eat away** or **eat into** to gradually destroy something = ERODE: *Within a few years inflation had eaten away all the economic gains.*

eat a way at [T] to make someone feel more and more unhappy or worried: *You could see that jealousy was eating away at her.*

eat in [I] to have a meal at home instead of in a restaurant ≠ EAT OUT

eat into [T] **1** [eat into sth] if an activity or cost eats into your time or money, it uses more of it than you intended = USE UP **2** [eat into sth] same as eat away: *The river had eaten into the bank, and part of it had collapsed.*

eat 'out [I] to have a meal in a restaurant instead of at home: *People are spending more on eating out* ≠ EAT IN

eat up **1** [I/T] *mainly spoken* to eat all of something: *Come on, eat up your broccoli.* ♦ *Eat up, and we'll go for a walk.* **2** [T] to use large amounts of your available time or money = CONSUME: *Having children eats up a lot of a family's income.* **3** [T] [eat up sth] to travel a particular distance easily and steadily: *They drove on, eating up the distance between themselves and home.* **4** **be eaten up by/with sth** to feel a negative emotion so strongly that it is difficult to think about anything else: *Paula was eaten up by guilt for days.* **5** **eat it up** *informal* to like something so much that you want to hear or see more: *The press argued over the book, and the public was eating it up.*

Other ways of saying eat

have breakfast/lunch/dinner to eat a particular meal: *Have you had breakfast yet?* ♦ *He phoned while we were having lunch.*

have something to eat to eat something or to have a meal: *We'll stop and have something to eat when we get to Newcastle.*

snack/have a snack to eat something small between your main meals: *We usually have a drink and a snack around 11.* ♦ *No snacking, now!*

grab a bite (to eat) (*informal*) to eat a snack or small meal when you do not have much time: *Maybe we could grab a bite at Charlie's before the film.*

eat up to finish all the food you have been given: *Eat up! There's plenty more.*

nibble (at) to take very small bites from your food: *She nibbled at her sandwich politely, waiting for the others to arrive.*

chew (on) to use your teeth to break food up slowly in your mouth: *He was chewing on a piece of celery.*

munch or munch at to eat something noisily and enthusiastically: *The kids were munching crisps in front of the TV.*

stuff yourself (*informal*) to eat so much that you feel ill or uncomfortable: *I'm not surprised you feel sick, the way you stuffed yourself last night.*

eatable /'i:təb(ə)l/ adj good enough to eat, or safe to eat **eater** /'i:tə(r)/ noun [C] **1** someone who eats in a particular way: *a messy/noisy eater* ♦ **a healthy/big/hearty eater** (=someone who eats a lot) *He's small, but he's a healthy eater.* ♦ **a picky eater** (=someone who does not

like many foods) *They have a four-year-old child who is a very picky eater.* **2** a person or animal that eats a particular type of food: *a meat eater*

eatory /'i:təri/ noun [C] mainly American mainly journalism a restaurant

eating apple /'i:tiŋ æp(ə)l/ noun [C] an apple that you eat raw, not a cooking apple

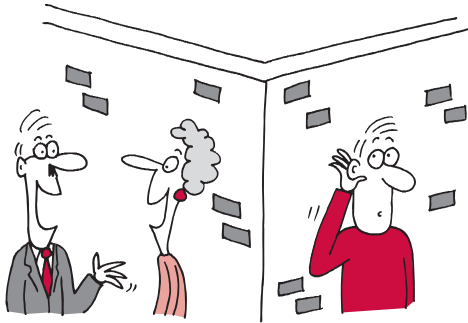
eating disorder /'i:tiŋ dis.ɔ:(r)də(r)/ noun [C] a medical condition such as ANOREXIA or BULIMIA in which someone tries to control their weight in a way that makes them ill

eats /i:ts/ noun [plural] informal food or meals, usually at a social event: *It won't cost anything, except for booze and eats.*

eau-de-cologne /əʊ də kə'ləʊn/ noun [C/U] a liquid with a pleasant smell that you put on your body. It does not smell as strong as perfume.

eaves /i:vz/ noun [plural] the bottom edge of a roof that continues out over the walls

eavesdrop /'i:vz drɒp/ verb [I] to listen to other people's conversation without them knowing that you are listening



eavesdrop

eBay /'i:beɪ/ TRADEMARK a website where people buy and sell things by AUCTIONING them (=selling them to the person who offers most money)

ebb¹ /eb/ noun [singular] **1** ebb or ebb tide the process in which the sea level on a coast becomes lower **2** a period when something gradually becomes smaller or less: *an apparent ebb in the fighting*

PHRASES be at/reach (a) low ebb to be in a very small, weak, or unsuccessful state: *My confidence was at its lowest ebb.*

the ebb and flow **1** the way that a situation keeps changing between two states, for example in a game, fight, or argument: *the ebb and flow of debate* **2** a situation in which something keeps becoming larger or stronger, and then smaller or weaker: *the ebb and flow of their political power*

ebb² /eb/ verb [I] mainly literary **1** if the TIDE ebbs, the sea's level on a coast gradually becomes lower. A more usual word is go out. **2** ebb or ebb a way to gradually become smaller or less **3** ebb or ebb a way if someone's life is ebbing or ebbing away, they are slowly dying

PHRASE ebb and flow **1** to keep becoming smaller or weaker and then larger or stronger: *Enthusiasm for reform ebbed and flowed.* **2** to keep changing between two states: *The battle ebbed and flowed around them.*

Ebola /i'boʊlə/ or **Ebola virus** noun [U] MEDICAL a serious disease that causes you to lose blood from all parts of your body and usually results in death

ebony¹ /'ebəni/ noun **1** [C] a tree with hard dark wood **1a.** [U] the wood of an ebony tree **2** [U] mainly literary a dark black colour

ebony² /'ebəni/ adj mainly literary dark black in colour

e-book noun [C] COMPUTING a book published on the Internet = ELECTRONIC BOOK

ebullient /i'buljənt/ adj formal very happy and enthusiastic — ebullience noun [U]

e-business noun BUSINESS, COMPUTING [U] business done on the Internet **a.** [C] a company that operates on the Internet = DOT.COM

EBV /jɪ bi: 'vi:/ noun [U] see Epstein-Barr virus

the EC /jɪ: 'si:/ noun European Community: the old name for the EU or European Union

e-cash noun [U] money that exists in electronic form and is used to pay for things over the Internet

eccentric¹ /ik'sentrik/ adj someone who is eccentric often behaves in slightly strange or unusual ways: *She's regarded as being rather eccentric.* ♦ an eccentric, difficult genius **a.** used about actions, decisions, or things that people make that are strange or unusual: *a rather eccentric decision by the referee* ♦ an eccentric family tradition — **eccentrically** /ik'sentrikli/ adv

eccentric² /ik'sentrik/ noun [C] someone who behaves in an eccentric way

eccentricity /'eksentrisəti/ noun [U] strange or unusual behaviour: *Mrs Morton was well known for her eccentricity.* **a.** [C] an idea, action, or habit that is strange or unusual: *Oh that's just one of Carol's little eccentricities.*

Eccles cake /'ek(ə)lz keɪk/ noun [C] a type of small cake filled with dried CURRANTS (=fruit)

ecclesiastic /i,kli:zi'æstɪk/ noun [C] formal a Christian priest, MINISTER etc

ecclesiastical /i,kli:zi'æstɪk(ə)l/ or **ecclesiastic** /i,kli:zi'æstɪk/ adj relating to the Christian Church

ECG /jɪ: si: 'dʒi:/ noun [C] MEDICAL a machine used in hospitals for showing how well someone's heart is beating. The picture it shows or prints is also called an ECG.

echelon /'eʃələn/ noun [C] **1** one of the levels of status or authority in an organization, or the people at that level: *upper/lower echelons* the upper echelons of power **2** an arrangement of soldiers, ships, or aircraft in which each one is slightly to the right or left of the one in front

echidna /i'ki:dna/ noun [C] a small Australian animal that eats ANTS and other insects

echinacea /'ekɪ'neɪʃə/ noun [U] a plant used in ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE to help your IMMUNE SYSTEM fight illness

echo¹ /'ekəʊ/ verb ★★

1 [I] if a noise echoes, it is repeated because the sound hits a surface and returns: **+around/round/through** *Her question echoed around the room.* ♦ **+across** *The howl of a coyote echoed across the canyon.* **1a.** if a building, space, or room echoes, noises are repeated there because it is large and empty: *She led him along deserted echoing corridors.* **1b.** if a place echoes with a particular sound, it is filled with that sound: **+with** *The theatre echoed with laughter.*

2 [T] to express the ideas or feelings that someone else has expressed: *Her feelings are echoed by other parents whose kids have left home.* ♦ *Blake echoed the views of many players.* **2a.** to say the same words that someone else has said

3 [T] to repeat a quality or situation: *The Victorian theme is echoed in the furnishings.* ♦ *This pattern of increased sales was echoed across Europe.*

PHRASE echo in your mind/head if something that you have heard echoes in your mind, you seem to keep hearing it

echo² /'ekəʊ/ (plural echoes) noun [C] ★

1 a noise that is repeated because the sound hits a surface and returns: *the echo of footsteps in the alley*

2 an idea or phrase that is like one that has been expressed before: *His argument contains clear echoes of 1980s free-market philosophy.* **2a.** something that is very like a thing that happened or was produced before: *the violence of the past and its recent echoes*

PHRASE find an echo (in) if an idea finds an echo in a group or country, people there agree with it

éclair /eɪ'kleɪ(r)/ noun [C] a type of cake shaped like a tube with chocolate on top and cream inside

eclampsia /i'kleɪpsɪə/ noun [U] MEDICAL a medical condition in which a pregnant woman with high BLOOD PRESSURE has CONVULSIONS (=violent uncontrolled movements)

éclat /eɪ'kla:z/ noun [U] literary very great success that everyone knows about

eclectic /i'klektɪk/ adj formal an eclectic group of people, things, or ideas is interesting or unusual because it consists of many different types: **an eclectic**

mix/collection/variety *The song displays an eclectic mix of influences.* — **eclectically** /iˈklektikli/ adv — **eclecticism** /iˈklektiːsɪz(ə)m/ noun [U]

eclipse¹ /iˈkliːps/ verb [T] **1** to make someone or something seem less successful or important, by becoming more successful or important than they are = **OVERSHADOW**: *His performance was eclipsed by Francisco's winning goal.* ♦ *This tragic accident has eclipsed the two disasters on the railways last year.* **2** ASTRONOMY to make the sun or moon become partly or completely dark because of the position of the sun, moon, and earth in relation to each other

eclipse² /iˈkliːps/ noun **1** [C] ASTRONOMY a short period when all or part of the sun or moon becomes dark, because of the positions of the sun, moon, and earth in relation to each other. A **total eclipse** is when the sun or moon is completely covered. An eclipse of the sun is called a **solar eclipse**, and an eclipse of the moon is called a **lunar eclipse**. **2** [singular/U] a time when someone or something starts to seem less successful or important, because another person or thing has become more successful or important than they are: *The rise of one aristocratic family usually meant the eclipse of another.* ♦ **be in eclipse** *Their political power was in eclipse at the time.*

eco- /iːkəʊ/ prefix relating to the environment: used with some nouns and adjectives: *eco-sensitive management* ♦ *an eco-disaster* (=an accident that causes great harm to the environment)

eco-friendly adj designed to cause as little harm as possible to the environment: *a new eco-friendly engine*

ecolabel /iːkəʊˌleɪb(ə)/ noun [C] BUSINESS a label used to mark products that are produced, and that you can use and get rid of, without harming the environment

E. coli /iːˈkəʊli/ noun [U] BIOLOGY a type of bacteria in the **INTESTINES** in the stomach that can make you very ill if it infects something that you eat or drink

ecological /iːkəˈlɒdʒɪk(ə)/ adj [usually before noun] ★

1 relating to the environment and the way that plants, animals, and humans live together and affect each other: *worldwide ecological changes* ♦ *The earthquake has caused an ecological disaster.*

2 working to protect the environment: *It is known as one of the country's leading ecological groups.*

— **ecologically** /iːkəˈlɒdʒɪkli/ adv: *an ecologically sound product* ♦ *ecologically sensitive areas*

ecologist /iˈkɒlədʒɪst/ noun [C] **1** a scientist who studies the environment and the way that plants, animals, and humans live together and affect each other **2** someone who believes that protecting the environment is important

ecology /iˈkɒlədʒi/ noun ★ [U] the study of the environment and the way that plants, animals, and humans live together and affect each other **a**. [C] [usually singular] the relationship between the plants, animals, and the environment in a particular area: *the ecology of the wetlands*

e-commerce noun [U] BUSINESS the activity of buying and selling goods on the Internet

economic /iːkəˈnɒmɪk, ˌekəˈnɒmɪk/ adj ★★★

1 [usually before noun] relating to the economy of a particular country or region: *Economic growth is slowing down.* ♦ *factors that hinder economic development* **1a.** relating to business, industry, and trade: *an attack on the government's economic policies* ♦ *New opportunities will emerge as the economic climate improves.* **1b.** relating to money: *Such projects offer social and economic benefits to our local communities.*

Collocation

Nouns frequently used with **economic 1**

- activity, crisis, development, downturn, growth, policy, recovery, reform, slowdown

2 not costing or spending much money = **ECONOMICAL**: *We must assist our clients in the most economic way.*

3 making satisfactory profit from business activities ≠ **UNECONOMIC**: *We are going to have to make some cutbacks in order to continue to be economic.*

→ **ECONOMICAL**

economic /iːkəˈnɒmɪk(ə)l, ˌekəˈnɒmɪk(ə)l/ adj ★

1 not costing or spending much money: *It would be*

more economical to switch the machine off at night. ♦ *the most economical way to run your new business* **1a.** used about something that is not expensive to make, buy, or use: *The material is an economical substitute for plastic or steel.* ♦ *Of course, the car is not the most economical form of transport.* **1b.** used about someone who is careful about spending money: *He always was economical when it came to buying presents.*

2 not wasting anything: *a beautifully economical process* **2a.** an economical movement is done with as little effort as possible: *an economical gesture* **2b.** an economical way of speaking or writing does not use more words than are necessary: *Garland's prose is economical and expressive.*

PHRASE **be economical with the truth** *informal* to say things that are not true, or to not tell everything that you know

Get it right: economic

People often confuse **economic** and **economical**.

Use **economic** to describe methods, products, machines etc that are **not expensive** or **do not waste money** or other resources:

✗ *They want people to buy more **economic** cars.*

✓ *They want people to buy more **economical** cars.*

✗ *Email is an efficient and **economic** way of contacting a large number of people.*

✓ *Email is an efficient and **economical** way of contacting a large number of people.*

Use **economic** to describe things that are related to the **economy** of a country and how well it is performing:

✗ *a long period of **economic** growth*

✓ *a long period of **economic** growth*

✗ *a serious **economic** crisis*

✓ *a serious **economic** crisis*

economically /iːkəˈnɒmɪkli, ˌekəˈnɒmɪkli/ adv ★★

1 relating to economics or to the economy of a particular country or region: *They dismiss the idea that high tax rates are economically harmful.* ♦ *Politically and economically, the country is going through enormous changes.* ♦ *an economically important industry* ♦ **economically depressed/devastated/disadvantaged** (=experiencing a lot of economic problems) *help for some of the country's economically depressed communities* **1a.** in ways relating to money: *The project is both technically and economically feasible.* ♦ *Is your life going to be economically better than your parents' lives?* ♦ *He was still economically dependent on his mother.* ♦ *economically active people* (=who are earning money)

2 in a careful way, so that there is very little waste: *The average domestic heating system could be run much more economically.* **2a.** in a way that does not cost much money = **CHEAPLY**: *You can equip yourself with the necessary tools quite economically.*

economic cycle noun [C] ECONOMICS the changes that are repeated continuously in a country's economy

economic indicator noun [C] a quantity that is used to measure a particular feature of the economy

economic migrant noun [C] someone who goes to a new country because living conditions or opportunities for jobs are not good in their own country. This word is used by governments to show that a person is not considered a **REFUGEE** (=someone who has been forced to leave their country for political reasons).

economics /iːkəˈnɒmɪks, ˌekəˈnɒmɪks/ noun ★★

1 [U] the study of the way that goods and services are produced and sold and the way money is managed: *Dillon studied economics at Manchester University.*

1a. [only before noun] relating to economics: *an economics teacher/student/class*

2 [plural] the conditions that affect the economic success or failure of a product, company, country etc: *The simple economics of the case are easy to explain.* ♦ *The new developments radically changed the economics of the newspaper industry.*

economies of scale noun [plural] BUSINESS reductions in the cost of making and selling products that are made possible because a business is very large

economist /i'kɒnəmɪst/ noun [C] ★

1 an expert in economics, especially one who advises a government department, business, or organization
2 someone who studies or teaches economics

economize /i'kɒnəmaɪz/ verb [I] to use something such as money or fuel very carefully, so that you waste as little as possible: **+on** *Economizing on food is the only choice we have.*

economy¹ /i'kɒnəmi/ noun ★★★

1 [C] the system by which a country's trade, industry, and money are organized: *a modern industrial economy* ♦ *the high-growth economies of Southeast Asia* ♦ *a market/capitalist/planned economy* **1a.** the whole of a country's business, industry, and trade, and the money that they produce: *Between 1982 and 1988 the economy grew at an average of about 3 per cent per year.* ♦ **boost/stimulate/revive the economy** (=make it stronger) *The government has promised to boost the flagging economy.* **1b.** a country considered as an economic system: *three of the fastest-growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region*

2 [U] the careful use of money, products, or time so that very little is wasted: *In those days, fuel economy was a central factor in car design.* ♦ *The audit will concentrate on the economy and efficiency of production.* **2a.** [U] the use of the smallest number of words or movements needed to express or do something well: **+of** *The play achieves its effects with a terrific economy of language.* **2b. economies** [plural] ways of saving money: **make economies** *I'm sure, if we make a few economies, we'll be able to afford it.* → ECONOMIES OF SCALE

3 [U] TOURISM the cheapest seats on a plane

PHRASE **(a) false economy** something that seems to save money but will really make you spend more: *Buying cheap tools is a false economy.*

economy² /i'kɒnəmi/ adj [only before noun] **1** economy travel is the cheapest type of air travel available **2** economy goods are cheaper than normal goods, usually because you are buying larger quantities: *an economy pack of soap powder* ♦ *Try the new economy size.*

economy class noun [U] TOURISM the cheapest seats on a plane — **economy class** adj, adv

economy class syndrome noun [U] informal DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS

economy drive noun [C] a period when you try to spend less money than usual

ecosystem /i'kɒsɪstəm/ noun [C] BIOLOGY all the plants and animals in a particular area, considered as a system with parts that depend on one another

ecoterrorist /i'kɒtə'reɪst/ noun [C] someone who tries to stop or damage organizations that cause harm to the environment — **ecoterrorism** noun [U]

ecotourism /i'kɒtʊə'rɪz(ə)m/ noun [U] TOURISM the business of creating and selling holidays that give people the chance to learn about a natural environment, and cause as little damage to the environment as possible — **ecotourist** noun [C]

ecru /eɪkrʊ:/ adj very pale brown — **ecru** noun [U]

ecstasy /'ekstəsi/ noun [C/U] **1** a feeling of great happiness and pleasure, often sexual pleasure **2** mainly literary an extreme emotional religious state during which you do not realize what is happening around you

PHRASE **be in/go into ecstasies** to talk/start to talk in a very excited way about something that you like or admire: *They went into ecstasies over the beauty of the countryside.*

Ecstasy /'ekstəsi/ noun [U] an illegal drug that young people take, especially in NIGHTCLUBS. Ecstasy is often called **E**.

ecstatic /ɪk'stætɪk/ adj extremely happy or pleased — **ecstatically** /ɪk'stætɪkli/ adv

ECT /i: si: 'ti:/ noun [U] MEDICAL electroconvulsive therapy: a medical treatment for serious mental illness in which electricity is passed through your brain

ectopic /ek'tɒpɪk/ adj MEDICAL an ectopic PREGNANCY is one in which a baby starts to grow outside its mother's WOMB

Ecuadorian /'ekwə'dɔ:riən/ adj, noun see Nationalities table

ecumenical /i'kjʊ'menɪk(ə)l/ adj encouraging different Christian churches to work and worship together: *an ecumenical conference*

eczema /'eksɪmə, 'æmərɪkən ɪg'zi:mə/ noun [U] a medical condition that makes your skin dry, sore, and ITCHY

ed. abbrev **1** edition **2** editor **3** education

Edam /'ɪdəm/ noun [C/U] a round, light yellow cheese covered with red WAX, made in the Netherlands

EDC /i: di: 'si:/ noun [U] COMPUTING electronic data capture: the process of collecting information using a computer

eddy¹ /'edi/ noun [C] a current of water or air that moves against the main current in a circular pattern

eddy² /'edi/ verb [I] if a current of water or air eddies, it moves against the main current in a circular pattern

Eden /'ɪd(ə)n/ noun **1** Eden or the Garden of Eden in the Bible, the beautiful place where the first humans, Adam and Eve, lived **2** [C] a beautiful peaceful place: *The city is a remote and beautiful Eden.*

edge¹ /edʒ/ noun ★★★

1 part furthest out	4 advantage
2 sharp side of blade/tool	5 strange quality
3 angry tone in voice	+ PHRASES

1 [C] the part of something that is furthest from its centre: *Bring the two edges together and fasten them securely.* ♦ **+of** *The railway station was built on the edge of town.* ♦ *Victoria was sitting on the edge of the bed.*

2 [C] the sharp side of a blade or tool that is used for cutting things: *the knife's edge*

3 [singular] a quality in the way that someone speaks that shows they are becoming angry or upset: **+to/in** *Had she imagined the slight edge to his voice?*

4 [singular] an advantage that makes someone or something more successful than other people or things: **give sb/sth an/the edge over sb/sth** *Training can give you the edge over your competitors.*

5 [singular] a strange quality that something such as a piece of music or a book has that makes it interesting or exciting: *There is an edge to his new album that wasn't there in the last one.*

PHRASES **live on the edge** to have a life with many dangers and risks, especially because you like to behave in an extreme and unusual way: *Despite the apparent respectability, he was a man who liked to live on the edge.* **on edge** nervous and unable to relax because you are worried: *The events of the past few days had left her feeling tense and on edge.*

on the edge or close to the edge so unhappy or confused that you are close to doing something silly or becoming mentally ill: *He came close to the edge after losing his business and his wife in the same year.*

on the edge of sth nearly in a particular state or condition: *He seemed to be poised on the edge of Hollywood success.* ♦ *She hovered on the edge of sleep.*

on the edge of your seat/chair very excited and interested in something because you want to know what happens next: *This film will keep you on the edge of your seat.*

take the edge off sth to make a strong feeling less strong: *Aspirin will usually take the edge off the pain.* ♦ *The thought briefly took the edge off her enjoyment.*

→ TOOTH

edge² /edʒ/ verb [I]/[T] to move somewhere slowly, carefully, and with small movements, or to make something do this = INCH: **+towards/away/along etc** *I looked over and saw Michael edging towards the door.* ♦ *She edged the car out into the street.* **2** [I] mainly journalism if a number or price edges higher or lower, it moves up or down a little at a time: **+up/higher/down/lower** *Food prices edged up by 0.2 per cent in November.* **3** [T] to form the edge of something, or to put something round the edge of another thing: *A breeze shook the tall trees that edged the garden.*

PHRASAL VERB **edge out** [T] to beat someone in something such as a competition or election by a small amount: *Eileen Petersen edged out Victor Frazer by 27 votes.*

edgewise /'edʒweɪz/ or **edgewise** /'edʒwaɪz/ adv sideways: *Pack the plates edgewise with plenty of paper between them.*



PHRASE **not get a word in edgeways** to not manage to say something because another person is talking a lot: *Once he starts talking, no one can get a word in edgeways.*

edging /'edʒɪŋ/ noun [U] something that forms the edge of something else: *table linen with lace edging*

edgy /'edʒi/ adj **1** in a bad mood because you are worried or nervous = **IRRITABLE** **1a.** used about a situation when it is difficult to feel calm because people are angry or upset: *Talks between the nations were reportedly edgy today.* **2** music, films, books etc that are edgy are strange in a way that is interesting or exciting

EDI /i: di: 'aɪ/ noun [U] **COMPUTING** electronic data interchange: the movement of information between computers in different companies using a **NETWORK**, for example the Internet

edible /'edɪb(ə)l/ adj food that is edible is safe or good enough to eat ≠ **INEDIBLE**: *edible mushrooms* ♦ *The food in the cafeteria is barely edible* (=it tastes very bad).

edict /'ɪdɪkt/ noun [C] *formal* an official order given by a government or person in authority

edification /'edɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [U] *formal* for **sb's edification** done in order to increase someone's knowledge or improve their character

edifice /'edɪfɪs/ noun [C] *formal* **1** a large impressive building **2** a complicated system or policy: *The whole edifice of EU environmental policy is threatened by this bill.*

edify /'edɪfaɪ/ verb [T] *formal* to teach someone something that increases their knowledge or improves their character

edifying /'edɪfaɪɪŋ/ adj *formal* teaching you something that increases your knowledge or improves your character

edit¹ /'edɪt/ verb [T] ★★

1 to make a book or document ready to be published by correcting the mistakes and making other changes: *Her original text has been heavily edited* (=changed a lot). **1a.** **COMPUTING** to make changes to a computer file on screen: *The program enables you to copy and edit files in the usual way.* **1b.** to make changes to a piece of film or a video, taking out the parts that you do not want **1c.** to make changes to a film, or to a television or radio programme before it is shown or broadcast: *The segment, once edited, ran to 12 minutes.*

2 to be the **EDITOR** in charge of a newspaper or magazine: *She edits a prestigious medical journal.* **2a.** to produce a book by choosing, arranging, and explaining things that other people have written: *the collection of essays edited by Frank Palmer* ♦ *He edited the letters of Matthew Arnold.*

PHRASAL VERB **edit out** [T] to remove parts of a film, television, or radio programme that are not wanted before it is shown or broadcast = **CUT**

edit² /'edɪt/ noun **1** [C] the process of editing something such as a book, document, or film: *The text is very messy and needs a close edit.* **2** [U] **COMPUTING** a menu in some computer programs that allows you to cut, copy, or move parts of a document or file, or look for particular words in it

edited /'edɪtɪd/ adj an edited account of an event is not exactly true or accurate

edition /'ɪdɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C] ★★ a set of copies of a newspaper or magazine that are published at the same time: *The letter appeared in the Sunday edition of the local newspaper.* ♦ *a copy of the latest edition of our magazine* ♦ *the December edition of Homes and Gardens* **a.** a set of copies of a book that are published at the same time. A new edition of a book is different in some way from the edition before. A set of copies that are exactly the same as the set before is called a **reprint**: *He had an entry in the 1993 edition of the Guinness Book of Records.* ♦ *This remark did not appear in revised editions of the work.*

editor /'edɪtə(r)/ noun [C] ★★

1 someone whose job is to be in charge of a newspaper or magazine: *the editor of The Times* **1a.** someone whose job is to be in charge of a particular section of a newspaper, magazine, or news organization: *the political/sports/fashion editor* ♦ *the BBC's foreign affairs editor* → **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

2 someone whose job is to **EDIT** books, documents, or films: *She worked as a script editor for years.* **2a.** someone

who produces a book by choosing, arranging, and explaining things that other people have written: *the editor of the four-volume History of Literature* **2b.** someone whose job is to produce books for a publisher by finding writers and working with them **3** **COMPUTING** a computer program used for writing or **EDITING** documents, files, or programs

editorial¹ /'edɪtəʀiəl/ adj relating to the process of **EDITING** of books, magazines, newspapers etc — **editorially** adv

editorial² /'edɪtəʀiəl/ noun [C] a newspaper article in which the editor gives their opinion on an issue in the news = **LEADER**, **LEADING ARTICLE**

editorialise /'edɪtəʀiəlaɪz/ a British spelling of **editorialize**

editorialize /'edɪtəʀiəlaɪz/ verb [I] to let your opinions show in a piece of writing where you should only be giving facts

editor-in-chief noun [C] the most senior **EDITOR** working on a newspaper or magazine who decides what will be printed in it

editor program noun [C] **COMPUTING** a piece of software that allows the user to choose parts of a file and change them, get rid of them, or add things to them

editorship /'edɪtə(r)ʃɪp/ noun [U] the job of being the **EDITOR** of a newspaper or magazine

edit suite noun [C] **CINEMA** *British* a room containing equipment for **EDITING** films or television programmes

edu /'edʒə/ abbrev **COMPUTING** educational institution: used in the email and website addresses of some colleges and schools, especially in the US

educate /'edʒukeɪt/ verb ★★ [T] [often passive] to teach someone, usually for several years, especially at a school, college, or university: **educate sb** **at sth** *He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge.* ♦ *More and more parents are choosing to educate their children at home.* ♦ **educate sb** **in sth** *Children were educated in both arts and sciences.* **a.** [I/T] to give someone necessary or useful knowledge: *The BBC's mission is to inform, educate, and entertain.* ♦ **educate sb** **about sth** *The mining museum was built to educate people about their local history.* ♦ **educate sb** **to do sth** *Our job is to educate young people to think about the environment.*

Someone who teaches students about particular subjects, usually in a school or university, **educates** them: *He was educated at a school in Paris.* ♦ *The government spends more on weapons than on educating its children.*

Someone who looks after their children until the children are adults and who teaches them about life **brings them up**: *I was brought up in the city.* ♦ *My parents brought me up to always tell the truth.*

educated /'edʒu'keɪtɪd/ adj an educated person has received a good education and has a lot of knowledge ≠ **UNEDUCATED**: *a dating agency for educated, professional people* **a.** used about the standard to which someone has been educated: *Interpreters should be highly educated as well as fluent.* ♦ **well educated** *The people who work here are well educated and open-minded.* **b.** used about the place or way in which someone was educated: *a Princeton-educated lawyer* ♦ *traditionally educated students*

PHRASE **an educated guess** a guess that is likely to be right because it is based on knowledge of the situation

education /'edʒu'keɪʃ(ə)n/ noun ★★

1 [U] the activity of educating people in schools, colleges, and universities, and all the policies and arrangements concerning this: *Education is a major concern for voters.* ♦ *the Minister of Education* **1a.** [U] the activity of teaching about a particular subject: *religious/science/sex education* ♦ **+in** *education in art and design* **1b.** [C] [usually singular] someone's experience of learning or being taught: *I came over to England to complete my education.* ♦ *the responsibility of parents in the education of their children* ♦ **+have/get an education** *He wants his children to have a good education.* ♦ **a university education** *She was the first in her family to enjoy the privilege of a university education.* **1c.** [only before noun] relating to education: *the Scottish Education Department* ♦ *the government's education policies*

2 [U] the process of providing people with information about an important issue: *public education about legal problems* ♦ *the development of a health education policy*
PHRASE **be an education (to/for sb)** used for saying that an experience makes someone change or develop their ideas: *Seeing India at first-hand was a real education to me.*

educational /ˈedʒuːkeɪʃ(ə)nəl/ adj ★★★

1 relating to education: *better educational opportunities for women* ♦ *educational achievements/qualifications*
2 giving people useful knowledge = **INFORMATIVE**: *We found the programme educational and informative.* ♦ *an educational video*
 — **educationally** adv

educationalist /ˈedʒuːkeɪʃ(ə)n(ə)lɪst/ noun [C] an expert in education

educational leave noun [U] **BUSINESS** time away from work that your employer gives you so that you can study

educative /ˈedʒəkətɪv/ adj *formal* providing someone with education

educator /ˈedʒuːkətə(r)/ noun [C] *mainly American*
1 someone who teaches or who is involved in running a school **2** someone who is an expert in education

edutainment /ˈedjuːtemənt/ noun [U] television programmes, DVDs, software etc that entertain you while they teach you something

Edwardian /ˈedwɔː(r)dɪən/ adj in the styles that were popular in the UK at the time of King Edward VII: *Edwardian furniture*

-ee /iː/ suffix **1** used with some verbs to make nouns meaning someone who is affected by an action: *a trainee* ♦ *an employee* **2** used with some verbs to make nouns meaning someone who performs an action: *an escapee*

the EEA /iː ɪː ˈeɪ/ noun [singular] **ECONOMICS** European Economic Area: an economic group formed in 1994 consisting of the member states of the European Union and Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway

the EEC /iː ɪː ˈsiː/ the European Economic Community: the old name of the **EUROPEAN UNION**

EEG /iː ɪː ˈdʒiː/ noun [C] **MEDICAL** **1** electroencephalogram: a medical test of electrical activity in the brain **2** electroencephalograph: a machine that records electrical activity in the brain

eek /iːk/ interjection *often humorous* used for showing or pretending that you are frightened

eel /iːl/ noun [C] a long thin fish that looks like a snake and can be eaten

e'en /iːn/ adv *literary* **EVEN**

e'er /eə(r)/ adv *literary* **EVER**

eerie /ɪəri/ adj strange and mysterious, and sometimes frightening: *There was an eerie resemblance between them.* — **eerily** adv: *The forest was eerily silent.*

eff /ef/ **PHRASAL VERB** **eff off** [I] *British impolite* used as a less offensive way of saying 'fuck off', which is a very offensive way of telling someone to go away or saying that you do not agree with them

efface /ɪˈfeɪs/ verb [T] *literary* to make something disappear

effect¹ /ɪˈfekt/ noun ★★★

1 [C/U] a change that is produced in one person or thing by another: **+on/upon** *Scientists are studying the chemical's effect on the environment.* ♦ **have an effect on sth** *Any change in lifestyle will have an effect on your health.* ♦ **have some/little/no effect** *The NAFTA agreement has had little effect on the lives of most Americans.* ♦ **an adverse/beneficial effect** (=a bad/good effect) *East German companies were suffering the adverse effects of German economic union.* ♦ **reduce/counter the effect(s) of sth** *Relaxation can reduce the negative effects of stress on the immune system.*

Collocation

Adjectives frequently used with **effect 1**
 ■ adverse, beneficial, cumulative, damaging, detrimental, dramatic, harmful, immediate, knock-on, major, negative, positive, profound, serious, significant, substantial

2 [C] an appearance or reaction that is deliberately

produced, for example by a writer, artist, or musician: *The bold colours in this room create a dramatic effect.* ♦ *That's exactly the effect I wanted.* ♦ **get/produce/achieve an effect** *Students should learn how they can achieve different stylistic effects in their writing.* **2a. effects** [plural] **CINEMA** special artificial images and sounds created for a film = **SPECIAL EFFECTS**: *I didn't think much of the plot, but the effects were amazing.* **2b.** [C] [usually singular] an artificial appearance given to a surface or to an object: *marble-effect wallpaper*

3 [C] [usually singular] something that regularly happens, according to a law, for example in science: *the Doppler effect* ♦ *what economists call 'the multiplier effect'*

4 effects or **personal effects** [plural] *formal* the things that belong to you

PHRASES **come into effect** if a new rule or law comes into effect, it starts to be used: *The law came into effect on New Year's Day.* ♦ **+from** *The new Council Tax rates came into effect from 1st April.*

for effect if you do something for effect, you do it in order to impress people: *'Still ...' she said and paused, for effect.*

in effect 1 used for giving a summary of what you think the situation really is: *In effect, this means we'll all have to work longer hours for the same pay.* **2** if a law or rule is in effect, it is operating: *There's still a flood watch in effect across much of southwestern Ohio.*

put/bring/carry sth into effect to start to use a plan or idea so that it becomes real and has practical results: *I hope the government will put the report's main recommendations into effect.*

take effect 1 to start to produce the results that were intended: *Try to relax for a couple of hours until the pills take effect.* ♦ *Measures to reduce costs are beginning to take effect.* **2** if a new rule or law takes effect, it starts to be used: *The new timetable will take effect from the beginning of May.*

to the effect that or to this/that effect used for showing that you are giving a general idea of what someone said instead of their actual words: *Harry murmured something to the effect that they would all meet Margaret soon enough.* ♦ *Then Sally said, 'Who is this then?' or words to that effect.*

to good/full/little etc effect used for saying what kind of result something has: *He has used my advice to good effect.* ♦ *The concerto's slow movement was used to memorable effect in the film 2001.* ♦ *He turned the key in the ignition but to no effect.*

with effect from *formal* used for saying when something will start: *Trade sanctions have been imposed with effect from 1 April.* ♦ *I am resigning from the party with immediate effect.*

→ **SIDE EFFECT**

effect² /ɪˈfekt/ verb [T] *formal* ★ to make something happen = **BRING ABOUT**: *If correctly administered, such drugs can effect radical cures.*

effective /ɪˈfektɪv/ adj ★★★

1 someone or something that is effective works well and produces the result that was intended ≠ **INEFFECTIVE**: *You need more effective communication within the organization.* ♦ *Humour is often far more effective than shouting.* ♦ *The troops should be deployed where they will be most effective.* ♦ **+against** *The new vaccine is highly effective against all strains of the disease.* ♦ **effective way/method/means** *This is a very effective way of controlling pests and weeds.* **1a.** attractive or impressive, and producing a definite effect: *The decorations are easy to make, yet very effective.*

Collocation

Nouns frequently used with **effective 1**

■ deterrent, intervention, means, mechanism, method, strategy, treatment, way

2 *formal* when a law or agreement becomes effective, it officially begins to be used: **+from** *Government ministers reached a 30-month agreement, effective from 1 July.*

3 [only before noun] used for saying what the situation really is, although its appearance or official description might be different: *The US military is in effective control of the entire region.* **3a.** used for saying what is really having a particular effect, although other things may be involved in a situation: *the effective agents in the spread of the disease*
 — **effectiveness** noun [U]



effectively /ɪ'fektɪv(ə)li/ adv ★★★

1 used for saying what the situation really is, although its appearance or official description might be different: *With Australia 24 points ahead at half-time, the game was effectively over.* ♦ *Effectively the loan is interest-free.*

2 in a way that works well and produces the result that you intended: *The system could deliver services to local communities more effectively.*

effectual /ɪ'fektʃʊəl/ adj *formal* producing the effect that you intended = **EFFECTIVE** — **effectually** adv

effeminate /ɪ'femɪnət/ adj an effeminate man looks, behaves, or speaks like a woman

effervescent /ɪfə(r)'ves(ə)nt/ adj 1 producing a lot of small BUBBLES of air or gas = **FIZZY** 2 lively and enthusiastic = **BUBBLY**: *an effervescent personality* — **effervescence** noun [U]

effete /ɪ'fi:t/ adj *mainly literary* not strong or brave, or weak in moral character **a.** used about a man who looks or behaves like a woman — **effetely** adv

efficacious /ɪ'fɪkeɪʃəs/ adj *formal* producing the effect that you intended = **EFFECTIVE**

efficacy /ɪ'fɪkəsi/ noun [U] *formal* effectiveness in producing the result that you intended: *The efficacy of the medical procedure has not been proven.*

efficiency /ɪ'fɪ(ə)nsi/ noun [U] ★★★ the ability to work well and produce good results by using the available time, money, supplies etc in the most effective way ≠ **INEFFICIENCY**: *the search for lower costs and greater efficiency* ♦ *The inspectors were impressed by the speed and efficiency of the new system.* ♦ **improve/increase efficiency** *The new technology is aimed at improving efficiency and customer service.*

efficient /ɪ'fɪ(ə)nt/ adj ★★★ something that is efficient works well and produces good results by using the available time, money, supplies etc in the most effective way ≠ **INEFFICIENT**: *The new machine is far more efficient than the old one.* ♦ **efficient way/method** *The most efficient way to plan is to put your tasks in order of priority.* ♦ **make efficient use of sth** *This process makes efficient use of limited resources.* **a.** someone who is efficient works well and quickly and is good at organizing their work in the way that gets the best results: *The hotel's staff are friendly and efficient.* ♦ **highly efficient** *He became a highly efficient General Secretary.* — **efficiently** adv

effigy /ɪ'fɪdʒi/ noun [C] a model of someone, especially one destroyed in a protest against them

effing /'efɪŋ/ adj, adv *impolite* used for emphasizing what you are saying, especially when you are angry or annoyed, but want to avoid the more offensive word 'fucking': *He was calling her an effing this, an effing that.* **PHRASE** **effing and blinding** swearing and using rude words

effluent /'efluənt/ noun [C/U] liquid waste such as SEWAGE (=human waste) or waste from a factory

effort /ɪ'fɔ:(r)t/ noun ★★★

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 attempt to do sth | 5 attempt to score goal |
| 2 energy needed to do sth | 6 force used on machine |
| 3 activities towards aim | + PHRASES |
| 4 sth produced/created | |

1 [C/U] an attempt to do something that is difficult or that involves hard work: **an effort to do sth** *The restructuring was part of an effort to boost company profits.*

♦ **in an effort to do sth** *Detectives are talking to other witnesses in an effort to corroborate her confession.* ♦ **make an effort to do sth** *I've made an effort to drink less tea and coffee.* ♦ **make little/no effort** *The drivers made no efforts to check their vehicles.* ♦ **an effort of will/ imagination/memory** *She was trembling violently, but with a determined effort of will she stopped.* ♦ **despite sb's efforts** *The man died despite the doctors' efforts to revive him.* ♦ **a concerted/joint effort** (=made together) *a concerted effort by the nations of the world to protect our environment*

Collocation

Adjectives frequently used with **effort** 1

- big, brave, combined, concerted, determined, feeble, great, individual, joint, last-ditch, massive, solo, sustained, team, vain, valiant, wasted

2 [singular/U] physical or mental energy needed to do something: *The aim is to obtain maximum reward for minimum effort.* ♦ **physical/mental effort** *The sheer physical effort of shopping is a burden to most of us.* ♦ **take/require effort** *Writing a book requires a lot of time and effort.* ♦ **put effort into sth** *Mary put a lot of effort into this project.* ♦ **with an effort** *Nathan controlled his temper with an effort.*

3 [C] the activities of people who are working together to achieve a particular aim: *international relief efforts*

4 [C] *informal* something that someone produces or creates, often something of poor quality: *His first effort in 1991 was a collection of short stories.* ♦ *As smiles went it was a poor effort.*

5 [C] *mainly journalism* an attempt to score a goal in football

6 [singular/U] **PHYSICS** the force used on a machine of any type in order to make it able to move an object

PHRASES **be an effort** *mainly spoken* to be difficult, tiring, or boring to do: *It's sometimes a real effort just to get up in the mornings.*

make the/an effort (to do sth) *mainly spoken* to do something even though you do not want to or you find it difficult: *I wish you'd make the effort to get on with her.*

Metaphor

When you put a lot of effort into doing something, it is like **using a part of your body**.

Does she have the backbone to stand up to them? Or will she just give in? ♦ *You have to put your back into it.* ♦ *They only succeeded by using their political muscle.* ♦ *Put a bit more elbow grease into it.* ♦ *My heart's not really in it.* ♦ *I had to sweat my guts out to get it done in time.* ♦ *We must all put our shoulders to the wheel.* ♦ *Just try to put your best foot forward now.* ♦ *I've been keeping my nose to the grindstone.* ♦ *He was the kind of boss who liked to get his hands dirty.*

effortless /'ɛfə(r)tɪləs/ adj done well or successfully and without any effort: *jumps executed with seemingly effortless skill* — **effortlessly** adv

effrontery /ɪ'frʌntəri/ noun [U] *formal* behaviour that is rude or that shows a lack of respect

effusion /ɪ'fju:ʒ(ə)n/ noun [C/U] *mainly literary* an act of expressing feelings in an extremely enthusiastic way

effusive /ɪ'fju:sv/ adj expressing happiness, admiration, praise etc in an extremely enthusiastic way: *effusive praise* — **effusively** adv — **effusiveness** noun [U]

E-FIT /ɪ: fit/ **TRADEMARK** a picture of the face of someone who police think committed a crime, created using software and someone's description of the person

EFL /ɪ: ef 'el/ noun [U] English as a Foreign Language: English taught to people who need to learn it for their studies or their career, and who do not live in an English-speaking country → **EAL, ESL, ESOL**

e-fraud noun [U] **BUSINESS** the activity of obtaining money illegally using the Internet

EFTA /'eftə/ the European Free Trade Association: an organization of European countries that have a special trade relationship with the European Union but are not members of it

EFTPOS /'eftpɒs/ noun [U] **BUSINESS** electronic funds transfer at point of sale: a system of paying for goods by moving money by computer from the customer's bank account to the account of the company or person they have bought from

e.g. or **eg** /ɪ: 'dʒi:/ abbrev for example: used for giving an example of what you mean: *Give details of relevant work experience during the last two years, e.g. weekend or holiday jobs.*

From the Latin expression *exempli gratia*, which means 'for the sake of example'.

egalitarian /ɪ,gælɪ'teəriən/ adj supporting a social system in which everyone has equal status and the same money and opportunities: *They were all working towards a society run on egalitarian principles.* — **egalitarianism** noun [U]

egestion /ɪ'dʒest(ə)n/ noun [U] **BIOLOGY** the process by which the body gets rid of solid waste through the ANUS → **EXCRETION**

egg¹ /eg/ noun ★★★

1 [C] the round object with a shell that a female bird produces and a baby bird develops in. The mother bird **lays an egg**, and later the egg **hatches** and the baby bird **comes out**: *a hen's/pigeon's/sparrow's egg* ♦ *an ostrich egg* **1a**. [C/U] a chicken's egg used as food: *We had scrambled eggs for breakfast.* ♦ *an egg sandwich*

2 [C] a small object produced by a female insect, FROG, snake etc, that a young animal comes out of

3 [C] BIOLOGY a cell produced inside a woman or female animal that develops into a baby if it is FERTILIZED by a SPERM (= a male cell)

PHRASES **sb can't even boil an egg** *humorous* used for saying that someone cannot cook even the simplest food

a good egg *informal old-fashioned* a good or reliable person

have/get egg on your face *informal* to be embarrassed or appear stupid because something that you tried to do has gone wrong: *They found themselves out of pocket and with egg on their faces.*

lay an egg *mainly American informal* to fail completely in what you are trying to do

put all your eggs in one basket to depend completely on just one idea, plan, or person so that you have no other possibilities if things go wrong: *The basic advice with investment is don't put all your eggs in one basket.*

→ WALK¹

egg² /eg/ **PHRASAL VERB** **egg 'on** [T] to encourage someone to do something that they should not do = ENCOURAGE: *He'd never have stolen it if she hadn't egged him on.*

egg cup noun [C] a small container for holding a BOILED EGG while you eat it

egghead /'eg,hed/ noun [C] *informal* someone who has a lot of knowledge and intelligence and is only interested in academic subjects

eggnog /'eg,nɒg/ noun [U] a drink made from eggs mixed with milk, sugar, and alcohol

eggplant /'eg,plɑ:nt/ noun [C/U] *American* an AUBERGINE

eggshell¹ /'eg,ʃel/ noun **1** [C] the hard outside layer of an egg **2** [U] a type of paint that is slightly shiny

eggshell² /'eg,ʃel/ adj like an eggshell, for example white-yellow in colour, not very shiny, or thin and delicate: *eggshell enamel* ♦ *eggshell china* → WALK¹

egg timer noun [C] a small glass object containing sand, used for measuring the time that you need to boil an egg

egg white noun [C/U] the clear part of an egg that becomes white when you cook it

EGM /,i: dʒi: 'em/ noun [C] BUSINESS Extraordinary General Meeting: a special meeting of a business or organization, called by its directors, SHAREHOLDERS, or members, to discuss a particular problem or matter

ego /'i:gəʊ/ noun **1** [C] the opinion that you have of yourself and your own importance: *a guy with a huge ego* ♦ **boost sb's ego** (=make them feel more confident) *She needed something to boost her ego.* ♦ **a bruised ego** (=a loss of confidence) *The occurrence left him with a badly bruised ego.* **2** [singular] in PSYCHOLOGY, the conscious part of the mind that is responsible for thinking and understanding → ID

egocentric /'i:gəʊ'sentrik/ adj behaving as if you are more important than other people and need not care about them = ARROGANT

egoism /'i:gəʊ,z(ə)m/ noun [U] EGOTISM = ARROGANCE

egomaniac /'i:gəʊ'meniæk/ noun [C] *showing disapproval* someone who behaves in an unreasonable or crazy way because they think that they and their ideas are extremely important

egotism /'i:gəʊ,tiz(ə)m/ noun [U] *showing disapproval* a feeling that you are more important than other people and need not care about them = ARROGANCE

egotist /'i:gəʊtist/ noun [C] *formal* someone who thinks that they are more important than other people and need not care about them

egotistical /'i:gəʊ'tistɪk(ə)/ adj *showing disapproval* thinking that you are more important than other people and need not care about them = SELF-CENTRED

'ego trip noun [C] *informal* a situation in which you feel important or admired and only care about increasing these feelings: *She's a serious writer, not just some kid on an ego trip.*

'e-government noun [U] the use of the Internet by government, for example to give information to the public or to allow people to vote from their computer

egregious /'i:grɪdʒəs/ adj *very formal* extremely bad

egress /'i:gres/ noun [U] *very formal* the action of leaving a place

egret /'i:grət/ noun [C] a white bird with long legs that lives near water

Egyptian /'i:dʒɪp(ə)n/ adj, noun *see Nationalities table*

Egyptology /,i:dʒɪp'tɒlədʒi/ noun [U] the study of ancient Egypt and its culture, history, and language, as shown by the buildings and objects that still exist. A student of Egyptology is called an **Egyptologist**.

eh /eɪ/ interjection **1** *informal* used for showing that you do not understand what someone is saying, or that you are surprised by it: *Eh? What's that again?* ♦ *Eh? You must be joking!* **2** used for asking someone to agree with you: *Pretty good, eh?*

EHIC /,i: etf/ ar 'si:/ noun [C] [usually singular] TOURISM European Health Insurance Card: a card that allows someone living in the European Union to receive free health treatment in another European Union country

Eid /:id/ noun [U] the name of two festivals in the Muslim religion. The more important one, **Eid ul-Fitr**, is celebrated at the end of RAMADAN.

eiderdown /'aɪdə(r)dəʊn/ noun [C] a warm cover filled with feathers and put on top of the sheets and BLANKETS on a bed. A warm cover used without sheets or blankets is called a **duvet**.

eight /eɪt/ number the number 8

eighteen /,eɪ'ti:zn/ number the number 18 — **eighteenth** number

eighth /ertθ/ number **1** in the place or position counted as number 8: *the eighth of each month* **2** one of 8 equal parts of something: *an eighth of an inch*

'eighth note noun [C] MUSIC *American* a QUAVER (sense 1)

eighties /'eɪtɪz/ noun [plural] **1** the years from 1980 to 1989: *The club went through a bad period in the eighties.* ♦ **eighties pop music** **2** a temperature in the eighties is between 80 and 89 degrees FAHRENHEIT: *It's going to be another scorcher tomorrow, with temperatures in the eighties.*

PHRASE **in your eighties** aged between 80 and 89: *My parents are now both in their eighties.*

eighty /'eɪti/ number the number 80 — **eightieth** number

eina /'eɪnə/ noun *South African* **1** [U] pain or difficulty **2** [C] a pain or injury

eisteddfod /aɪ'stedfəd/ noun [C] a festival of Welsh culture with competitions in music, singing, and poetry

either /'aɪðə(r)/ adv, determiner, pronoun ★★★

Either can be used in the following ways:

in the expression **either...or**: *Students could choose either French or Spanish.* ♦ *You can either come by bus or take a taxi.*

as a **determiner** (followed by a singular countable noun): *a long room with a door at either end*

as a **pronoun**: *Olive oil and corn oil are both suitable, so you could use either.* (followed by 'of'): *Does either of you speak Chinese?*

as an **adverb** (in negative sentences): *Jerry wasn't there either.*

When **either** is the subject of a sentence, it is usually used with a singular verb: *Is either of them at home?* But in spoken English a plural verb is sometimes used: *Are either of them at home?*

1 one or the other of two people or things, especially when it does not matter which: *Cheque or credit card – you can use either.* ♦ *Applications are welcomed from people of either sex and any age.* ♦ **+of** *It was a long time before either of them spoke.*

2 used in negative statements referring to both of two people or things: *Jackie could play the piano and sing, whereas I couldn't do either.* ♦ *Most of the troublemakers*

were not supporters of either team. ♦ **+of I didn't like either of the candidates.** **2a.** used for adding that a negative statement is also true of another person or thing: *We tried another method, but that didn't work either.* ♦ *It's a problem I can't solve, and I don't think anyone else can either.* **2b.** used for adding a negative statement that emphasizes how good, bad, impressive etc something is: *He did a superb job, and he didn't have any help either.*

→ ALSO

PHRASES **either...or (...or)** used for showing two or more possibilities or choices: *You must answer either yes or no.* ♦ *You can contact us either by phone, by email, or by letter.* ♦ *When there's a crisis, they either do nothing or do something totally useless.*

either...or used for saying that one of two things has to happen or be true: *Either you come with us, or you stay at home with your mother.* ♦ *Either he forgot about the meeting or he deliberately stayed away – I don't know which.*

either side/end/hand etc each of two sides/ends/hands etc: *Her parents were sitting on either side of her.* ♦ *There were stairs at either end of the hall.* ♦ *Pelham entered the room carrying a briefcase in either hand.*

either way used for saying that it does not matter which of two things happens or is true, because the result will be the same: *Perhaps the boy was really ill, or perhaps he was just exhausted – either way they would have to stop.*

ejaculate /ɪ'dʒækjuːlət/ verb [I/T] **1** BIOLOGY if a man ejaculates, SEMEN comes out of his PENIS during sex **2** old-fashioned to suddenly say or shout something

ejaculation /ɪ,dʒækjuːləɪʃ(ə)n/ noun **1** [C/U] the action of ejaculating **2** [C] old-fashioned a sudden loud remark or shout

eject /ɪ'dʒekt/ verb **1** [T] *formal* to make someone leave a place, especially using physical force: **eject sb from sth** *A group of noisy protesters were ejected from the meeting.* **1a.** to force someone to leave a job or organization **2** [T] to make something come out from a machine, for example a DVD from a DVD player or a CD from a computer **3** [I] if a pilot ejects, they are deliberately thrown out of their plane by their ejector seat, because the plane is likely to crash — **ejection** /ɪ'dʒekʃ(ə)n/ noun [U]

ejector seat /ɪ'dʒektə(r)ˌsɪt/ noun [C] *British* a seat in a plane that will deliberately throw a pilot up and out into the air if the plane is likely to crash

eke /ɪ:k/ **PHRASAL VERB** **eke 'out** [T] to get just enough money or food to be able to continue to exist: **eke out a living/an existence** *The family barely manages to eke out a living from their small farm.* **a.** to make something such as money or food last as long as possible: *Their meagre supplies have to be eked out throughout the winter.*

elaborate ¹ /ɪˈlæb(ə)rət/ adj ★★ very detailed and complicated ≠ SIMPLE: *The government's new healthcare plan is the most elaborate yet.* **a.** used about something that is more complicated than is practical or necessary: *I took no notice of John's elaborate preparations for travel.* **b.** used about something that has a lot of extra details or features that make it special: *There are times when you need a more elaborate flower arrangement.*

— **elaborateness** noun [U]

elaborate ² /ɪˈlæbəreɪt/ verb [I] to give more details or information about something: **+on** *The police refused to elaborate on the circumstances of the arrest.* — **elaboration** /ɪˈlæbəreɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [U]

élan /eɪˈlɑːn, eɪˈlæn/ noun [U] *mainly literary* enthusiasm, confidence, and style

elapse /ɪˈlæps/ verb [I] *formal* if time elapses, it passes: *Another hour elapsed and still the wind continued to howl.*

elapsed time /ɪˈlæpst ˈtaɪm/ noun [U] the amount of time that has passed since a particular process started, especially compared with the amount of time that was calculated for it in a plan

elastic ¹ /ɪˈlæstɪk/ noun [U] a material that stretches easily and can return to its original shape quickly. Elastic is often sewn into clothes to allow them to stretch.

elastic ² /ɪˈlæstɪk/ adj **1** made of elastic: *an elastic wristband* **2** PHYSICS something that is elastic can be stretched easily and can then return to its original shape quickly: *The elastic behaviour of some materials*

depends on the temperature and duration of the stress applied. **3** able to change when the situation changes: *a man of rather elastic morals* **4** ECONOMICS if the supply of something or the DEMAND for something is elastic, it changes according to the economic conditions it operates in, for example if the price of a product changes

elasticated /ɪˈlæstɪkətɪd/ adj *British* containing elastic and therefore able to stretch easily: *elasticated stockings*

elastic 'band noun [C] *British* a circle of ELASTIC that you put around several things to hold them together = RUBBER BAND

elasticity /ɪˈlæstɪsətɪ/ noun [U] **1** PHYSICS the ability of a substance to stretch easily and then return to its original shape quickly: *the strength and elasticity of silk* **2** the ability to change when the situation changes: *the elasticity of the labour market* **3** ECONOMICS the degree to which supply, DEMAND etc changes according to other economic conditions that change, for example the price of goods

Elastoplast /ɪˈlæstəˌplɑːst/ TRADEMARK *British* a type of PLASTER used for covering a cut in your skin

elated /ɪˈleɪtɪd/ adj extremely happy and excited = ECSTATIC

elation /ɪˈleɪ(ə)n/ noun [U] a feeling of great happiness and excitement

elbow ¹ /ˈelbəʊ/ noun [C] ★★ the part in the middle of your arm, where it bends: *She sat with her elbows on the table.* **a.** the part of a sleeve that covers your elbow — *picture* → C3

PHRASES **at sb's elbow** beside someone: *Jim was hovering at her elbow, trying to say something.*

give sb the elbow *British informal* to end your relationship with someone → ARSE¹

elbow ² /ˈelbəʊ/ verb [T] to push or hit someone with your elbow: *She elbowed him sharply in the ribs.*

PHRASE **elbow your way through/to/towards** to get somewhere by using your elbows to push through a crowd of people

PHRASAL VERB **elbow 'out** or **elbow a 'side** [T] to make someone leave a job or position so that you or someone else can take their place

'elbow grease noun [U] *informal* hard physical work that you do to clean something

'elbow room noun [U] **1** enough space around you so that you are comfortable **2** the freedom to do what you want, without other people annoying you

elder ¹ /ˈeldə(r)/ adj [only before noun] ★ older than someone, especially someone in your family: *The elder son works on a farm.* ♦ **elder brother/sister** *advice from my elder brother* **a.** the elder the person who is older, especially of two people in the same family: *The elder of the two had lost his job as a teacher.*

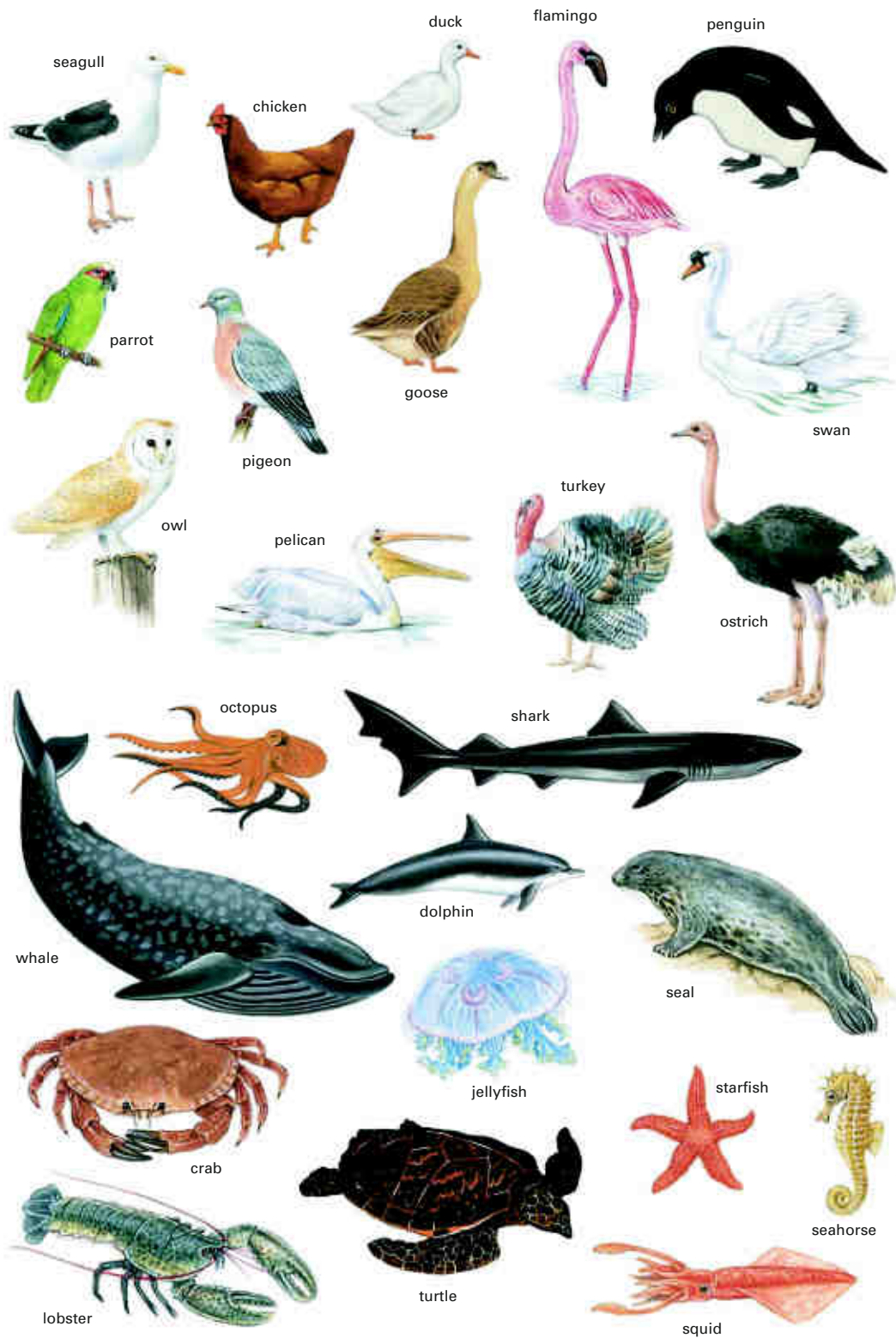
elder ² /ˈeldə(r)/ noun [C] [usually plural] **1** someone in your family or community who is older than you: *We were always taught to respect our elders.* **1a.** an older and more experienced member of a group or organization who gives advice and makes decisions: *a council of village elders* ♦ *He had the support of party elders.* **1b.** a member of a Christian church or other religious organization who is not a priest but who is in a position of authority **2** a small tree with black BERRIES (=small round fruits)

PHRASE **be sb's elder** to be older than someone, especially someone in your family: **be 10 years/3 months etc sb's elder** *She was ten years my elder, though she looked a lot younger.* ♦ **be sb's elder by 10 years/three months etc** *Sharon was her twin's elder by just 20 minutes.*

elderberry /ˈeldə(r)ˌberi/ noun [C] a small round black fruit that grows on an elder tree: *elderberry wine*

elderly /ˈeldə(r)li/ adj ★★ an elderly person is old. Many people now think that this word is offensive but it is often used in talking about policies and conditions that affect old people: *An elderly gentleman was standing at the reception desk.* ♦ *Not all elderly people can live with their relatives.* ♦ *This treatment is unsuitable for patients who are elderly and frail.* **a.** the elderly old people. Many people now think that this expression is offensive. → OLD **b.** *British* used about a car or machine that looks old-fashioned or does not work as well as it used to: *He was driving an elderly white Mercedes.*

ANIMALS



ANIMALS

snake



lizard



frog



chameleon



crocodile



toad



iguana



salamander



tortoise

moth



fly



ant



wasp



butterfly



dragonfly



bee



cockroach



caterpillar



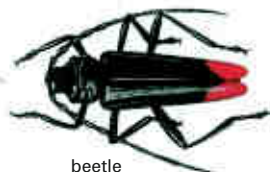
ladybird



mosquito



beetle



cricket



grasshopper



flea



scorpion



spider



IMPROVE YOUR WRITING SKILLS

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A. ADDING INFORMATION

You sometimes need to discuss several points, present a set of ideas or arguments, or describe a sequence of events. In such cases, you may want to show that you are adding another point. In this section, we describe some of the most useful ways of **adding information**, and we give advice about using them.

1. Adding information

You can use several expressions to show that you are adding information to the preceding sentence or paragraph. Here are the most common ones.

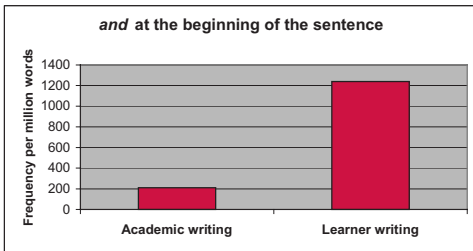
1.1. Using the adverb *in addition*

You can use ***in addition*** simply to add a new argument or new information. It can be used:

- at the beginning of the sentence, followed by a comma:
*After the election, we asked whether the parties should change their leaders, their policies, or both. **In addition**, we asked about voting preferences.*
- inside the sentence, enclosed by commas:
*All students of French are required to take the language units each year and, **in addition**, to choose an integrated programme of study from other units.*

BE CAREFUL! Many learners use ***and*** at the beginning of a sentence, as a way of adding new information: *People have always tried to turn their dreams into reality. **And** they still continue to do so.*

This structure gives the sentence a rather informal tone and should therefore not be used too often in more formal texts.



1.2. Using the determiners *other* and *another* or the adjectives *further* and *next*

You can use the determiners ***other*** or ***another*** to introduce an additional item.

*One type of skin cancer is caused when skin that is not used to the sun is exposed to short bursts of strong sunlight. **Other** types of skin cancer are associated with continued exposure to the sun over a long period.*

*It is important to get your performers to keep the microphone as still as possible. **Another** point for them to remember is not to speak directly at the microphone but to aim instead just over the top of it.*

Collocation
Nouns frequently used with the determiners ***other*** and ***another***
■ aspect, example, feature, issue, point, problem, question, reason
Other aspects to consider are charges, possible conflicts of interest, and efficiency in dealing and settlement.

You can use the adjective ***further*** with the same function.

It may be helpful to start therapy at home and continue

*in outpatients. A **further** possibility is to arrange for the patient to attend a psychiatric unit as a day patient.*

Collocation
Nouns frequently used with the adjective ***further***
■ difficulty, evidence, example, explanation, factor, point, possibility, problem, reason
A further reason is that measures of this sort are best decided in Parliament, in accordance with the traditions of this country.

Note that you can also use ***further*** as an adverb, found mainly inside the sentence.

*The article **further** suggests that these claims actually address small or unproven dangers.*

The adjective ***next*** has a ‘temporal’ dimension: it shows that something comes after something else in time.

*An important first step was to include these hospitals in the budgets of the regional health authorities. The **next** step was to devise a budget allocation procedure that reflected the health needs of different areas.*

*Once coins have been classified into groups, the **next** stage is to determine the exact date of a coin’s manufacture.*

1.3. Using the prepositions *in addition to* and *besides*

A number of prepositions can be used to add new information. The most frequent of these is ***in addition to***, which introduces the point to which you want to add something new. It can be followed by a noun or by a verb in the ***-ing*** form:

In addition to imitation, there are a number of other procedures designed to give the therapist some degree of control over the child’s language production.

In addition to imposing its own needs on the medium, advertising has immense ideological implications.

You can use ***besides*** in the same way, but it is less frequent than ***in addition to*** in academic writing and professional reports.

Besides its political and racial distribution, population density varied greatly.

Besides being paid less per hour, the majority of women employees work fewer hours than their male counterparts.

2. Adding and amplifying: using the adverbs *moreover*, *furthermore*, and *besides*

The expressions we discussed in section 1 are used simply for adding a new argument or new information. Sometimes, however, you may want to add a point – often a final point – that is a more important fact or a more powerful argument than anything you have mentioned previously. In other words, you want to add but also to **amplify**. Here are some adverbs you can use for this purpose.

Moreover and ***furthermore*** are typically used at the beginning of the sentence, followed by a comma, but they sometimes occur within the sentence, usually enclosed by commas.

*There was more than enough to do in repairing the faults of the existing system and correcting the injustices of the past. **Moreover**, the reforms had to be achieved with resources severely diminished by the efforts of war.*

*There was an assumption that whoever did take up the office would closely reflect Lee’s views. It was likely, **moreover**, that candidates would be restricted to former ministers and senior civil servants.*

*Science cannot provide that kind of certainty. **Furthermore**, it is often overlooked that we can only apply scientific method to a tiny fraction of the impressions upon which we act.*

Comparing and Contrasting

Get it right: moreover

Many learners use **moreover** inappropriately, when they are simply adding new information or reformulating what has just been said.

✗ *When the prisoner is released, his situation will be very painful because he will have to re-integrate into society. **Moreover**, he will have the greatest difficulties of integration because of his past as a prisoner.*

✓ *When the prisoner is released, his situation will be very painful because he will have to re-integrate into society. He will have the greatest difficulties of integration because of his past as a prisoner.*

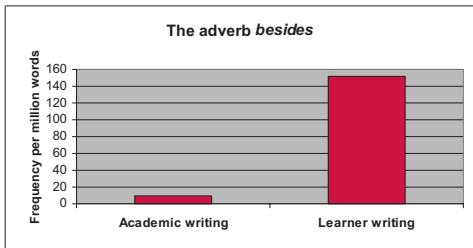
In this context **moreover** is not acceptable, because the second sentence is simply used to reformulate, and not for adding a final powerful argument.

BE CAREFUL! Learners often forget the comma after **moreover** and **furthermore** at the beginning of a sentence.

Besides introduces a final point or argument, especially one that is decisive. Its most typical position is at the beginning of the sentence, followed by a comma.

*Even taped interviews can only be read with caution, since they may have been edited, and the reader will not be told how. **Besides**, it is an everyday experience that people are sometimes wrong in conversation, and may not remember events well.*

BE CAREFUL! Learners often use **besides**. Although it is sometimes used in academic writing and professional reports, it is more typical of speech and informal writing.



B. COMPARING AND CONTRASTING: DESCRIBING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

When you write an essay, report, or similar document, you often need to link two or more points, ideas, or situations by **comparing** and **contrasting** them, that is, by showing the similarities or differences between them. In this section, we describe some of the most useful ways of **describing similarities and differences**, and we give advice about using them.

1. Comparing: describing similarities

You can use several expressions to show that two or more points, ideas, or situations are similar. Here are the most common ones.

1.1. Using nouns such as **resemblance** and **similarity**

You can use the nouns **resemblance**, **similarity**, **parallel**, and **analogy** to show that two points, ideas, or situations are similar in certain ways.

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If there is a **resemblance** or **similarity** between two or more points, ideas, situations, or people, they share some characteristics but are not exactly the same:

*There is a striking **resemblance** between them.*

*He would have recognized her from her strong **resemblance** to her brother.*

*There is a remarkable **similarity** of techniques, of clothes and of weapons.*

The noun **similarity** also refers to a particular characteristic or aspect that is shared by two or more points, ideas, situations, or people:

*These theories share certain **similarities** with biological explanations.*

*The orang-utan is the primate most closely related to man; its lively facial expressions show striking **similarities** to those of humans.*

Collocation

Adjectives frequently used with **resemblance** and **similarity**

- certain, close, remarkable, striking, strong, superficial
- The distribution of votes across the three parties in 1983 bears a **close resemblance** to the elections of 1923 and of 1929.*

You can also use the noun **parallel** to refer to the way in which points, ideas, situations, or people are similar to each other:

*Scientists themselves have often drawn **parallels** between the experience of a scientific vocation and certain forms of religious experience.*

*There are close **parallels** here with anti-racist work in education.*

An **analogy** is a comparison between two situations, processes etc that are similar in some ways. It is usually made in order to explain something or make it easier to understand:

*A useful **analogy** for understanding Piaget's theory is to view the child as a scientist who is seeking a 'theory' to explain complex phenomena.*

Collocation

Adjectives frequently used with **analogy** and **parallel**

- close, interesting, obvious

*A **close analogy** can be drawn between cancer of the cell and a society hooked on drugs.*

1.2. Using adjectives such as **similar** and **same**

You can use the adjectives **analogous**, **common**, **comparable**, **identical**, **parallel**, and **similar** to highlight the similarity between two or more points, ideas, situations, or people:

*Animals possess thoughts, feelings and social systems which are **analogous**, if not identical, to those of humans.*

*All states share a **common** interest in the maintenance of international peace and security.*

*Winston Churchill died in 1965 and was given a State funeral **comparable** to that which had been given to the Duke of Wellington.*

*The procedure is **identical** to that of any other public bill.*

*A **parallel** but not identical distinction is between short-term and long-term memory.*

*The pattern of mortality is broadly **similar** for men and women.*

The adjective **same** is **always** used before the noun:

*The **same** pattern is also to be found in the discourse of parliamentary debates about apartheid.*

5. Advice on avoiding errors

5.1 Using the 'Get it right' boxes

The *Macmillan English Dictionary* includes over 100 'Get it right' boxes at individual dictionary entries. These boxes deal with many different issues that cause difficulties for learners. The following 'Get it right' boxes deal with problems relating to quantifiers:

every, few, half, less, most, much, thousand

R. SPELLING

English spelling is not always easy to get right, and everyone – including native speakers – makes mistakes occasionally. Many spelling mistakes (such as writing 'recieve' instead of 'receive') can be corrected by using a spellchecker. But some cannot, especially when they involve confusion between similar words. In this section, we describe the main categories of word that are regularly spelled wrongly, and we give advice about how to avoid these problems.

1. Homophones

A homophone is a word that sounds the same as another word, but has a different spelling and a different meaning. Homophones are a frequent source of errors, not only for learners of English but for native speakers too. Here are some homophones that learners sometimes confuse:

● hole and whole

Hole is a noun, meaning 'a gap or empty space', **whole** is an adjective, meaning 'complete':

✗ *Imagine spending your **hole** life with someone who you hate or regret marrying.*

✓ *Imagine spending your **whole** life with someone who you hate or regret marrying.*

● it's and its

It's is the short form of 'it is' or 'it has', **its** is the possessive form of **it**:

✗ ***Its** a time-saving machine.*

✓ ***It's** a time-saving machine.*

✗ *It was a few hundred years after Caxton's introduction of printing that censorship started **it's** modern career.*

✓ *It was a few hundred years after Caxton's introduction of printing that censorship started **its** modern career.*

● there and their

There is an adverb, **their** is the possessive form of **they**:

✗ *But **their** are small towns or villages where people simply have no other choice.*

✓ *But **there** are small towns or villages where people simply have no other choice.*

✗ *In a democracy, people have power to make laws and decide **there** own future.*

✓ *In a democracy, people have power to make laws and decide **their** own future.*

● whether and weather

Whether is a conjunction, **weather** is a noun ('What's the weather like in Brazil?'):

✗ *No-one knows **weather** this is true or not.*

✓ *No-one knows **whether** this is true or not.*

● who's and whose

Who's is the short form of 'who is' or 'who has', **whose** is the possessive form of **who**:

✗ *There is an international organisation **who's** role is to keep peace and stability in that continent.*

✓ *There is an international organisation **whose** role is to keep peace and stability in that continent.*

2. Easily confused pairs

There are many pairs of words that are easy to confuse, because they look similar and are (in most cases) related in some way. The ones that learners frequently confuse are described here. Check the dictionary entries for these words if you need more information.

2.1 Related nouns and verbs

Many pairs of nouns and verbs have closely related meanings but slightly different spellings. In most cases, there are differences in pronunciation too. Those pairs that frequently cause problems for learners include the following:

● advise /əd'vaɪz/ (verb) and advice /əd'vaɪs/ (noun)

✗ *It can ruin your health instead of making you fit and I can only **advise** you not to let sport take over your life.*

✓ *It can ruin your health instead of making you fit and I can only **advise** you not to let sport take over your life.*

● analyse /'ænləɪz/ (verb) and analysis /ə'nælɪsɪs/ (noun)

✗ *In favour of the written word, one can argue that it provides a more in-depth **analyse**, and thus provides even more information than the aural/visual media.*

✓ *In favour of the written word, one can argue that it provides a more in-depth **analysis**, and thus provides even more information than the aural/visual media.*

● believe /brɪ'li:v/ (verb) and belief /brɪ'li:f/ (noun)

✗ *To ask of anyone to forget their traditions and **believes** is to ask that person to forget who he is.*

✓ *To ask of anyone to forget their traditions and **beliefs** is to ask that person to forget who he is.*

● breathe /bri:ð/ (verb) and breath /breθ/ (noun)

✗ *If you walk in a big city with thousands of cars passing by, you will feel that you can hardly **breathe**.*

✓ *If you walk in a big city with thousands of cars passing by, you will feel that you can hardly **breathe**.*

● affect /ə'fekt/ (verb) and effect /ɪ'fekt/ (noun)

✗ *When students are always going to cybercafes, their homework is **effected**.*

✓ *When students are always going to cybercafes, their homework is **affected**.*

● extend /ɪk'stend/ (verb) and extent /ɪk'stent/ (noun)

✗ *I would put it even more strongly: modern toys to a great **extend** cause this impoverishment of creativity.*

✓ *I would put it even more strongly: modern toys to a great **extent** cause this impoverishment of creativity.*

● live /lɪv/ (verb) and life /laɪf/ (noun, plural form lives)

✗ *They will be educated, and not only with books but about **live** itself.*

✓ *They will be educated, and not only with books but about **life** itself.*

● practise /'præktɪs/ (verb) and practice /'præktɪs/ (noun)

✗ *Extroverted learners who find many opportunities to **practice** language skills will be the most successful learners.*

✓ *Extroverted learners who find many opportunities to **practise** language skills will be the most successful learners.*

✗ *Second, this **practise** implies a cost that many universities cannot pay.*

EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

These pages are designed to show you different ways of writing or speaking about three important areas of vocabulary – **communication**, **emotions**, and **movement**. Each section takes a ‘core’ word that you will probably use most of the time and gives you the most useful synonyms for it, as well as related words with a different part of speech. There are also notes that highlight some differences of register, grammar, and collocation. Some of the words are shown together with their opposites, e.g. **satisfied** and **dissatisfied**.

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A. Words that describe **Communication**

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|
| 1. Answer | 4. Say | 7. Tell |
| 2. Argue | 5. Speak | |
| 3. Ask | 6. Talk | |

B. Words that describe **Emotions**

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Angry | 6. Excited | 11. Satisfied/dissatisfied |
| 2. Bored | 7. Feeling | 12. Shocked |
| 3. Disappointed | 8. Frightened | 13. Surprised |
| 4. Embarrassed | 9. Happy | 14. Worried/not worried |
| 5. Enthusiastic/not
enthusiastic | 10. Sad | |

C. Words that describe **Movement**

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Fast | 4. Arrive | 7. Travel |
| 2. Slow | 5. Move | 8. Walk |
| 3. Leave | 6. Run | |

A. WORDS THAT DESCRIBE COMMUNICATION

1. Answer

I asked him where he was going but he didn't **answer**.
 ♦ She failed to **answer** most of the questions that were put to her. ♦ 'I don't know,' she **answered** truthfully.
 ♦ He **answered** that he had seen them leaving together.

Answer is also a noun and is used in the phrases **give an answer** and **in answer to**: I'll **give you a definite answer** tomorrow. ♦ He said **nothing in answer to her question**, but continued staring out of the window.

1.1 To answer someone

reply to answer someone: 'I know,' he **replied**. ♦ They got up and walked out before I had a chance to **reply**.
 ♦ When asked where she was going, she **replied that** it was none of their business. ♦ I asked him how he was, and he **replied with a shrug**.

respond to answer something that someone says, especially when they have challenged or criticized you: 'I'm telling you it's not true,' Martinez **responded**.
 ♦ 'Is there anything you would like to do today?' he asked, but she didn't **respond**. ♦ How do you **respond to the suggestion** that this is all the government's fault?

make a response or **give a response** I called out to him, but he **made no response**. ♦ Being an astute politician, she **gave a careful response** that completely failed to answer the question.

Note: Reply and respond mean more or less the same as answer, but are a little more formal, and are used mainly in written English.

retort to answer someone immediately in an angry or humorous way: 'Mind your own business!' she **retorted**.
 ♦ Democrats **retorted that** the plan leaves millions of poor Americans out in the cold.

answer sb back to reply rudely to someone who has more authority than you: Don't you dare **answer me back!**

1.2 To answer someone at a later time

get back to sb if you get back to someone, you give them an answer at a later time because you were not able to do it earlier: He said he was busy but promised he would **get back to me** in the afternoon.

phone back or **call back** or **ring back** to telephone someone again, or to telephone someone who telephoned you earlier: I'll call you back as soon as I hear any news.

Note: Ring back is used in British English.

1.3 To answer someone in writing

answer sth I hate it when people don't **answer my emails**. ♦ She **answered an advertisement** in the newspaper.

reply It took them a week to **reply to my letter**. ♦ I wrote many times but she never **replied**. ♦ They **replied that** unfortunately there were no vacancies at present.

respond Thousands of readers **responded to our questionnaire**.

get back to sb I'm sorry I didn't **get back to you** about that proposal. ♦ We'll **get back to you** early next week.

write back I wrote **back** and told them I was no longer interested. ♦ She **wrote back to Sarah**, giving her all the family's news.

2. Argue

Those girls are always **arguing**. ♦ He **argues with me about everything**. ♦ We used to **argue over** who should drive.

To **argue** also means to discuss something with someone who has a different opinion from you: They are still **arguing over** the details of the contract. ♦ We try to teach children to **argue their ideas** calmly and rationally.

You can also say that people **have an argument**: We **had a stupid argument** and now he's not speaking to me.

2.1 To argue with someone

quarrel to argue: I hate **quarrelling with you**. ♦ They're always **quarrelling over** money.

have a quarrel We **had the usual family quarrel about** who should do the washing up. ♦ He'd **had another quarrel with Jamie**.

fight to disagree in an angry way about something: What are you two **fighting about** now? ♦ I don't want to **fight over** such a trivial matter.

have a fight All teenagers **have fights with their parents**.

row to have a short noisy argument: My parents never **row**. ♦ We **rowed constantly about** everything. ♦ He has **rowed with everyone** in the group.

have a row They **had a row** and he walked out. ♦ Our parents were always **having rows about** money.

Note: Row is used mainly in British English.

bicker or **squabble** to argue with someone about things that are not important: The children **bickered constantly with** each other. ♦ They have been **bickering for months over** the leadership. ♦ A group of boys were **squabbling over** the ball. ♦ The other parties are **squabbling amongst** themselves.

fall out to stop being friendly with someone because you have had a disagreement with them: Have you two **fallen out**? ♦ She's **fallen out with** her parents.

Note: Fall out is informal and is used in British English.

3. Ask

I wondered where she had got the money, but didn't like to **ask**. ♦ If you need help with the translation, why don't you **ask Maria**? ♦ Don't be afraid to **ask questions**. ♦ 'Is something the matter?' he **asked** gently. ♦ **ask (sb) how/what/who/why** She **asked me how** I knew about it. ♦ They **asked whether** I had any objections.

3.1 To ask someone a question

inquire or **enquire** to ask someone for information about something: Why don't you **telephone the theatre and inquire about** tickets? ♦ I am writing to **inquire whether** you have any vacancies in September. ♦ 'What's for dinner?' Brian **inquired**.

demand to ask something in a very firm and angry way: 'What do you want?' she **demanded**. ♦ MPs **demanded to know** the reason for the delay.

3.2 To ask someone a lot of questions to find out what they know or think

question sb to ask someone a lot of questions to find out what they know or what they think about something: Interviewers **questioned 1,033 people** between the 23rd and 26th of August. ♦ I wish people would stop **questioning me about** what happened.

interrogate sb to ask someone, especially a prisoner or a suspect, a lot of questions in an angry or threatening way: *The suspects were interrogated for four days before being released.* ♦ *You have no right to interrogate me about my private life.*

cross-examine sb to ask someone a lot of questions, usually in an unfriendly way: *I don't like being cross-examined about my private life!*

grill sb or **give sb a grilling** to ask someone a lot of difficult questions over a long period of time, especially in order to make them explain their actions, decisions, or opinions: *Police investigators grilled him about his movements on the day of the crime* ♦ *Both party leaders were given a 30-minute grilling by a team of interviewers.*

3.3 To ask for something

ask to speak or write to someone because you want them to give you something or do something for you: *If you want any help, just ask.* ♦ **ask for sth** *He's always reluctant to ask for anyone's help.*

ask sb's permission or advice or opinion *I think we'd better ask your mum's opinion first.* ♦ *Always ask the permission of the landowner before camping on their land.* ♦ *I always ask their advice before taking any big decisions.*

request sth to ask for something, or ask someone to do something, in a polite or formal way: *The pilot requested permission to land.* ♦ *The minister has requested a meeting with the Egyptian ambassador.* ♦ *We specifically requested that you should be informed.* ♦ *Visitors are requested to register at the front desk.*

seek sth to ask someone for something: *Seek medical advice if symptoms last more than a week.* ♦ *You must first seek permission from the authors before publishing their names.*

Note: Request and seek are formal, and are used mainly in official contexts.

Collocation

Nouns frequently used as the object of **ask (for)**

- advice, assistance, clarification, explanation, forgiveness, help, information, permission, opinion, support

Nouns frequently used as the object of **request**

- assistance, clarification, help, information, meeting, permission

Nouns frequently used as the object of **seek**

- advice, approval, assistance, clarification, help, permission

demand sth to say in a very firm way that you want something, when you feel that you have a right to expect it: *I demand an apology.* ♦ *MPs are demanding an inquiry into the deal.*

nag to keep asking someone to do something that they do not want to do: *Stop nagging!* ♦ *My mum always nags me to tidy my room.*

badger sb to ask someone to do something many times, in a way that annoys them: *I wish you'd all stop badgering me with your questions!*

3.4 To ask someone to do something

ask sb to do sth to say that you want someone to do something: *He asked us to join him.* ♦ *She asked me not to tell anyone.* ♦ *The writer has asked not to be named.*

Note: **Ask that sb do sth** is a more formal way of saying that you want someone to do something: *The committee has asked that this scheme be stopped for now.* ♦ *We ask that you treat this matter as strictly confidential.*

pled to ask for something in an urgent or emotional way: *'Please help us,' Claire pleaded.* ♦ *I pleaded with you to stay, but you turned your back on me.*

beg or **implore sb (to do sth)** to ask someone to do something in a way that shows you want it very much: *I'm begging you, please help me.* ♦ *'Don't go,' she implored.* ♦ *They implored us to help them.* ♦ *He begged her not to leave.*

call for sth to say publicly that something must happen: *Several of the newspapers were calling for his resignation.*

appeal for sth to ask people publicly to do something, especially in a difficult situation: *Both sides have appealed for calm.* ♦ *Police have appealed for the mother to come forward.*

call on or **call upon sb to do sth** to officially ask a person or organization to do something in order to end a bad situation: *We call upon the government to end this discrimination now.* ♦ *He called on the kidnappers to release all the hostages.*

4. Say

See also **Speak**, **Talk**, and **Tell**.

Say is used for reporting what someone said. There are several verbs that mean more or less the same as **say**, but **say** is the most general word:

'Pleased to meet you,' he said. ♦ *'When's he coming back?' 'He didn't say.'* ♦ *She said that she liked dancing.* ♦ *Tell me what he said to you.* ♦ *say how/what/who/why* *Did she say who called?* ♦ *They didn't say where they were going.*

4.1 To say something

announce to say something important and sometimes surprising, usually to a group of people: *'I'm going to America!' she announced.* ♦ *Bill suddenly announced that he would be taking the day off.* ♦ *She announced, to my dismay, that she was coming to stay for a week.*

state to say what you think or what you intend to do in a definite or formal way: *I'm not making excuses, I'm simply stating a fact.* ♦ *The government has stated its intention to abolish child poverty.* ♦ *Please state clearly your reasons for wanting this job.*

declare to say something in an impressive way: *'I'm leaving tomorrow,' James declared suddenly.* ♦ *Brady declared that he had no intention of giving up the fight.*

mention to say something during a conversation, but without discussing it much or giving many details: *He didn't mention me, did he?* ♦ *I'll mention it to Jan when I see her tomorrow.* ♦ *Did I mention that I'm going to be away next week?*

add to say something in addition to what has been said already: *'Don't worry,' Jenny added hastily.* ♦ *I should add that I am not happy about this decision.*

utter to say something: *As soon as he'd uttered the words he regretted them.* ♦ *They followed her without uttering a single word of protest.*

Note: **Utter** is fairly formal and is mainly used in written English.

4.2 To make a written or spoken comment about something

say the most general way of reporting a comment that someone makes: *Jane said she'd bring some food.* ♦ *He*

EV4 Expand your Vocabulary

Communication

said that we shouldn't wait. ♦ *Did he say when he was coming back?* ♦ *The committee said yes, so we can go ahead.*

comment to make a written or spoken remark, especially one that gives an opinion: *Researchers who read the report commented that it contains many errors.* ♦ *He commented, 'Not to use a helmet while abseiling is foolhardy.'*

observe to make a written or spoken comment about something, especially something that other people have not noticed: *'You always arrive at the right time,' he observed drily.* ♦ *In his book he observes that the president was an able diplomat.*

remark to make a comment or express your opinion about something: *'This is delicious,' Louise remarked.* ♦ *My father remarked that I looked unhappy.* ♦ *People often remark on how alike we look.*

Note: Remark is mainly used in written English, especially fiction.

point out to make a written or spoken comment about something, especially when this is new or surprising information: *The author points out that many areas of this vast country remain unexplored.* ♦ *It seems appropriate to point out some fundamental shortcomings in the technique.*

express to tell someone about a feeling, opinion, or aim: *His teachers expressed concern about his progress.* ♦ *I would like to express my thanks to my parents for their support.* ♦ *The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author alone.* ♦ *The government has reportedly expressed an interest in the plan.*

Collocation

Adverbs frequently used with **comment**

- bitterly, drily, grimly, wryly

Adverbs frequently used with **observe**

- drily, justly, perceptively, rightly, shrewdly, tartly

Adverbs frequently used with **remark**

- acidly, drily, pointedly, ruefully, wryly

4.3 To say something using particular words or a particular style

put to say or write something in a particular way: *She put it very well when she described him as 'brilliant but lazy'.* ♦ *Put simply, it was an offer we couldn't afford to turn down.* ♦ *I wouldn't have put it quite like that myself.* ♦ *As John put it, life would be so nice if we didn't have to work.*

Phrases using 'put it' that are used to say how something is expressed:

how shall I put it or let me put it this way used when you are going to say something honest that may sound rude: *How shall I put it? He may be rich, but he certainly isn't attractive.* ♦ *Let me put it this way, if she was my daughter I wouldn't let her go.*

to put it another way used when you are going to explain something in a different way: *He was too trusting. Or, to put it another way, he had no head for business.*

to put it bluntly used when you are going to be honest, even if this might upset people: *To put it bluntly, their demands are unreasonable.*

to put it in a nutshell used for saying that you are going to explain something complicated in a quick and simple way: *To put it in a nutshell, we are not prepared to compromise our principles for the sake of short-term gain.*

word to express something in a particular way: *I'm not quite sure how to word this.* ♦ *a strongly-worded message.*

phrase to express something in a particular way in speech or writing: *I mentally phrased the letter I would write him.* ♦ *The regulations were badly phrased and gave rise to a lot of confusion.*

rephrase to say something again using different words, in order to express your meaning in a way that is more clear or more acceptable: *The declaration was rephrased in terms that both sides could agree on.*

be couched in sth if something is couched in a particular way, it is expressed in that way: *The letter was brief, and couched in the most guarded terms.* ♦ *The document was couched in language designed to satisfy the government's critics at home.*

Note: Be couched in is formal and is mainly used in written English.

4.4 To say something indirectly

imply to show your opinion about something by the things that you say, but without directly stating what you think: *She stressed that her comments did not imply criticism of the study.* ♦ *Are you implying that he's not up to the job?*

suggest to say that something is likely to exist or be true: *Are you seriously suggesting that she did this on purpose?* ♦ *I would like to suggest an alternative explanation.*

Note: The most common meaning of suggest is to offer an idea or plan for someone to consider: *I suggest we have dinner first and then watch the film.* ♦ *Can anyone suggest what we should do to increase sales?*

hint to let people know what you are thinking or feeling, but without saying it directly: *She hinted that she would like an MP3 player for her birthday.* ♦ *Officials are hinting at the possibility of an agreement later this week.*

4.5 To say something again

repeat to say something again: *Can you repeat what you just said?* ♦ *He repeated that he was not interested in buying a new car.*

reiterate to repeat something in order to emphasize it or make it very clear to people: *I would just reiterate that the entire international community is strongly united in this.* ♦ *The minister reiterated his opposition to the plans.*

Note: Reiterate is formal and is used in written English and formal spoken contexts.

run through sth again or go over sth again to explain something again in order to help someone understand it or remember it: *Before leaving, he ran through the safety instructions once again.* ♦ *Could you just go over the words one more time with me?*

confirm to say something again, especially officially or publicly: *We can confirm that a British man has been reported missing.* ♦ *The writer confirmed he was taking a 12-month break.*

5. Speak

Speak, talk, say, and tell are all very similar in meaning, but are used in different ways:

Verb	Focusing on
SPEAK	the act or manner of speaking
TALK	having a conversation or discussion
SAY	reporting what someone says
TELL	giving information to someone

LANGUAGE AWARENESS

These pages are designed to give up-to-date information on topics that are relevant to everyone who has any interest in the way the English language is being used at the beginning of the 21st century. They have all been written by people who are experts in the field they are writing about here; indeed, most of the authors have published more detailed work, which you might like to read if you find these pages interesting. They are intended to give you a deeper understanding of such areas as Idioms, Metaphor, and Word Formation, all of which are crucial for users of the English language. Our aim is to encourage you to think about the language, and to realize what an exciting tool it is when you can use it with confidence. There is a lot of food for thought on these pages, and teachers will find there is plenty of scope in these topics for classroom activities and discussion.

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A. UNDERSTANDING IDIOMS

by Professor Frank Boers, University of Antwerp, Belgium

IDIOMS ARE SEMI-FIXED EXPRESSIONS that are typically used in a **figurative** sense. For example, in the sentence 'Exams are part of a **carrot and stick method**', there are obviously no real carrots and sticks involved. The image is that of a donkey being encouraged to move forward by dangling a carrot in front of it or by hitting it with a stick. We can use this idiom to describe any event that involves more abstract rewards (the carrot) and threats (the stick).

All languages are full of idioms, and native speakers use them spontaneously without even thinking about their figurative nature. Language learners generally find idioms hard to understand, and this is not surprising. For example, learners are often not sure what image the idiom is based on. If a native speaker proposes to **show you the ropes** and you are not familiar with this expression, you might not immediately understand that she is proposing to teach you how to do a certain job. It would help if you knew that the expression was originally used in the context of sailing, where an experienced sailor had to show a novice how to handle the ropes on a boat.

Are idioms arbitrary?

Linguists used to believe that idioms were completely **arbitrary**: that is, you could not guess their meaning from the words they consist of. Consequently, teachers used to tell their students that the only way to master idioms was to learn them by heart. Fortunately, we now know that many idioms can be explained after all, and so they can be learned in systematic ways. Research tells us that when idioms are presented as **non-arbitrary** features of language, students find them much easier to understand and remember. In the following sections we will demonstrate the non-arbitrary nature of idioms.

Why idioms mean what they mean

Many idioms are derived from our general physical experiences (see **Metaphor**). For example, the expressions **hot under the collar**, **breathe fire**, and **let off steam** all refer to being angry, and they do this through the image of anger as something hot inside us. This makes sense to us, because when people get angry they often get red in the face as a result of rising body temperature. Similarly, the figurative expressions **lend someone a hand**, **try your hand at something**, and **have your hands tied** all use the image of the hand to refer to performing an action. This also makes sense, because we know from everyday experience that most activities involve the use of our hands.

Other idioms are derived from more specific areas of experience (or **domains**), such as sport, war, or cooking. Some of these domains may no longer be common in present-day life, but if we learn the original context in which the idiom was used and if we understand the image it is based on, we will find it is easier to understand. A helpful way of remembering idioms is to group them according to the domain that they are derived from, as follows:

Idioms derived from sailing:

clear the decks to first finish a job completely
a leading light a good example to follow
be on an even keel to make calm, steady progress

Idioms derived from war:

stick to your guns to refuse to change your opinion
fight a losing battle to be unlikely to succeed
be in the front line to have an important role

Idioms derived from entertainment (the theatre, the circus etc):

behind the scenes in secret
waiting in the wings ready to act when needed
a balancing act a difficult compromise

Which of the three domains shown above would you associate the following idioms with?

- take something on board
- close ranks
- steer clear of someone
- be centre stage
- a last-ditch effort
- the curtain comes down

If you recognize the origin of an idiom, you will often be able to work out its meaning on your own. For instance, the idiom **put something on the back burner** originates from the domain of cooking, and **take a back seat** comes from the domain of driving. Once you recognize these connections, it will be easier to understand sentences like these:

- *We **put the project on the back burner**.*
- *The students were working well together, so I decided to **take a back seat**.*

Idioms and culture

In general, idioms that are derived from our physical experiences, such as those that associate anger with heat, show strong similarities across different cultures, and they tend to be fairly easy to understand. This is not surprising, because basic physical experiences (like being hot or cold, sick or well) are shared universally. This does not mean that these idioms can simply be translated word for word from one language to another: their precise form and wording will often differ across languages. Nevertheless, the general images are often the same.

On the other hand, idioms that are derived from more specific domains are likely to differ across cultures, even cultures that are closely related. That is because not all domains from which idioms are derived have been equally important in all cultures. For example, English is particularly rich in expressions that are derived from the domain of **sailing**, and this is hardly surprising when we consider England's long history as a seafaring nation. Another area where cultures differ is in the popularity of certain games and sports. English has a lot of idioms that are derived from the following domains:

Horse racing:

neck and neck it is hard to say who will win
win hands down to win easily
go off the rails to go wrong, out of control

Gambling:

raise the ante to increase the risk
hedge your bets to not take any risks
pay over the odds to pay too much

Card games:

come up trumps to perform unexpectedly well

follow suit to do the same as others

not miss a trick to not fail a single time

Running contests:

jump the gun to do something too soon

have the inside track to have an advantage

quick off the mark reaching quickly

Hunting:

don't beat about the bush be direct, get to the point
it's open season on someone it's a period to criticize someone

it's in the bag success is certain

Using idioms effectively

An idiom derived from a 'playful' domain like games or sports is more likely to be used in informal discourse than an idiom derived from a more serious domain, such as warfare. For example, **score an own goal** is likely to occur more often in informal discourse than **break ranks**.

An idiom typically evokes a scene that is part of a larger scenario. For example, a debate between two politicians can be described as if it were a boxing match, and – because English has many idioms derived from boxing – you can choose particular phrases to highlight a specific stage or aspect of the contest. So, before the actual debate starts, the two politicians may **flex their muscles** to frighten the opponent; during the debate one of them may carelessly **lower his guard** or bravely **stick his neck out** and perhaps **take it on the chin**; if the debate gets more intense the opponents will **not pull their punches**; if it seems that they really want to hurt each other, you can say that **the gloves are off**; and after a while one of them may be **on the ropes** (=close to defeat) and may finally admit defeat and **throw in the towel**.

Idioms and sound patterns

The above paragraphs help to explain the meaning and use of idioms, but they do not explain, for example, why we say it **takes two to tango** rather than **it takes two to waltz**, nor why we say **go with the flow** rather than **go with the stream**. Part of the answer lies in **sound patterns**. For example, up to 20% of English idioms are made up of words that alliterate (=use the same sound at the start of each word) or of words that rhyme. This is a useful fact to know, because alliteration (in idioms such as **through thick and thin**, **spick and span**, **below the belt**, **rule the roost**, **meet your match**) and rhyme (in idioms such as **an eager beaver**, **the name of the game**, **horses for courses**, **steer clear of**) can help you to remember expressions like these. Sound patterns are also at work in many common non-idiomatic expressions, such as compounds (e.g. **pickpocket**, **beer belly**); collocations (e.g. **tell the truth**, **wage war**); similes (e.g. **cool as a cucumber**, **fit as a fiddle**); proverbs (e.g. **curiosity killed the cat**, **where there's a will there's a way**); and many other phrases (e.g. **time will tell**, **from dawn till dusk**).

Word order in idioms

As we have seen, the meanings and the lexical make-up of idioms can often be explained in systematic ways. But what about **word order** in idioms of the form 'X

and Y'? For example, why do we say **give and take** rather than 'take and give'? Here are some of the reasons why English idioms may choose one order of words rather than another:

1. The word order may be the most 'logical', given the origin of the idiom. For example, in the expression **swallow something hook, line, and sinker**, the image is that of a fish that first swallows the bait on the hook of the fishing rod, and then swallows the line, and finally swallows even the sinker (=small heavy object that makes the line sink in the water). In short, the word order reflects the sequence of events in the literal scenario. So, recognition of the literal origin of the expression may help you to make sense of its word order. You may also want to try this with these idioms: **crash and burn**, **cut and dried**, and **signed and sealed**.
2. The word order may be the most 'natural', because a flow of information tends to move from general to specific aspects. For example, the word order **alive and kicking** makes more sense than **kicking and alive**, because kicking implies being alive. The first word creates a frame in which the second appears, as in **bread and butter** (you first need bread to put the butter on), **chapter and verse** (you first find the chapter and then the verse in that chapter), and **cloak and dagger** (you first only see the cloak and then – perhaps too late – the dagger).
3. The word order may sound best, because of its rhythm. English shows a preference for putting the longest word last (e.g. **part and parcel**, **belt and braces**, **rack and ruin**).
4. Finally, the word order may simply be the easiest to say. Compare which of the following pairs requires least movement of your tongue when you say them aloud: **it's raining cats and dogs** or **it's raining dogs and cats**. You can also try this with **blood, sweat, and tears**; **home and dry**; **rough and tumble**; and, of course, **give and take**.

Conclusion

It should be clear that idioms are not as arbitrary as we used to think they were. We have shown here several aspects of idiomatic language – especially their source domains and the sound patterns they make – that can help us to tackle idioms in more systematic ways. And when we recognize the systems at work in a language, it becomes easier to understand, learn, and remember things.

Further reading

Suggestions for the teaching of idioms are made in the following articles:

Lindstromberg, S. and F. Boers (2005) Means of mass memorization of multiword expressions, part one: the power of sounds. *Humanising Language Teaching* 7.

Boers, F. and S. Lindstromberg (2006) Means of mass memorization of multiword expressions, part two: the power of images. *Humanising Language Teaching* 8.

A collection of research papers on the teaching of idioms can be found in the following book:

Boers, F. and S. Lindstromberg (eds.) (forthcoming) *Not So Arbitrary: Cognitive Linguistic Approaches to Teaching Vocabulary and Phraseology*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

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