



HUMSPELLING



In Education







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AGE GROUP



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age group

abaca

noun /'æbəkə/
a large herbaceous Asian plant of the banana family
Abaca prefers a warm climate with year-round rainfall.

aborning

adverb /ə'bo:nɪŋ/
while being born or produced
The bill was introduced in the Senate last year, but it died aborning.

abracadabra

noun /,æbrəkə'dæbrə/
a word said by conjurors when performing a magic trick
'Abracadabra', said the magician, and out flew a bird from the hat.

absurd

adjective /əb'sɜ:d/
wildly unreasonable, illogical, or inappropriate
It is an absurd idea to have a bonfire in summer.

academic

adjective /,ækə'demɪk/
relating to education and scholarship
His academic work is excellent.

accept

verb /ək'sept/
to take a thing that is offered
He decided to accept the offer from the college.

accessible

adjective /ək'sesɪbl, ək'sesəbl/
able to be reached or entered
The town is accessible by bus.

accident

noun /'æksɪdənt/
an unexpected event, especially one causing damage
He had an accident on his way to work and broke his ankle.

acclaim

noun /ə'kleɪm/
enthusiastic and public praise
The winning team was greeted with much acclaim.

acclimatize

verb /ə'klaɪmətaɪz/
to become accustomed to a new climate or new conditions
It takes time to acclimatize oneself to the heat of the desert.

accommodate

verb /ə'kɒmədeɪt/
to provide lodging or sufficient space for
This house cannot accommodate more than ten people.

accomplish

verb /ə'kɒmplɪʃ, ə'kʌmplɪʃ/
to achieve or complete successfully
There is no doubt that he will accomplish his goals in life.

accountant

noun /ə'kaʊntənt/
a person who keeps financial records
The accountant has to make sure that all bills are paid by the end of the month.

acculturation

noun /ə'kʌltʃə'reɪʃn/
the transfer or adoption of the cultural patterns of another group
Many people do not approve of the western acculturation of our society.

accumulate

verb /ə'kjʊ:mjuleɪt/
to collect or build up
I tend to accumulate a lot of junk.

accusation

noun /ˌækjuˈzeɪʃn/

a statement that someone has done something wrong
I don't want to make an accusation until I have some proof.

accustomed

adjective /əˈkʌstəmd/

customary or usual
He took his accustomed seat by the fire.

acetate

noun /ˈæsɪteɪt/

a salt or ester of acetic acid
Acetate is used in the making of textile fibres and plastics.

achievement

noun /əˈtʃiːvmənt/

a thing done successfully with effort, skill, or courage
It is quite an achievement to have completed this assignment in such a short time.

acidophilic

adjective /ˌæsɪdəʊˈfɪlɪk, əˌsɪdəʊˈfɪlɪk/

growing best in acidic conditions
Acidophilic organisms thrive in acidic environments.

acknowledge

verb /əkˈnɒlɪdʒ/

to accept or admit the existence or truth of something
The government should acknowledge its faults.

acolyte

noun /ˈækələɪt/

a person who assists a priest in religious ceremonies
The acolyte read from the Gospel.

acquaintance

noun /əˈkweɪntəns/

a person whom one knows, but not well
She is an acquaintance of mine from work.

acreage

noun /ˈeɪkərɪdʒ, ˈeɪkrɪdʒ/

an area of land usually used for agricultural purposes and measured in acres
We bought some acreage to start a small farm.

acrimonious

adjective /ˌækrɪˈməʊniəs/

angry and bitter
Ali's acrimonious remarks showed his anger and frustration.

acrophobia

noun /ˌækrəˈfəʊbiə/

the fear of heights
I cannot go skydiving because I suffer from acrophobia.

actually

adverb /ˈæktʃuəli/

in reality
Actually, we are only a week away from our mid-terms.

adamant

adjective /ˈædəmənt/

firm and not giving way to requests
He was adamant that he would not join us.

adaptable

adjective /əˈdæptəbl/

capable of adjusting
The company preferred hiring adaptable workers.

additive

noun /ˈædɪtɪv/

a substance added, especially to food or medicine
Food companies put more than one vitamin additive in breakfast cereals.

adequate

adjective /ˈædɪkwət/

satisfactory or acceptable in quality or quantity
He earns an adequate income which is enough to pay his bills.

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adhere

verb /əd'hɪə[r]/
to stick to a surface
That tape does not adhere to the wall.

adhesive

noun /əd'hɪ:sɪv, əd'hɪ:zɪv/
a substance used to stick things together
Glue is the perfect adhesive for my torn notebook.

adios

interjection /,ædɪ'ɒs/
used to express farewell
Adios! We'll see you tomorrow.

adipose

adjective /'ædɪpəʊs, 'ædɪpəʊz/
denoting body tissue which stores fat
Adipose tissue is mainly found under the skin.

adjacent

adjective /ə'dʒeɪsnt/
next to something else
The aeroplanes landed on the adjacent runways.

adjustable

adjective /ə'dʒʌstəbl/
capable of being changed
The new model of the car had adjustable seat belts.

administration

noun /əd,mɪnɪ'streɪʃn/
control or management
The directors are responsible for the administration of a company.

admirable

adjective /'ædmərəbl/
worthy of approval or respect
Sarah received an award for her admirable performance.

advent

noun /'ædvent, 'ædvənt/
the arrival of an important new person or thing
The advent of technology has sped up global communication.

adventitious

adjective /,ædven'tɪʃəs/
happening as a result of an external factor or chance rather than design or inherent nature
The adventitious similarities between the species are a result of environmental pressure rather than common ancestry.

adventurous

adjective /əd'ventʃərəs/
inclined to undertake new and daring activities
For a more adventurous holiday, try mountain climbing.

advertisement

noun /əd'vɜ:tɪsmənt, əd'vɜ:tɪzmənt/
a notice of a product or service
We place an advertisement about our products in the newspaper every week.

advisable

adjective /əd'vaɪzəbl/
strongly suggested for good reasons
It is advisable that you do your homework on time.

advisory

adjective /əd'vaɪzəri/
giving advice
The advisory committee suggested evacuating the area to avoid the hurricane.

aerial

adjective /'eəriəl/
existing, happening, or operating in the air
Aerial acrobatics are fun to watch.

affirmation

noun /ˌæfə'meɪʃn/

a solemn pledge in place of an oath
The constitution of this country requires an oath or affirmation by its office holders.

affray

noun /ə'freɪ/

a fight or violent behaviour in a public place
The affray scared the children playing in the park.

Afrikaans

noun /ˌæfrɪ'kɑːns/

a language of southern Africa, derived from the form of Dutch brought by settlers in the 17th century
Afrikaans is an official language of South Africa.

agape

adjective /ə'geɪp/

having one's mouth wide open in surprise or wonder
He stood with his mouth agape when he heard the news.

agaric

noun /'æɡərɪk, ə'ɡərɪk/

a fungus with a fruiting body that resembles a mushroom
An agaric, such as the common field mushroom, has gills in the form of fine, radiating plates.

aggravate

verb /'æɡrəveɪt/

to make a thing worse or more serious
His remarks really aggravate me.

aggressive

adjective /ə'ɡresɪv/

ready or likely to attack or confront
His aggressive behaviour suggested that he had no friends.

aglet

noun /'æɡlɪt/

a metal or plastic tube fixed round each end of a shoelace
My shoelace began to fray when the aglet fell off.

agony

noun /'æɡəni/

extreme physical or mental pain
The man broke his arm and was in agony.

agora

noun /'æɡərə/

the marketplace in Athens, used for popular meetings, or any similar place of assembly in ancient Greece
Walking in the city the following day, they came to the gate of the ancient agora.

agriculture

noun /'æɡrɪkʌltʃə[r]/

the science or practice of farming
Most of the land in this area is used for agriculture.

Airedale

noun /'eədeɪl/

a large terrier of a rough-coated black-and-tan breed

albacore

noun /'ælbəkoː/

a tuna of warm seas, which travels in large schools and is of commercial importance as a food fish

alexia

noun /ə'leksɪə/

an inability to recognize or read written words or letters
Alexia is the complete inability to read, as opposed to dyslexia, which is a difficulty while reading.

alien

noun /'eɪlɪən/

a foreigner
The border patrol caught the alien entering the country illegally.

allege

verb /ə'ledʒ/

to say something without being able to prove it
To allege that Sam had cheated on his exam was unfair.

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allegro

noun /ə'legrəʊ/
a composition performed at a brisk speed
The opening allegro of Beethoven's fifth symphony is one of the most recognizable movements ever written.

allergic

adjective /ə'lɜ:dʒɪk/
very sensitive to something that may make you ill
The allergic children took their medicine.

alley

noun /'æli/
a narrow lane or passage, especially one between or behind buildings
This alley leads to my house.

alligator

noun /'ælɪɡətə[r]/
a large reptile of the crocodile family

alloy

noun /'æləɪ/
a metal formed by mixing two or more metals
Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc.

almond

noun /'ɑ:mənd/
an oval nut
She peeled the almond and ate it with honey.

almshouse

noun /'ɑ:mzhaʊs/
a house founded by charity, offering accommodation for poor people
After the fire destroyed their house, they spent several nights in an almshouse.

aloof

adjective /ə'lu:f/
not friendly or forthcoming
The emperor kept himself aloof from the people.

aloud

adverb /ə'laʊd/
in a voice that can be heard
The teacher asked him to read the passage aloud.

alternative

noun /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv/
one of two or more choices
Travelling by train is an alternative to using a car.

altitude

noun /'æltɪtju:d/
the height of an object or point in relation to sea level or ground level
The summit of Mount Everest is at an altitude of 29,000 feet.

alveoli

plural noun /æl'vɪəlaɪ, ælvɪ'əʊlaɪ/
the many tiny air sacs of the lungs which allow for rapid gaseous exchange
The lungs of a premature baby lack a fluid essential for the alveoli to inflate.

amalgamate

verb /ə'mælgəmeɪt/
to mix or combine
They decided to amalgamate the two schools.

ambassador

noun /æm'bæsədə[r]/
a person sent to a foreign country to represent his or her own government
His uncle is the ambassador to Brazil.

amber

noun /'æmbə[r]/
hard translucent fossilized resin, yellowish in colour and used in jewelry
Insects encased in amber can be millions of years old.

ambiguous

adjective /æm'bigjuəs/
having more than one possible interpretation or meaning
The ambiguous account confused the judge.

ambition

noun /æm'biʃn/
a strong desire to achieve something
His ambition in life is to become an astronaut.

ambulance

noun /'æmbjuləns/
a vehicle equipped to carry sick or injured people
The ambulance brought the injured driver to the hospital.

ambuscade

noun /,æmbə'skeɪd/
the act of waiting in a concealed position in order to launch a surprise attack
The soldier imagined himself lying in ambush among the trees.

amendment

noun /ə'mendmənt/
a change or improvement to a law or document
Changing the law required a constitutional amendment.

amphitheatre

noun /'æmfɪθiətə[r]/
a round, usually unroofed building with tiers of seats surrounding a central space
The school staged a play in the amphitheatre.

amplify

verb /'æmplɪfaɪ/
to make stronger
He used a loudspeaker to amplify his voice.

amputate

verb /'æmpjuteɪt/
to cut off surgically
The doctor had to amputate the patient's leg because it was too infected to cure.

analogy

noun /ə'nælədʒi/
comparing two things that are alike
Our teacher explained the heart, using the analogy of a pump.

analyse

verb /'ænəlaɪz/
to examine
In history class, we had to analyse the causes of the war.

ancestor

noun /'ænsestə[r]/
anyone from whom a person is descended
He wondered if he had a famous ancestor.

anchor

noun /'æŋkə[r]/
a heavy object joined to a ship by a chain and dropped to the bottom of the sea to stop the ship from moving
Sailors dropped the ship's anchor into the water.

andante

adjective or adverb /æn'dæntɪ/
in a moderately slow tempo
To play music andante literally means to play at a walking speed.

anemometer

noun /,æni'mɒmɪtə/
an instrument for measuring the speed of the wind, or of any current of gas
We measured the wind speed using an anemometer.

Anglophobe

noun /'æŋgləʊfəʊb/
a person having a strong dislike of England or Britain
The Anglophobe will refuse to use a slang phrase if he knows it to be of British origin.

anhydrous

adjective /æn'hɑɪdrəs/
containing no water
They used anhydrous salts in their experiment.

animate

verb /'ænɪmeɪt/
to make a thing lively
The teacher can animate even the most boring literature and make it interesting.

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ankylosaur

noun /'æŋkɪləsɔː/

a heavily built herbivorous dinosaur of the Cretaceous period, armed with bony plates

annex

noun /'æneks/

a building joined to or associated with a main building, providing additional space or accommodation

The main house also had an annex for guests.

anniversary

noun /,æni'vɜːsəri/

a date that is an exact number of years after the date of an important or special event

August 14th is the anniversary of Pakistan's Independence.

announcement

noun /ə'naʊnsmənt/

the act of making something publicly known

The principal made an announcement that the school would remain closed the following day.

antechamber

noun /'æntɪtʃeɪmbə/

a small room leading to a main one

We waited in a small antechamber outside the courtroom.

anthologize

verb /æn'tɒlədʒaɪz/

to include an author or work in an anthology

The publisher will anthologize Faraz's poems in the next edition.

anthophilous

adjective /æn'tɒfɪləs/

feeding upon or living among flowers

The students studied the behaviour of the anthophilous insects found in the field.

anthropomorphic

adjective /,ænrəpə'mɔːfɪk/

suggesting human characteristics for animals or inanimate things

Many religions have an anthropomorphic image of God.

anthropophagy

noun /,ænrə'pɒfədʒi/

the eating of human flesh by human beings

Anthropophagy is commonly known as cannibalism.

antibiotic

noun /,æntɪbɪə'tɒɪk/

a substance that destroys bacteria

The doctor prescribed an antibiotic for my wounded knee.

anticipation

noun /æntɪ'sɪ'peɪʃn/

the act of realizing something will happen and preparing for it in advance

I cleaned my room in anticipation of your visit.

anticlimax

noun /,æntɪ'klaɪmæks/

a disappointing ending where something exciting had been expected

The adventure story ended in an anticlimax.

antihistamine

noun /,æntɪ'hɪstəmiːn, ,æntɪ'hɪstəmiːn/

a drug that protects people against unpleasant effects when they are allergic to something

The doctor prescribed an antihistamine to treat my hay fever.

antipyretic

adjective /æntɪpə'retɪk/

preventing or alleviating fever

The infection resolves spontaneously in 7-14 days, during which antipyretic analgesics such as paracetamol are helpful.

antiseptic

noun /ˌæntɪ'septɪk/
a substance that kills harmful bacteria
She cleaned the wound with an antiseptic.

Apache

noun /ə'pætʃɪ/
a member of a North American Indian people, formerly nomadic and warlike
He decided to dress as an Apache for the fancy dress show at college.

apartheid

noun /ə'pɑːθaɪt, ə'pɑːtaɪd/
a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race
The company did not exploit or profit from apartheid.

Apollonian

noun /ˌæpə'ləʊniən/
relating to the mythological Greek god Apollo
We saw many Apollonian temples in Greece.

apostrophe

noun /ə'pɒstrəfi/
a punctuation mark used to indicate either possession or the omission of letters or numbers
She wondered if it was appropriate to use an apostrophe.

appalling

adjective /ə'pɔːlɪŋ/
shocking and horrifying
They were faced with appalling working conditions.

appearance

noun /ə'piərəns/
what somebody looks like
The clown's appearance was very amusing.

appendix

noun /ə'pendɪks/
a small tube leading off from the intestine
Maha had an operation to remove her appendix.

appetite

noun /'æpɪtaɪt/
a desire for food
Exercise gives you a good appetite.

applause

noun /ə'plɔːz/
clapping
The actors were pleased with the applause at the end of their show.

applicable

adjective /ə'plɪkəbəl, 'æplɪkəbəl/
relevant or appropriate
Good manners are applicable both at home and in the workplace.

appreciable

adjective /ə'priːʃɪəbəl/
large or important enough to be noticed
An appreciable amount of time has passed since I left school.

apprenticeship

noun /ə'prentɪ[s]ɪp/
time spent as a novice learning a new skill
During his apprenticeship he learnt how to carve wood.

aptitude

noun /'æptɪtjuːd/
a natural ability to do something
Akbar has an aptitude for mathematics.

aquatic

adjective /ə'kwætɪk, ə'kwɒtɪk/
to do with water
Swimming is an aquatic sport.

arabesque

noun /ˌærə'besk/
a type of design where lines wind around each other
Arabesque is a kind of Islamic art usually found on the walls of mosques.

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arbalest

noun /'ɑ:bəlest/

a large medieval crossbow, usually cocked by mechanical means

The destructive power of the arbalest was so greatly feared during the 1100s that some governments tried to outlaw its use.

arcane

adjective /ɑ:'keɪn/

requiring secret knowledge to be understood
The country was hampered by its arcane bureaucracy.

archaeology

noun /,ɑ:kɪ'ɒlədʒi/

the study of the remains of ancient civilizations
Sara wants to study archaeology.

archdeacon

noun /ɑ:tʃ'di:kən/

a senior Christian cleric to whom a bishop delegates certain responsibilities
The position of an archdeacon can only be held by a priest who has been ordained for at least six years.

arena

noun /ə'ri:nə/

a place with a flat open area in the middle with seats around it
The people gathered at Wembley Arena to watch the concert.

argyle

noun /ɑ:'gaɪl/

a pattern composed of diamonds of various colours on a plain background, used in knitted garments
He wore the traditional argyle design associated with golf.

arrears

plural noun /ə'ri:əz/

money that is owed and should have been paid earlier
They have promised to pay the arrears over the next five years.

arroyo

noun /ə'rɔɪəʊ/

a steep-sided gully formed by the action of fast-flowing water in an arid region
An arroyo may be dry and then flood suddenly during a rainstorm.

artichoke

noun /'ɑ:tɪtʃəʊk/

a round vegetable with a lot of thick, green leaves
Mrs. Riaz steamed the artichoke and served it with dinner.

articulate

adjective /ɑ:'tɪkjʊlət/

able to express things clearly
He was an articulate speaker and gave a wonderful speech.

assassinate

verb /ə'sæsɪneɪt/

to kill an important person
The police discovered a plot to assassinate the king.

assault

noun /ə'sɔ:lt/

a violent attack
The soldier led an assault against the enemy.

assignment

noun /ə'saɪnmənt/

a task given to someone
I have finished my homework assignment.

assimilate

verb /ə'sɪmɪleɪt/

to take in and absorb something
She thinks she can assimilate knowledge without having to work.

associate

noun /ə'səʊʃɪət, ə'səʊsɪət/

a colleague
Ali is my associate from work.

assortment

noun /ə'sɔ:tment/
a mixed collection of things
This box contains an assortment of sweets.

assurance

noun /ə'ʃʊərəns/
a promise or guarantee that something is true or will happen
A promise from the doctor that he would check in on her was all the assurance she needed.

asthma

noun /'æsmə/
a disease that makes breathing difficult
My friend suffers from asthma.

astrogate

verb /'æstrəʊgeɪt/
to navigate in space
The entire space crew was trained to astrogate.

astrology

noun /ə'strɒlədʒi/
the study of stars and movements of the planets in the belief that they influence human affairs
He did not believe in astrology.

astronaut

noun /'æstrɒnɔ:t/
a person who travels in a spacecraft
Neil Armstrong was the first astronaut to walk on the moon.

asylum

noun /ə'saɪləm/
the protection granted by a state to someone who has left their home country as a political refugee
The defeated rebels sought asylum in another country.

athwart

preposition /ə'θwɔ:t/
from side to side
A counter was placed athwart the entrance.

atrociousness

noun /ə'trəʊʃəsnəs/
the state of being horrifyingly wicked
The atrociousness of the crime cannot be articulated.

audition

noun /ɔ:'dɪʃn/
a test to see if an actor is suitable for a job
The actor went to an audition for the new film.

authenticate

verb /ɔ:'θentɪkeɪt/
to establish the truth
The expert was asked to authenticate whether the painting was a genuine antique.

authoress

noun /ɔ:'θəres/
a female author
The authoress has done full justice to the village life in Pakistan.

authoritative

adjective /ɔ:'θɒrɪtətɪv, ɔ:'θɒrɪ'tetɪv/
having proper authority or expert knowledge
The professor is an authoritative figure in his field.

autobahn

noun /ɔ:'təʊbə:n/
a motorway in German-speaking countries
The Mercedes swept down the outside lane of the autobahn.

autotroph

noun /ɔ:'təʊtrəʊf/
an organism that is able to form nutritional organic substances from simple inorganic substances
An autotroph, like a plant, essentially creates its own food.

autumn

noun /ɔ:'təm/
the season between summer and winter
Most trees shed their leaves in autumn.

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avocation

noun /ævə'keɪʃən/

a hobby or minor occupation

Even then, farming for them was a hobby, an avocation, a link to a way of life that was slipping away.

awestruck

adjective /'ɔːstrʌk/

filled with awe

I was awestruck by the brilliance of the stars.

babble

verb /'bæbl/

to talk very quickly without making sense
He is likely to babble on without making any sense.

bachelor

noun /'bætʃələ[r]/

a man who has not married
He was considered the most eligible bachelor in town.

backgammon

noun /'bækgæmən/

a board game in which two players move their pieces around twenty-four triangular points
The game of backgammon involves a lot of strategy.

Baconian

adjective /beɪ'kəʊniən/

relating to Sir Francis Bacon or his inductive method of reasoning and philosophy
The Baconian method is the investigative method developed by Sir Francis Bacon.

bactericide

noun /bæk'tɪərɪsaɪd/

a substance which kills bacteria
Bactericide disinfectants should be used on kitchen surfaces.

bacteriology

noun /bæk'tɪərɪ'ɒlədʒi/

the study of bacteria
Bacteriology has importance in food processing and agriculture.

baize

noun /beɪz/

a coarse felt-like woolen fabric that is typically green, used for covering billiard and card tables
The baize covering on the snooker table is worn out and should be replaced.

ballerina

noun /ˌbælə'ri:nə/

a female ballet dancer
The way the ballerina balanced herself on tiptoe seemed humanly impossible.

ballet

noun /'bæleɪ/

a type of dancing with formal movements, usually to classical music
The dancers in the ballet were very precise in their movements.

bandicoot

noun /'bændɪku:t/

a mainly insectivorous marsupial native to Australia and New Guinea

barbecue

verb /'bɑ:bɪkjʊ:/

to cook meat and other food on a metal grill over an open fire, usually outside
We are going to barbecue some chicken tonight.

bargain

noun /'bɑ:gɪn/

something that you buy cheaply
This book is a bargain at half price.

baric

adjective /'beərɪk, 'bærɪk/

of or pertaining to barium
The solution contains the barium as baric chloride.

barley

noun /'bɑ:lɪ/

a cereal plant
Cereal made from barley is healthy to eat.

barracks

plural noun /'bærəks/

a large building or group of buildings for soldiers to live in
The army barracks housed many soldiers.

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barrister

noun /'bærɪstə[r]/

a lawyer

The barrister won his case in court.

basil

noun /'bæzəl/

an aromatic plant originally from India

Basil is commonly used in pasta dishes.

basilica

noun /bə'sɪlɪkə, bə'zɪlɪkə/

a large oblong hall or building with double colonnades and a semicircular apse

We visited St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

batik

noun /'bætɪk, bə'tɪk/

a method of producing coloured designs on textiles using wax to resist dye

The artist specialized in making prints using batik.

battalion

noun /bə'tæljən/

an army unit containing two or more units

It took days for the whole battalion to move from one front to another.

battlements

noun /'bætlmənts/

the top of a castle wall, often with gaps from which the defenders could fire at the enemy

The soldiers fired at the enemy from behind the battlements.

belated

adjective /bɪ'leɪtɪd/

coming very late or too late

She gave me my belated birthday present.

belaud

verb /bɪ'ləʊd/

to praise, usually to excess

The opposition did not wish to belaud the parliament plan for eradication of poverty.

believable

adjective /bɪ'li:vəbl/

capable of being thought true

She told a very believable story about what she had been doing that night.

beneficial

adjective /ˌbenɪ'fɪʃl/

having a good effect

Using computers has a beneficial effect on children's learning.

benthos

noun /'benθɒs/

the animals and plants living at the bottom of a sea or lake

The abundance of benthos in a lake is an indicator of the lake's overall health.

beriberi

noun /ˌberɪ'beri/

a disease causing inflammation of the nerves and heart failure due to vitamin B1 deficiency

The symptoms of beriberi respond well to an improvement in diet.

besiege

verb /bɪ'si:dʒ/

to surround from all sides

The army was preparing to besiege the fortress.

besotted

adjective /bɪ'sɒtɪd/

too fond of something

We are all besotted with the pretty film actress.

bestow

verb /bɪ'stəʊ/

to give something to someone, especially to show how much they are respected

I would like to bestow this medal on you.

betwixt

preposition or adverb /bɪ'twɪkst/

between

Betwixt the two, I prefer the red one.

bevelled

adjective /'bevəld/

reduced from a square edge to a sloping edge
A bevelled mirror has edges which have been cut at an angle.

beverage

noun /'bevərɪdʒ/

any kind of drink
I would like to drink a hot beverage.

biased

adjective /'baɪəst/

favouring one side unfairly
The biased umpire made sure the other team won the match.

bibliomania

noun /ˌbɪbliəʊ'meɪniə/

an extreme love of books
Eighteen essays written over four years reveal the author's bibliomania and compulsive proofreading habit.

bicentenary

noun /ˌbaɪsen'tɪnəri, ˌbaɪsen'tenəri/

a 200th anniversary
Our college is celebrating its bicentenary this year.

biceps

plural noun /'baɪseps/

the large muscles at the front of the arms above the elbow
The wrestler had strong biceps because he spent his time lifting weights.

bilingual

adjective /ˌbaɪ'lɪŋɡwəl/

able to speak two languages
Being bilingual, Ali works as an interpreter.

binoculars

noun /bɪ'nɒkjʊləz, baɪ'nɒkjʊləz/

a device with lenses for both eyes, making distant objects seem nearer
Ali used his binoculars to see the distant mountains.

bizarre

adjective /bɪ'zɑː[r]/

strange in appearance
People were surprised by the bizarre outfit he was wearing.

blandishment

noun /'blændɪsmənt/

flattery intended to persuade
The teacher would not respond to our blandishment and refused to cancel the test.

bleak

adjective /bliːk/

lacking vegetation and exposed to the elements
The drove across the bleak and barren moor.

blizzard

noun /'blɪzəd/

a severe snowstorm
It is impossible to go outdoors in this blizzard.

blossom

verb /'blɒsəm/

to produce flowers
Flowers blossom in spring.

bobsleigh

noun /'bɒbsleɪ/

a mechanically steered and braked sledge used for racing down an ice-covered run
Canada won the gold medal in the four man bobsleigh race.

bodega

noun /bəʊ'diːgə/

a shop selling wine and sometimes groceries
The Spanish bodega had a good selection of wine.

boisterous

adjective /'bɔɪstərəs/

noisy, energetic and cheerful
The crowd at the cricket match was in a boisterous mood.

B

9 to 11
age group

bombinate

verb /'bɒmbɪneɪt/

to make a buzzing noise

As soon as I pressed the button, the machine began to bombinate.

bonhomous

adjective /'bɒnəməs/

friendly and cheerful

Adil told us about the bonhomous host at the party.

boomerang

noun /'buːməɾæŋ/

a curved piece of wood that can be thrown so that it returns to the thrower

It is fun to play with a boomerang.

botany

noun /'bɒtəni/

the study of plants

The university offers a three-year course in botany.

boulder

noun /'bəʊldə[r]/

a very large, smooth stone

The boulder is too heavy to move.

boundary

noun /'baʊndri/

a line that marks a limit

The boundary between the neighbour's lawn and ours is the white picket fence.

bowerbird

noun /'baʊəbɜːd/

a strong-billed bird, noted for the male's habit of constructing an elaborate run adorned with feathers, shells, and other objects

bracelet

noun /'breɪslət/

an ornament worn round the wrist

I have a bracelet made of blue beads.

bradawl

noun /'brædɔːl/

a tool for boring holes, resembling a small, sharpened screwdriver

He used a bradawl to make the holes in the leather belt.

brawl

noun /brɔːl/

a noisy quarrel or fight

The bully got his nose broken in a brawl.

brittle

adjective /'brɪtl/

hard but easy to break or snap

I like these brittle breadsticks.

brochure

noun /'brəʊʃə[r], brɒ'ʃʊə[r]/

a booklet containing information

The travel brochure contains information about holidays in Muree.

bronco

noun /'brɒŋkəʊ/

a wild horse of western North America

bruise

noun /bruːz/

a dark mark made on the skin after someone has fallen or been hit

He fell and got a bruise on his arm.

Buddhism

proper noun /'bʊdɪzəm/

a faith that follows the teachings of the Indian philosopher Gautama Buddha

People who follow Buddhism do not eat meat.

budgerigar

noun /'bʌdʒərɪɡɑː[r]/

a small, brightly-coloured Australian bird

budget

noun /'bʌdʒɪt/

a plan for spending money wisely

In my budget, I have set aside some money to buy books.

buffet

noun /'bʊfeɪ/

a meal where guests serve themselves

The buffet offered plenty of choices to the diners.

bulgar

noun /'bʌlgə/

a cereal food made from whole wheat partially boiled then dried

In Indian cuisine, bulgar is used as a cereal with milk and sugar.

bulletin

noun /'bʊlɪtɪn/

a public statement giving news

I heard about the tsunami in Thailand in a news bulletin.

bullock

noun /'bʊlək/

a young bull

bungalow

noun /'bʌŋɡələʊ/

a house built all on one level, without stairs

Akbar lives in a bungalow.

bungle

verb /'bʌŋɡl/

to make a mess of doing something

Try not to bungle the assignment.

bureau

noun /'bjʊərəʊ/

a writing desk with drawers

She organised her files and put them in the bureau.

bureaucracy

noun /bjʊə'roʊkrəsi/

the system of official rules and ways of doing things that a government or an organisation has

As a civil servant, my uncle understands how bureaucracy works.

burial

noun /'beriəl/

the action or practice of burying a dead body

His widow cried at his burial.

burrito

noun /bʊ'ri:təʊ/

a Mexican dish consisting of a tortilla filled with meat or beans

A burrito is a filling and delicious meal.

butterscotch

noun /'bʌtəskɒtʃ/

a brittle yellow-brown sweet made with butter and brown sugar

Butterscotch was her favourite sweet.

byre

noun /'baɪə/

a cowshed

Right after feeding the animals, he began cleaning the byre.

C

9 to 11
age group

cabana

noun /kə'bu:nə/

a tent used as a dressing room by the sea
The photographer arranged for a cabana for the model during her photoshoot by the sea.

cactus

noun /'kæktəs/

a plant, usually with thorns, from a hot, dry climate
A cactus can survive with very little water.

cadaver

noun /kə'dɑ:və, kə'deɪvəl/

a corpse
Ahmed dissected a cadaver in anatomy class.

calabash

noun /'kæləbæʃ/

an evergreen tropical American tree which bears fruit in the form of large woody gourds
The fruit of the calabash is used to make many things including instruments and utensils.

calcite

noun /'kælsaɪt/

a common crystalline form of natural calcium carbonate
Calcite may be found in sedimentary rocks.

calculator

noun /'kælkjuleɪtə[r]/

a small electronic device that is used for making calculations
Students were not allowed to use a calculator for their mathematics examination.

Caledonian

adjective /ˌkæli'dəʊniən/

relating to Scotland or the Scottish Highlands
We took a trip through the Caledonian pinewoods of Scotland.

calomel

noun /'kæləmel/

a colorless, tasteless, white or brown compound
Calomel is used in the preparation of insecticides and medicines.

calumny

noun /'kæləmni/

the making of false and defamatory statements about someone
The calumny hurled against the politician has destroyed his reputation.

camouflage

noun /'kæməflɑ:ʒ/

a way of hiding things by making them look like part of their surroundings
The soldiers dressed in camouflage to hide themselves from the enemy.

canary

noun /kə'neəri/

a small yellow bird with a beautiful song, often kept in a cage as a pet

cancellation

noun /ˌkænsə'leɪʃn/

the act of stopping something that was planned
The last minute cancellation of the concert left the audience disappointed.

canvas

noun /'kænvəs/

a strong coarse cloth often used as a fabric for painting on
The artist prepared a new canvas for painting.

capstan

noun /'kæpstən/

a broad revolving cylinder used for winding a rope or cable
The anchor was raised by turning the capstan.

capsule

noun /'kæpsju:l/
a hollow pill containing medicine
The doctor prescribed his patient one capsule a day.

caracal

noun /'kærəkæl/
a long-legged lynx-like cat with black tufted ears and a uniform brown coat, native to Africa and western Asia

caravan

noun /'kærəvæn/
a group of people travelling together across desert country
The caravan stopped at the oasis to drink water.

carbohydrates

noun /,kɑ:bəʊ'haidreɪts/
a compound of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen
Cereals contain carbohydrates that give us energy.

cardigan

noun /'kɑ:dɪgən/
a knitted jacket
I have a blue cardigan to wear in winter.

caricaturist

noun /'kærɪkətʃʊərɪst/
a person who sketches pictures of people in which certain striking characteristics are exaggerated
I admire the work of the political caricaturist in this newspaper.

carnivorous

adjective /kɑ:'nɪvərəs/
meat-eating
Lions are carnivorous animals.

carouse

verb /kə'raʊz/
to drink alcohol and enjoy oneself with others in a noisy, lively way
He liked to carouse with his friends.

carriage

noun /'kærɪdʒ/
a passenger vehicle pulled by horses
We decided to travel to the village in a carriage.

Cartesian

adjective /kɑ:'ti:ziən/
relating to Descartes and his ideas
In school we learn to draw graphs using the Cartesian coordinate system.

cartoonist

noun /kɑ:'tu:nɪst/
a person who draws cartoons
The cartoonist drew an amusing picture.

cartridge

noun /'kɑ:trɪdʒ/
a case containing the explosive for a bullet or shell
The soldier lost his cartridge when he dropped his gun.

cassava

noun /kə'sɑ:vəl/
the starchy tuberous root of a tropical tree, used as food in tropical countries
The insects had severely damaged the cassava crop.

casserole

noun /'kæsərəʊl/
a kind of stew that is cooked slowly in an oven
Sarah made a chicken casserole for dinner.

cassette

noun /kə'set/
a small, sealed case containing recording tape or film
This cassette contains all my favourite songs.

casualization

noun /,kæʒjuəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/
to make things less formal in places where people work
Allowing office workers to wear informal clothes is casualization.

C

9 to 11
age group

casualty

noun /'kæʒjuəlti/

a person who is killed or injured in a war or in an accident

A casualty of the train wreck was rushed to the hospital.

catamaran

noun /kætəmə'ræn/

a yacht or other boat with twin hulls in parallel

A catamaran is unlikely to be capsized by wind, but a big enough rogue wave can do it.

catapult

noun /'kætəpʌlt/

a stick with a rubber band attached to it, used for shooting stones

The pigeons on the balcony have been in danger ever since Farooq got a catapult.

catastrophe

noun /kə'tæstrəfi/

a sudden, great disaster

The tsunami was a catastrophe for Thailand.

catchy

adjective /'kætʃi/

pleasant and easily remembered

She immediately started humming the catchy jingle of the advertisement.

caterpillar

noun /'kætəpɪlə[r]/

the creeping, worm-like creature that will turn into a butterfly or moth

A caterpillar feeds on the leaves of plants.

cathedral

noun /kə'ti:drəl/

the most important church of a city

St. Paul's Cathedral is a famous landmark in London.

cauldron

noun /'kɔ:ldrən/

a large deep pot used for boiling things

The wicked witch made rabbit stew in her big black cauldron.

causeway

noun /'kɔ:zweɪ/

a raised road or track across low or wet ground

The causeway led to the edge of the beach.

cautionary

adjective /'kɔ:ʃənəri/

giving a warning

The alarm sounded a cautionary signal.

cavalry

noun /'kævəlri/

soldiers who fight on horseback or in armoured vehicles

The cavalry moved faster than the soldiers on foot.

cavernous

adjective /'kævənəs/

like a cavern in size, shape, or atmosphere

The climbers fell into a cavernous underground chamber.

cavitation

noun /kævi'teɪʃən/

the formation of bubbles in a liquid, typically by the movement of a propeller through it

Cavitation caused by a submarine's propeller will give away its position.

cavity

noun /'kævɪti/

a hollow or hole

I spotted a cavity in one of my teeth.

cavy

noun /'keɪvi/

a South American rodent with a sturdy body and vestigial tail

cease

verb /si:s/

to stop or end

When the teacher entered the class we had to cease talking.

ceiling

noun /ˈsiːlɪŋ/
the flat surface forming the top of a room
The fan has to be mounted to the ceiling.

celebration

noun /ˌselɪˈbreɪʃn/
a happy event to mark a special occasion
Her birthday celebration will be next week.

celesta

noun /sɪˈlestə/
a small keyboard instrument in which felted hammers strike a row of steel plates, giving a bell-like sound
Tchaikovsky's "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" is the best known work which features the celesta.

cellar

noun /ˈselə[r]/
an underground room
The pipes are in the cellar.

cellulose

noun /ˈseljʊləʊs, ˈseljʊləʊz/
tissue that forms the main part of all plants and trees
Cellulose cannot be digested by human beings.

censer

noun /ˈsenser/
a container in which incense is burnt during a religious ceremony
The priest allowed the censer to swing from side to side as he walked down the aisle.

census

noun /ˈsenses/
an official count or survey of the population of a country or area
A census of the city's population was conducted by the new mayor.

centennial

noun /senˈtenɪəl/
a hundredth anniversary
The cricket club celebrated its centennial.

centipede

noun /ˈsentɪpiːd/
a small, crawling creature with a long body and many legs

cereal

noun /ˈsɪəriəl/
a grain used for food, for example wheat, maize, or rye
Ali enjoys his cereal with chocolate milk every morning.

cerebrate

verb /ˈserɪˌbreɪt/
to think
Sarah is apt to cerebrate at length before making even minor decisions.

ceremonial

adjective /serɪˈməʊniəl/
relating to or used in a formal event
He had kept two tuxedos for such ceremonial occasions.

certainty

noun /ˈsɜːtənti/
something that is sure to happen
Pakistan's victory in the hockey match is a certainty.

certificate

noun /səˈtɪfɪkət/
an official written or printed statement giving information about a person
The employment office asked for his birth certificate.

chamfer

verb /ˈtʃæmfə/
to cut away a corner at a 45 degree angle to make a symmetrical sloping edge
The table top will look more finished if you chamfer the edges.

changeable

adjective /ˈtʃeɪndʒəbl/
likely to change
Karachi has changeable weather.

C

9 to 11
age group

chaotic

adjective /keɪ'ɒtɪk/

in a state of complete disorder and confusion
After the revolution there were chaotic conditions in the country.

chaplaincy

noun /ˈtʃæplɪnsɪ/

the position or work of a chaplain
The book is a good introduction to the history and basic challenges of military chaplaincy.

charade

noun /ʃə'reɪd/

a situation in which people pretend that something is true when it is clearly not
Her whole act of being sick was a charade.

chariot

noun /ˈtʃæriət/

a two wheeled vehicle drawn by horses, used in ancient warfare and racing
The film had an exciting chariot race in which the hero got hurt.

charitable

adjective /ˈtʃærɪtəbl/

generous in giving to those in need
The charitable organisation distributed clothes to the needy.

charleston

noun /ˈtʃɑːlstən/

a lively dance of the 1920s which involved turning the knees inwards and kicking out the ankles
The charleston was symbolic of the spirit of the 1920s.

chary

adjective /ˈtʃɛəri/

cautiously or suspiciously reluctant to do something
She had been chary of telling the whole truth.

chicory

noun /ˈtʃɪkəri/

a blue-flowered Mediterranean plant of the daisy family, cultivated for its edible leaves and root
Chicory is roasted and ground as a substitute for coffee.

chivalrous

adjective /ˈʃɪvəlɪəs/

being considerate
It is chivalrous behaviour to hold the door open for your elders.

chlorine

noun /ˈklɔːrɪn/

the chemical element of atomic number 17, a toxic, irritant, pale green gas
Sara couldn't swim because the swimming pool had too much chlorine.

choir

noun /ˈkwaɪə[r]/

a group of people trained to sing together
The choir always sings on Sunday.

choke

verb /ˈtʃəʊk/

to hinder or stop the breathing of a person or animal
He did not like the way the tight collar would choke him.

cholera

noun /ˈkɒləɪə/

an infectious, often fatal, bacterial disease
After the floods there was an outbreak of cholera.

choreography

noun /ˌkɒrɪ'ɒɡrəfi/

the sequence of steps and movements in dance or figure skating
The choreography of the ballet was brilliant.

Christmas

noun /ˈkrɪsməs/

the day when Christians celebrate the birth of Christ.
They wished all their Christian colleagues a very merry Christmas.

chromatics

noun /krəʊ'mætiks/
the science of color
New research is being done in chromatics.

chronicle

noun /'krɒnɪkl/
a record of events in the order that they happened
The soldier's chronicle of the war was useful to historians.

chronological

adjective /krɒnə'lɒdʒɪkəl/
following the order in which events occurred
The history teacher told the class to arrange the dates in chronological order.

chubby

adjective /'tʃʌbi/
plump and rounded
He fondly patted the child's chubby cheeks.

chunk

noun /'tʃʌŋk/
a thick, solid piece usually of meat or wood
The dogs pounced on the chunk of meat.

churro

noun /'tʃʊərəʊ/
a Spanish and Mexican pastry resembling a doughnut
In Spain, a churro is eaten with hot chocolate.

cigarette

noun /ˌsɪɡə'ret/
a small roll of shredded tobacco in thin paper for smoking
Even a single cigarette can harm your health.

cincture

noun /'sɪŋktʃə[r]/
a girdle or belt
He put the cincture about his waist.

cinematography

noun /ˌsɪnɪmə'tɒɡrəfi/
the art of photography and camerawork in film-making
Cinematography is now being offered as a degree course at many good universities.

circuit

noun /'sɜ:kɪt/
a roughly circular line, route, or movement that starts and finishes at the same place
I ran a circuit of the village.

circulation

noun /ˌsɜ:kju'leɪʃn/
the movement of blood around the body
Exercise improves the circulation of blood around the body.

circumnavigate

verb /sɜ:kəm'nævɪgeɪt/
to sail all the way around something, especially the world
The adventurer will circumnavigate the globe in a sailboat.

circumstantial

adjective /sɜ:kəm'stænʃəl/
pointing indirectly towards someone's guilt
The report contained circumstantial evidence of wrongdoing by the governor.

civilian

noun /sɪ'vɪliən/
a person who is not serving in the armed forces
A military uniform may not be worn by a civilian.

clamp

verb /klæmp/
to fix something firmly
The carpenter had to clamp the piece of wood to keep it from moving.

C

9 to 11
age group

clank

noun /'klæŋk/

an abrupt harsh metallic sound

I could hear the clank of iron as the farrier worked.

claustrophobic

adjective /ˌklɔːstrə'fəʊbɪk/

suffering from a fear of confined places

The claustrophobic patient could not stand having the door shut.

clinician

noun /ˈklɪnɪʃn/

one who works in or through a clinic

At the hospital a clinician took Sam's blood for testing.

clink

verb /'kɪŋk/

to make or cause to make a light and sharply ringing sound

I heard them clink their glasses together in a toast.

clone

noun /'kləʊn/

organisms or cells that are descended from a common ancestor by asexual reproduction

Dolly the sheep was the first clone ever created of an animal.

clover

noun /'kləʊvə[r]/

a small plant usually with three leaves on each stalk

A four leaf clover is said to bring you luck.

coati

noun /kəʊ'ɑːti/

a raccoon-like animal found mainly in Central and South America, with a long flexible snout and a ringed tail

cockatoo

noun /ˌkɒkə'tuː/

a crested parrot

cockle

noun /'kɒkəl/

an edible burrowing bivalve mollusc with a strong ribbed shell

Spaniards look forward to festive feasts of crab, cockle, mussel, octopus and goose barnacle.

cockroach

noun /'kɒkrəʊtʃ/

a beetle-like insect

coincidental

adjective /kəʊɪnsɪ'dentəl/

happening by chance

It was purely coincidental that Sara and Saba met on the plane after 20 years.

collaborator

noun /kə'læbəreɪtə[r]/

one that works jointly with others

Rafi was my collaborator during the making of the documentary.

cologne

noun /kə'ləʊn/

perfumed liquid consisting of certain aromatic oils

My father sprays himself with cologne every morning.

columnist

noun /'kɒləmnɪst/

a person who writes regularly for a newspaper

The columnist wrote about the festival in his column.

comedian

noun /kə'miːdiən/

someone who entertains people by making them laugh

The comedian made the audience laugh.

comfortable

adjective /'kʌmfətl/

making someone physically relaxed

The hotel is a comfortable establishment.

commence

verb /kə'mens/

to begin

The ceremony will commence in ten minutes.

commensurate

adjective /kə'menʃərət, kə'mensərət/

matching something in size, importance, or quality

His salary will be commensurate with his experience.

commentary

noun /'kɒmentəri/

a description of an event by someone who is watching it, especially for radio or television

He listened to the cricket commentary on the radio.

committee

noun /kə'miti/

a group of people appointed to deal with something

The committee decided to install new lights at the playground.

community

noun /kə'mju:niti/

a group with similar interests or origins

Miklos is part of New York's Hungarian community.

compassionate

adjective /kəm'pæʃənət/

feeling or showing sympathy for people suffering

He was a visionary with a compassionate heart.

compensation

noun /'kɒmpen'seɪʃn/

something, such as money, given or received as payment for a service or loss

The heirs of the deceased officials were given money as compensation.

competent

adjective /'kɒmpɪtənt/

having enough skill or knowledge to do something well or to the necessary standard

He is a very competent worker.

complaint

noun /kəm'pleɪnt/

a statement expressing dissatisfaction about something

The police received a complaint about a disturbance in the apartment building.

complexion

noun /kəm'plekʃn/

the natural colour and appearance of the skin of the face

The baby had a healthy pink complexion.

complication

noun /'kɒmplɪ'keɪʃn/

a problem that makes a situation harder to deal with

There was a complication with the operation so the surgeon had to do it again.

comprehension

noun /'kɒmpri'hensn/

understanding

The teacher will test your comprehension of the book.

compromise

verb /'kɒmprəmaɪz/

to settle a dispute by each side accepting less than it asked for

The two governments had to compromise in order to reach a solution to the problem.

compunction

noun /kəm'pʌŋkʃn/

a feeling of guilt

They used inside information without compunction.

conceal

verb /kən'si:l/

to hide or keep something secret

We have put up curtains to conceal things from the neighbours.

conceited

adjective /kən'si:tɪd/

having too much self pride

The conceited girl believed she should have received the prize.

C

9 to 11
age group

concept

noun /'kɒnsɛpt/

an idea

The designer came up with quite an interesting concept.

conceptualize

verb /kən'septʃʊəlaɪz/

to form a concept or idea of something

It is difficult to conceptualize a world without countries or borders.

concession

noun /kən'seʃn/

a thing that is granted, especially in response to demands

The labor agreement included a concession for higher wages.

condense

verb /kən'dens/

to change from gas to liquid

Steam will condense to water when it comes into contact with a cold surface.

condescension

noun /,kɒndɪ'senʃn/

an act or instance of assuming an air of superiority
With dry condescension, Mr. Blain described the natives as "primitive" and "uncivilised".

condone

verb /kən'dəʊn/

to approve or sanction something

I couldn't condone what she was doing in front of the guests.

conduction

noun /kən'dʌkʃən/

the process by which heat or electricity is transmitted through a material

Some metals are better at conduction than others.

confederation

noun /kən,fedə'reɪʃn/

an organization which consists of a number of parties or groups united in an alliance or league

The European alliance could be called a confederation.

confidential

adjective /,kɒnfɪ'denʃl/

intended to be kept secret

He leaked the confidential information.

conga

noun /'kɒŋgə/

a Latin American dance of three steps and a kick to each bar, usually performed by a number of people in single file

The girl dressed like a fairy was leading the conga at last night's concert.

congested

adjective /kən'dʒestɪd/

so crowded with traffic as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement

Many of Europe's airports are heavily congested.

congregate

verb /'kɒŋgrɪgeɪt/

to assemble

The students were asked to congregate on the playing field.

conker

noun /'kɒŋkə[r]/

the hard, shiny dark brown nut of a horse chestnut tree.

He picked a big, shiny conker to play with after school.

conquer

verb /'kɒŋkə[r]/

to defeat or overcome

The king sent his army to conquer new land.

conquistador

noun /kɒn'kwɪstədɔː[r], kɒn'kɪstədɔː[r]/
an adventurer or conqueror
A conquistador took control of Mexico and Peru by force in the 16th century.

conscience

noun /'kɒnʃəns/
the part of your mind that tells you whether your actions are right or wrong
My conscience does not allow me to tell a lie.

conscientious

adjective /ˌkɒnʃɪ'enʃəs/
taking care to do things carefully and correctly
As a conscientious editor, she checked every definition for its accuracy.

consecutive

adjective /kən'sekjʊtɪv/
following one after another
Inzamam struck boundaries on consecutive deliveries.

considerable

adjective /kən'sɪdərəbəl/
notably large
He used his considerable wealth to help the poor.

consistent

adjective /kən'sɪstənt/
keeping to a regular pattern or style
Amir maintained consistent results on all of his exams.

console

noun /'kɒnsəʊl/
a panel or unit accommodating a set of controls for electronic or mechanical equipment
During his internship at the recording studio, he learned how to work the mixing console.

consommé

noun /kən'sɒmeɪ, 'kɒnsɒ,meɪ/
a clear soup made with concentrated stock
She planned to serve consommé and soufflé for lunch.

constabulary

noun /kən'stæbjʊləri/
a police force
The constabulary was out in force on New Year's eve.

contemptible

adjective /kən'temptɪbl/
not deserving any respect at all
Hurting her feelings like that was a contemptible thing to do.

contentment

noun /kən'tentmənt/
satisfaction
His peaceful surroundings led to a feeling of contentment.

contradiction

noun /ˌkɒntrə'dɪkʃn/
a lack of agreement between facts
There is a contradiction between the two sets of graphs.

convergence

noun /kən'vɜːdʒəns/
The tendency of unrelated animals and plants to evolve superficially similar characteristics under similar environmental conditions
These bivalves have assumed similar characters by convergence.

coroner

noun /'kɒrənə[r]/
a public official who investigates any death thought to be of other than natural causes
The coroner required the post-mortem report before he could declare the cause of death.

C

9 to 11
age group

corpuscule

noun /'kɔːpʌsəl/

any of the red or white cells found in blood
She looked at a corpuscule under the microscope.

correspondence

noun /'kɒrə'spɒndəns/

letters a person sends and receives
They maintained their friendship through regular correspondence.

corrida

noun /kɒ'riːdə/

bullfight
The matador's fans hoped that his name would become a part of the history of the corrida.

corridor

noun /'kɒrɪdɔː[r]/

a passage in a building
He was caught smoking in the corridor.

cosmetic

noun /kɒz'metɪk/

any preparation applied to the body, especially the face, with the intention of beautifying it
Lipstick is a cosmetic.

cosmopolite

noun /kɒz'mɒpəlɪt/

one that is at home in every country
Maria is quite a cosmopolite, having lived in three different countries.

costume

noun /'kɒstjuːm/

clothes, especially for a particular purpose
Ali wore a Superman costume to the party.

counsel

noun /'kaʊnsəl/

advice, especially that given formally
I told him to seek counsel to help choose a career for himself.

counterfeit

adjective /'kaʊntəfɪt/

fake
He had a counterfeit dollar bill in his pocket.

coup

noun /kuː/

a sudden seizure of power from the government
The ruler was ousted by a military coup.

courageous

adjective /kə'reɪdʒəs/

brave
He took a courageous stand.

courier

noun /'kʊrɪə/

a messenger who transports goods or documents
His job as courier takes him all over the city.

courtier

noun /'kɔːtɪə[r]/

one of a king's or queen's companions at court
The courtier bowed before the king.

cowrie

noun /'kauri/

a marine mollusk which has a glossy, brightly patterned domed shell
Cowrie shells were once used as money in parts of Africa and the Indo-Pacific area.

crescent

noun /'kresnt/

a narrow, curved shape coming to a point at each end
There is a crescent and star on the flag of Pakistan.

criticism

noun /'krɪtɪsɪzəm/

the expression of disapproval of someone or something on the basis of perceived faults or mistakes
His new novel has received a great deal of criticism.

crockery

noun /'krɒkəri/
household china
Akbar's mother used her best crockery for his birthday.

crocodile

noun /'krɒkədail/
a large tropical reptile with thick skin, a long tail and huge jaws

crucial

adjective /'kruːʃl/
most important
The crucial task for the company is to gain consumer confidence.

crucifixion

noun /'kruːsɪ'fɪkʃən/
killing by fastening to a cross
Many artists have painted the crucifixion of Christ.

crupper

noun /'krʌpə[r]/
a strap buckled to the back of a saddle and looped under the horse's tail
She tightened the crupper before mounting the horse.

crutches

plural noun /'krʌtʃɪz/
long sticks with a crosspiece at the top, used as a support under the armpit by a lame person
The workers here carry walking sticks, use crutches, or get around in wheelchairs.

crystal

noun /'krɪstl/
a solid substance having a natural geometrically regular form with symmetrically arranged plane faces
A quartz crystal is often used to keep time in watches.

cucumber

noun /'kjuːkʌmbə[r]/
a long, green-skinned vegetable eaten raw or pickled
He sliced a cucumber to add to the salad.

cudgel

noun /'kʌdʒl/
a short thick stick that is used as a weapon
The robber was armed with a heavy cudgel.

cue

noun /kjuː/
a thing said or done that serves as a signal to an actor to enter or to begin
She stood backstage and waited for her cue to go on.

culmination

noun /ˌkʌlɪmɪ'neɪʃn/
attainment of the highest point
His inauguration as president marked the culmination of his political career.

cummerbund

noun /'kʌməbʌnd/
a sash worn around the waist, especially as part of a man's formal evening suit
A tuxedo can be worn with either a vest or a cummerbund.

cupola

noun /'kjuːpələ/
a rounded dome forming or adorning a roof or ceiling
The highest part of the building was a square tower crowned by a cupola.

curfew

noun /'kɜːfjuː/
a time or signal after which people must remain indoors until the next day
The hostel imposes a curfew after dark.

C

9 to 11
age group

curiosity

noun /ˌkjʊərɪ'ɒsɪti/

having a desire to know about something

The letter was not addressed to me, but I opened it out of curiosity.

curtain

noun /'kɜːtɪn/

a piece of material hung at a window or door

I pulled back the curtain to let some light in.

cylinder

noun /'sɪlɪndə[r]/

an object with straight sides and circular ends

A gas cylinder should be handled carefully or it might explode.

dachshund

noun /'dæks,hʊnd/
a dog of a very short-legged, long-bodied breed

dacite

noun /'deɪsaɪt/
a light gray volcanic rock
Dacite is produced from continental lava flows that solidify quickly.

dagger

noun /'dægə[r]/
a pointed knife with two sharp edges
The sultan wore his dagger in the front of his belt.

damper

noun /'dæmpə/
a person or thing that has a subduing or inhibiting effect
This will be a damper on the party tomorrow.

dashpot

noun /'dæʃ,pɒt/
a device for damping shock or vibration
The dashpot needs to be serviced.

datolite

noun /'deɪtə,lait/
a mineral with crystals that are colorless or white with a greenish tinge
Specimens of datolite are largely found in Germany, Norway, and Italy.

deambulatory

adjective /di:'æmbjʊlətəri/
a place for walking, often with a covering overhead
This 11th century church has a deambulatory and square chapels.

debt

noun /'det/
something that is owed
Even a small debt can be a financial strain.

decaffeinated

adjective /,di:'kæfɪneɪtɪd/
with the caffeine removed
Decaffeinated coffee is available in the supermarket.

deceive

verb /dɪ'si:v/
to mislead
It is wrong to deceive your parents.

decipher

verb /dɪ'saɪfə[r]/
to succeed in understanding, interpreting, or identifying something
I found it very difficult to decipher what Amina had written in the note.

decision

noun /dɪ'sɪʒn/
a conclusion or resolution reached after consideration
I have made a decision to study hard for my exams.

declare

verb /dɪ'kleə/
to say something clearly or firmly
She was asked to declare her nationality.

decomposition

noun /,di:kɒmpə'zɪʃn/
the act of decaying
The decomposition of organic waste is brought about by bacteria.

decrease

verb /dɪ'kri:s/
to become smaller in size or number
People should decrease the amount of fat they eat.

decree

noun /dɪ'kri:/
an official order from a ruler or a government that becomes the law
In 1989, the government passed a decree to make Islamiyat compulsory in all schools.

D

9 to 11
age group

defect

noun /'di:fekt, dɪ'fekt/

a fault in something or in the way it has been made
There was a manufacturing defect in the third batch of phones.

definite

adjective /'defɪnət/

clearly stated or decided
He has a very definite taste in clothes.

definition

noun /,defɪ'nɪʃn/

a statement of what a word means
You can use a dictionary to look up the definition of a word.

deflect

verb /dɪ'flekt/

to make something turn aside
NASA tried to deflect the meteor away from the Earth.

deforestation

noun /,di:fɒrɪ'steɪʃn/

the cutting down of trees or forests over a large area
Deforestation is bad for the environment.

defuse

verb /dɪ'fju:z/

to stop a possibly dangerous or difficult situation from developing
The organization helped defuse potentially violent situations.

dehumidifier

noun /,di:hju:'mɪdɪfaɪə/

a device for reducing the moisture content of the atmosphere
A malfunctioning dehumidifier temporarily raised temperatures inside the laboratory to the low 80s, 10 degrees higher than desired.

dehydrate

verb /di:'haɪdreɪt/

to remove all the moisture from something
People in Hunza dehydrate apricots to preserve them for winter.

deliberate

adjective /dɪ'lɪbəreɪt/

done on purpose
She made a deliberate attempt to hurt me.

delicacy

noun /'delɪkəsi/

a delicious and rare food
Caviar is considered a delicacy in most countries.

delicious

adjective /dɪ'lɪʃəs/

tasting or smelling very pleasant
My mother makes a delicious apple pie.

delta

noun /'deltə/

a triangular area at the mouth of the river where it spreads into branches
We visited the Nile Delta on our visit to Africa.

deluge

noun /'delju:dʒ/

a severe flood
We were caught in a deluge as we waited for the school bus.

delve

verb /'delv/

to search
He began to delve into the book for quotations to use in his speech.

demineralizer

noun /di:'mɪnərə,laɪzə/

a substance or device that causes demineralization
The demineralizer was used to remove salts from the water.

demolish

verb /dɪ'mɒlɪʃ/

to knock down

We will need to demolish the old house before building a new one.

demonstrate

verb /ˈdɛmənstreɪt/

to show something

The teacher will demonstrate the correct way to use a compass.

demoralize

verb /dɪ'mɒrəlaɪz/

to dishearten someone

A defeat in the cricket match will demoralize the spectators.

dengue

noun /ˈdɛŋgi/

a tropical viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes

The number of dengue patients was increasing day by day.

deontic

adjective /dɪ'ɒntɪk/

relating to duty and obligation as ethical concepts

Immanuel Kant's idea of deontic ethics proposes that doing the right thing is more important than its consequences.

deputation

noun /dɛpjʊ'teɪʃn/

a small group of people who are asked or allowed to act or speak for others

A deputation was representing the sugar growers at the annual convention.

descend

verb /dɪ'send/

to go down

We have to descend the hill to reach the valley.

desertification

noun /deˌzɜːtɪfɪ'keɪʃn/

the process by which fertile land becomes a desert, as a result of drought or deforestation

Desertification is also an environmental disaster.

deserve

verb /dɪ'zɜːv/

to have a right to something

You deserve a prize for your performance.

despair

noun /dɪ'speə[r]/

a feeling of hopelessness

He gave up the struggle in despair.

desperately

adverb /ˈdɛspərətli/

without hope

She looked around desperately for water.

dessert

noun /dɪ'zɜːt/

fruit or sweet food served as the last course of a meal

I am sure I could stay for dessert.

detection

noun /dɪ'tekʃn/

discovery

The hard work of the police led to the detection of the criminal.

determined

adjective /dɪ'tɜːmɪnd/

with one's mind firmly made up

The determined student finally succeeded in his attempt.

deterrence

noun /dɪ'terəns/

the action of discouraging an action by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences

Nuclear missiles remain the main deterrence against possible aggression.

D

9 to 11
age group

devastation

noun /ˌdevə'steɪʃn/

destruction or damage

The flood caused wide spread devastation.

devise

verb /dɪ'vaɪz/

to invent a new system or new way of doing something

They have to devise a new plan to control traffic in the city.

devotee

noun /ˌdevəʊ'tiː/

an enthusiast

Sara is a devotee of the opera and does not miss a single performance.

devour

verb /dɪ'vaʊə[r]/

to eat or swallow something hungrily or greedily

They saw the lion devour the zebra.

diagonal

adjective /daɪ'æɡənəl/

at an angle

The teacher asked us to draw a diagonal line.

dialogue

noun /'daɪələʊg/

a conversation

The play contained a long dialogue between the two main characters.

dielectric

adjective /daɪ'lektrɪk/

having the property of transmitting electric force without conduction

The conductance caused by dielectric breakdown of membranes is proportional to the amplitude and duration of the electric field.

diesel

noun /'diːzəl/

fuel that works by burning oil in compressed air

This car runs on diesel.

differ

verb /'dɪfə/

to be different or disagree

My parents' plans for my future differ from mine.

differentiable

adjective /dɪfə'renʃɪəbəl/

able to be distinguished

The differentiable specimens had minute variations.

diffuse

verb /dɪ'fjuːz/

to spread widely

We became aware of the leaking gas when it began to diffuse through the whole house.

dilemma

noun /dɪ'lemə, daɪ'lemə/

a difficult situation or problem

We were faced with the dilemma of crossing the river without a boat.

dirigible

adjective /'dɪrɪdʒɪb(ə)l/

capable of being steered, guided, or directed

A dirigible spotlight followed the actor as he made his way through the crowd to collect his award.

disagreement

noun /ˌdɪsə'ɡri:mənt/

a difference of opinion

Mandy resigned from her job after a disagreement with her boss.

disappoint

verb /ˌdɪsə'pɔɪnt/

to fail to do what someone hopes for

He studies hard because he does not want to disappoint his parents.

disapprove

verb /ˌdɪsə'pruːv/

to consider something wrong or bad

I disapprove of his rash behaviour.

disastrous

adjective /dɪ'zɑːstrəs/
having extremely bad effects
Changing weather could prove disastrous.

disciple

noun /dɪ'saɪpəl/
a follower or pupil of a teacher, leader, or philosopher
He liked the teachings of the philosopher so much that he became his disciple.

discomfiture

noun /dɪs'kʌmfɪtʃə/
a feeling of unease or embarrassment
He laughed in spite of his discomfiture and shock.

discountenance

verb /dɪs'kaʊntɪnəns/
to refuse to approve of
The aspiring leader promised to discountenance corruption in any form.

discourage

verb /dɪs'kʌrɪdʒ/
to try to dissuade someone from doing something
I will discourage him from smoking.

discreet

adjective /dɪ'skriːt/
careful or prudent in one's speech or actions
Rahil had to be very discreet when facing the angry boss.

disembarkation

noun /dɪs'embɑː'keɪʃn/
putting or going ashore
The passengers picked up their suitcases, ready for disembarkation.

disentangle

verb /dɪsen'tæŋɡəl/
to free something or someone from something in which they are wrapped up
After many hours the princess managed to disentangle herself from the ropes.

disgraceful

adjective /dɪs'ɡreɪsful/
shameful
Her disgraceful behaviour was frowned upon.

disguise

verb /dɪs'ɡaɪz/
to make a person or thing look different in order to deceive people
The thief tried to disguise himself in order to escape from the police.

disheartened

adjective /dɪs'hɑːtnd/
lacking hope or confidence
The disheartened team did not stay for the farewell dinner.

disinfectant

noun /ˌdɪsɪn'fektənt/
a cleaning substance that prevents infection from spreading

The medical team quickly ran out of disinfectant.

dislodge

verb /dɪs'lɒdʒ/
to move or force something from its place
It was impossible to dislodge the heavy rock.

dismissal

noun /dɪs'mɪsl/
sending away
The bad behaviour of the student led to his dismissal from class.

disposable

adjective /dɪ'spəʊzəbl/
made to be thrown away after it has been used
I hope all these disposable products are recycled.

dispossessed

verb /ˌdɪspə'zest/
to deprive someone of land, property, or other possessions
Many were dispossessed of lands and properties during the Reformation.

D

9 to 11
age group

distinguishable

adjective /dɪ'stɪŋɡwɪʃəbl/

possible to recognise as different from somebody or something

The only distinguishable difference was a limp when he walked.

distributaries

plural noun /dɪ'strɪbjʊtəriːz/

branches of a river that do not return to the main stream after leaving it such as in a delta

There are several distributaries of the Nile river.

distribution

noun /ˌdɪstrɪ'bjuːʃn/

the act of sharing out

Mehr was responsible for the distribution of food to the refugees.

diuretic

noun /ˌdaɪjʊ'retɪk/

a substance that causes an increase in the flow of urine

In medicine, a diuretic can be used to treat heart failure.

divulge

verb /daɪ'vʌldʒ/

to give somebody information that is supposed to be secret

Police refused to divulge the identity of the suspect.

doff

verb /dɒf/

to take off or raise one's hat as a greeting or token of respect

The manager was insulted when the employee did not doff his hat.

dominate

verb /ˈdɒmɪneɪt/

to have power and influence over

The company's goal was to dominate the market.

dopa

noun /ˈdəʊpə/

a compound which is present in nervous tissue as a precursor of dopamine, used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease

His neurologist confirmed that the disease was indeed progressing and the dopa was becoming less effective.

doppelganger

noun /ˈdɒpəlˌɡæŋər/

an apparition or double of a living person

Coming face to face with her doppelganger in a police file was quite shocking for her.

dorado

noun /dəˈrɑːdəʊ/

an edible marine fish of warm seas with silver and bright blue or green coloration when alive

drain

verb /ˈdreɪn/

to empty or dry something by removing all the liquid

The chef instructed the cooks to drain and rinse the pasta.

dramatize

verb /ˈdræmətaɪz/

to make something seem more serious, important, or exciting than it really is

He tends to dramatize his problems.

draughts

noun /ˈdraːfts/

a game played with 24 round pieces on a chessboard

They played a game of draughts.

dressage

noun /ˈdresɑː[dʒ]/

a set of controlled movements by a horse

She did well in the dressage competition.

drift

verb /ˈdrɪft/

to move slowly

We will let the boat drift in the wind.

drowsy

adjective /ˈdraʊzi/

sleepy

The drowsy traveller slept on the train.

duel

noun /ˈdjuːəl/

a fight between two people, especially with pistols or swords

You could go to jail for fighting a duel these days.

dynamite

noun /ˈdaɪnəmaɪt/

a powerful explosive

The building was demolished with the help of dynamite.

E

9 to 11
age group

earring

noun /'iəriŋ/

an ornament for the ear

She lost an earring at the party.

eavesdrop

verb /'i:vzdrɒp/

to listen secretly to a private conversation

The little boy tried to eavesdrop on his friends' conversation.

eccentric

adjective /ek'sentrik/

behaving strangely

The eccentric behaviour of the old man surprised people.

eclipse

noun /'klips/

the blocking of the sun's or moon's light when the moon or the Earth is in the way

A lunar eclipse is a rare event.

ecliptic

noun /'kliptik/

the apparent path of the Sun across the sky over the course of a year

In spring, the ecliptic in the northern hemisphere is angled high in the evening sky.

ecologist

noun /'kɒlədʒɪst/

an expert in the relationships between organisms and the environment.

I work as an assistant to the famous ecologist Mr. Khan.

economical

adjective /i:kə'nɒmɪkl, ɛkə'nɒmɪkəl/

using as little as possible

The hikers made economical use of their limited water supply.

economizer

noun /i'kɒnəmaɪzə/

a device designed to make a machine or system more energy-efficient

Adding an economizer to the boiler will make it more efficient

ecumenical

adjective /ɛkjʊ'menɪkəl, ɪ:kjʊ'menɪkəl/

of or relating to the Christian Church throughout the world, especially with regard to its unity

The visible unity of the church is the central goal of the ecumenical movement.

edible

adjective /'edɪbl/

suitable for eating

They were separating edible berries from the poisonous ones.

eerie

adjective /'iəri/

strange and frightening

I get an eerie feeling whenever I am near the old house.

efficient

adjective /ɪ'fɪʃnt/

achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort or expense

She is an efficient worker.

elastic

noun /ɪ'læstɪk/

cord or material woven with strands of rubber so that it can stretch

These trousers have a length of elastic sewn into their waistbands.

electricity

noun /ɪlek'trɪsɪti, ɪ:lek'trɪsɪti/

a form of energy carried by certain particles of matter, used for lighting, heating and other work

The electricity had been cut off.

electromechanical

adjective /ɪˌlektroʊmɪˈkænikəl/
relating to or denoting a mechanical device which is electrically operated
The trend in electromechanical components is a move toward synthetic lubricants.

elephantiasis

noun /ɪˌlɛfənˈtaɪəsɪs/
a condition in which a limb or other part of the body becomes grossly enlarged
The young man was suffering from elephantiasis.

elephantine

adjective /ɛlɪˈfæntaɪn/
of, resembling, or characteristic of an elephant such as large or clumsy
The elephantine jet was so wide that it needed a special runway.

eligible

adjective /ˈelɪdʒɪbəl/
fit or proper to be chosen
The school's team was eligible to compete in the spelling bee competition.

eliminate

verb /ɪˈlɪmɪneɪt/
to get rid of
She used a spray to eliminate the cockroaches in her kitchen.

elision

noun /ɪˈlɪʒən/
the omission of a sound or syllable in speech
"Fish 'n' chips" is an example of elision.

elope

verb /ɪˈləʊp/
to run away with someone in order to marry secretly
Because their parents did not agree to their marriage, they decided to elope.

eloquence

noun /ˈeləkwəns/
fluent or persuasive speaking or writing
He enthralled the audience with his eloquence.

elutriate

verb /ɪˈlʃuːtriət/
to separate lighter and heavier particles in a mixture by suspension in an upward flow of liquid or gas
The miner was told to elutriate the gravel mixture in order to remove the gold particles.

elytron

noun /ˈelɪtrən/
either of the front wings in beetles and some other insects that serve to protect the hind pair of functional wings
The elytron pair primarily serve as protective wing-cases for the hindwings underneath, which are used for flying.

embassy

noun /ˈembəsi/
a group of officials led by an ambassador representing their government in a foreign country
The embassy was informed about the law and order situation in the city.

embezzlement

noun /emˈbeɪzlmənt/
theft of money that you are responsible for or that belongs to your employer
He was found guilty of embezzlement.

embrace

noun /emˈbreɪs/
an affectionate hug
She held her mother in a warm embrace.

embroidery

noun /ɪmˈbrɔɪdəri/
the art of needlework
She is good at embroidery.

E

9 to 11
age group

emerald

noun /'emərəld/
a bright-green, precious stone
This emerald was mined in Columbia.

emergency

noun /'ɪməʒɪdʒənsi/
a sudden, serious happening needing prompt action
It is important to stay calm in an emergency.

emperor

noun /'empərə[r]/
a man who rules an empire
The emperor ruled his empire wisely.

employment

noun /ɪm'plɔɪmənt/
a person's regular trade or profession
He found employment as a gardener.

enchanting

adjective /ɪn'tʃɑːntɪŋ/
charming
She has an enchanting personality.

endocarp

noun /'endəʊkɑːp/
the inner, usually woody, layer of the pericarp of a fruit, such as the stone of a peach or cherry
In mango fruits, the endocarp is thick, woody and fibrous.

endocytosis

noun /'endəʊsaɪ'təʊsɪs/
the process by which a living cell takes up matter by forming a vacuole
The connection between endocytosis and cancer cells is currently being investigated.

endospore

noun /'endəʊspɔː/
a resistant asexual spore that develops inside some bacterial cells
Contrary to its name, the endospore is actually the stripped-down, dormant form to which the bacterium can reduce itself.

energetic

adjective /'enə'dʒetɪk/
full of energy
The energetic child refused to sit down.

engagement

noun /en'geɪdʒmənt, ɪn'geɪdʒmənt/
a formal agreement to get married
Their engagement was announced in the local paper.

enjambement

noun /en'dʒæm[b]mənt/
the continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line, couplet, or stanza
He uses enjambement less than many poets.

enlightened

adjective /ɪn'laɪtnd/
having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook
The enlightened couple kept themselves informed of the latest news.

enormous

adjective /ɪ'nɔːməs/
very big
The elephant is an enormous animal.

enquire

verb /ɪn'kwaɪə[r]/
to ask for information
He walked up to the post office to enquire how long they were open.

enrapture

verb /en'ræptʃə[r]/
to fill with delight
The singer's performance on her latest album is bound to enrapture the audience.

enrol

verb /en'rəʊl/
to join
He decided to enrol in a cricket club.

entertainment

noun /ɪˈentəˈteɪnmənt/
something performed before an audience to amuse or interest them
The singer provided us with entertainment.

enthusiasm

noun /enˈθjuːzɪæzəm/
a strong liking, interest or excitement
Akbar has a great enthusiasm for playing cricket.

environment

noun /enˈvaɪrənmənt/
surroundings
An unhappy home environment can affect a child's behaviour.

episode

noun /ˈepɪsəʊd/
one event in a series of happenings
Their fight was quite a sordid episode.

epistrophe

noun /eˈpɪstrəfi/
the repetition of a word at the end of successive clauses or sentences
The poem suffered from an excess of epistrophe, making it unbearably repetitive.

equilibrium

noun /ɪˈkwɪlɪbrɪəm/
a state of balance
The see-saw is in equilibrium when it is horizontal.

eruption

noun /ɪˈrʌpʃn/
bursting out
A major volcanic eruption can cause severe devastation.

escalate

verb /ˈeskəleɪt/
to become greater, more serious, or more intense
We should not allow minor disagreements between countries to escalate into war.

escape

verb /ɪˈskeɪp/
to get yourself free
The prisoner tried to escape from prison.

escarpment

noun /eˈskɑːpmənt/
a steep slope
Climbing up the escarpment was the most tiring part of the adventure.

espresso

noun /eˈspresəʊ/
coffee made by forcing steam through ground coffee beans
He ordered an espresso at the restaurant.

essence

noun /ˈesns/
a concentrated liquid
We forgot to add vanilla essence to the cake batter.

essential

adjective /ɪˈsenʃl/
not able to be done without
Milk is an essential part of a child's diet.

esteem

noun /ɪˈstiːm/
respect and admiration
I hold my elders in high esteem.

ethnic

adjective /ˈeθnɪk/
belonging to a particular racial group within a larger set of people
Aborigines form an ethnic community in Australia.

etiquette

noun /ˈetɪket/
the rules of correct behaviour
Proper etiquette requires you to write thank-you notes for gifts.

E

9 to 11
age group

European

adjective /ˌjʊərəˈpiːən/

having to do with Europe or its people
The European currency is called the Euro.

evacuee

noun /ɪˈvækjuːi/

a person evacuated from a place of danger
The evacuee moved to higher ground to escape the rising water.

evaluate

verb /ɪˈvæljuːeɪt/

to estimate the worth of something
The report card will evaluate your performance in school.

evaporate

verb /ɪˈvæpəreɪt/

to change from liquid into steam or vapour
Heat causes water to evaporate.

evidence

noun /ˈeɪdɪəns/

anything that gives people reason to believe something
The police found evidence to prove the man guilty of robbery.

exaggeration

noun /ɪɡˌzædʒəˈreɪʃn/

the act of describing something as bigger, better, or worse than it really is
His story was obviously an exaggeration of the truth.

examination

noun /ɪɡˌzæmɪˈneɪʃn/

a test or assessment
Mehr scored high marks in her science examination.

exceed

verb /ɪkˈsiːd/

to be more or greater than
Drivers should not exceed the speed limit.

excellence

noun /ˈeksələns/

extremely good quality
He was awarded a medal for his excellence in sports.

exceptional

adjective /ɪkˈsepʃənəl/

outstandingly good
The actor was praised for his exceptional performance in the film.

excitement

noun /ɪkˈsaɪtmənt/

a strong feeling of eagerness or pleasure
The news caused great excitement among her friends.

excruciating

adjective /ɪkˈskruːʃɪeɪɪŋ/

very painful
Maha has an excruciating headache.

execrable

adjective /ˈeksɪkrəbəl/

extremely unsatisfactory
Her execrable singing finally brought a complaint from the neighbours.

execration

noun /ɪksɪˈkreɪʃn/

an expression of great loathing
It received a near universal execration in every newspaper.

exfiltration

noun /ɪksfɪlˈtreɪʃən/

the withdrawal of troops or spies surreptitiously, especially from a dangerous situation
The exfiltration was carried out in phases.

exfoliation

noun /ɪksfəʊlɪˈeɪʃən/

the process of washing or rubbing a part of the body to remove dead skin cells
The beautician recommended exfoliation to keep skin looking youthful and fresh.

exhale

verb /eks'heɪl/

to breathe out

He coughs every time he tries to exhale.

exhaustive

adjective /eg'zɔːstɪv/

thorough

We made an exhaustive search.

expectation

noun /ˌekspek'teɪʃn/

a strong hope or belief that something will happen

It is my expectation that I will do well in my exams.

expeditiously

adverb /eksprɪ'dɪʃəsli/

rapidly and efficiently

The work was carried out as expeditiously as possible.

expel

verb /ek'spel/

to officially make somebody leave a school or organization

The principal warned the student that if he did not mend his ways, he would have to expel him.

expenditure

noun /ek'spendɪtʃə[r]/

the spending of money

Building a house involves considerable expenditure.

experience

noun /ek'spɪəriəns/

something that has happened to you

My camping trip was an enjoyable experience.

experiment

noun /ek'sperɪmənt/

a test made in order to find out what happens

The students conducted an experiment during science class.

expire

verb /ek'spaɪə/

to be no longer valid because the period of time for which it could be used has ended

The voucher will expire in two days.

exploit

verb /ek'splɔɪt/

to use a person or thing selfishly

It is wrong to exploit people.

explosion

noun /ek'spləʊʒn/

a violent shattering or blowing apart of something

There was a loud explosion in the neighbour's kitchen.

express

verb /ek'spres/

to make known

He tried to express his anger.

extend

verb /ek'stend, ɪk'stend/

to make something longer or larger

It was decided to extend the road to manage traffic load during rush hours.

extraordinary

adjective /ek'strɔːdnəri, ek'strə'ɔːdnəri/

very unusual or remarkable

This ice cream has an extraordinary taste.

extraterrestrial

adjective /ˌekstrə'terɪstriəl/

from outer space

Scientists have been searching for extraterrestrial life.

extravagant

adjective /ek'strævəɡənt/

spending a lot more money than necessary

Every month, she spends an extravagant amount of money on clothes.

F

9 to 11
age group

fable

noun /'feɪbl/

a short story that teaches a moral
Mehr enjoyed reading the fable about the princess.

fabulous

adjective /'fæbjʊləs/

wonderful
The actress gave a fabulous performance in the play.

facies

noun /'feɪʃi:z/

the characteristics of a rock
The term facies was introduced by a Swiss geologist in 1838.

facility

noun /fə'sɪlɪti/

something providing the means to do things
Iran's nuclear facility is under media scrutiny.

facula

noun /'fækjʊlə/

any of the bright regions of the sun's photosphere seen most easily near the sun's edge
A facula is also referred to as a sunspot.

faculty

noun /'fækəlti/

a department teaching a particular subject in a university
The faculty of music arranged a concert last week.

falcate

adjective /'fælkət/

curved like a sickle or hooked
The Southern Red Oak is a large round-topped deciduous tree with spreading branches having narrow falcate leaves.

falsetto

noun /fɔ:l'setəʊ/

a method of voice production used by male singers to sing notes higher than their normal range
The singer's voice was not well suited for singing in falsetto.

familiarity

noun /fə,mɪlɪ'ærɪti/

close acquaintance with or knowledge of something
The guide's familiarity with the area was an advantage to the tourists.

famine

noun /'fæmɪn/

a very bad shortage of food in an area
The charity distributed food in the area affected by famine.

famished

adjective /'fæmɪʃt/

very hungry
The hikers were famished after their long walk.

fandango

noun /fæn'dæŋɡəʊ/

a lively Spanish dance for two people, typically accompanied by castanets or tambourine
Miss Spicer's eyes did the fandango when she saw herself in the mirrors of Starkles.

fanzine

noun /'fænzɪ:n/

a magazine, usually produced by amateurs, for fans of a particular performer, group, or form of entertainment
The Comet is generally recognized as the first science-fiction fanzine.

faraday

noun /'færədeɪ/

a unit of electric charge equal to Faraday's constant
Before being superseded by the coulomb, the faraday was used as the unit of charge.

farce

noun /fɑ:s/

a humorous play in which the characters become involved in complicated and unlikely situations
The parents were not happy with the farce staged by the school.

farewell

noun /ˈfeəˈwel/
goodbye
I felt sad bidding farewell to my friends.

farina

noun /fəˈriːnə, fəˈraɪnə/
flour or meal made of cereal grains, nuts, or starchy roots
Farina is a milled cereal grain, usually made from wheat germ and the inner parts of wheat kernels.

farther

adverb /ˈfɑːðə[r]/
more distant
He lives farther from the school than I do.

fascination

noun /ˌfæsɪˈneɪʃn/
attraction or interest
Stamp collecting holds a peculiar fascination for some people.

fashionable

adjective /ˈfæʃənəbl/
in keeping with the current style
She was wearing a fashionable black hat.

fatigue

noun /fəˈtiːɡ/
tiredness
Rest will help relieve your fatigue.

favourable

adjective /ˈfeɪvərəbl/
showing approval
There were many favourable reviews of the new book.

feasibility

noun /fiːzɪˈbɪlɪti/
the state or degree of being easily or conveniently done
A feasibility study will be conducted prior to the construction of the dam.

federal

adjective /ˈfedərəl/
having or relating to a government in which several states form a unity but remain independent in internal affairs
The federal government decided to abolish child labour.

federation

noun /ˌfedəˈreɪʃn/
the union of several provinces or states to form a federal union
The United States of America is a federation of states.

fedora

noun /fiˈdɔːrə/
a soft felt hat
He wore a fedora to the dance.

feminine

adjective /ˈfemɪnɪn/
having to do with or like women
She wears the most feminine clothes.

fennel

noun /ˈfenəl/
an aromatic herb of the parsley family
Sprigs of fennel are used to garnish food.

ferment

verb /fəˈment/
to undergo a chemical breakdown by bacteria, yeasts, or other microorganisms
Yeast is used to ferment some beverages.

fermium

noun /ˈfɜːmɪəm/
a very rare radioactive metal
Fermium is an artificially produced chemical element.

ferocious

adjective /fəˈrəʊʃəs/
fierce or savage
I have a ferocious dog.

F

9 to 11
age group

ferrite

noun /'ferait/
a chemical containing iron
Ferrite is used to make the filaments in electric bulbs.

fertilization

noun /fɜ:tɪlaɪ'zeɪʃn/
the act of adding substances to the soil to make it more fertile
The fertilization of the field improved the wheat crop.

fetid

adjective /'fetɪd, 'fɪtɪd/
smelling unpleasant
Mr. Sham complained about the fetid smell coming from the garbage dump.

feverish

adjective /'fi:vəriʃ/
having an abnormally high body temperature
The feverish boy slept all morning.

fidget

verb /'fɪdʒɪt/
to make small movements because you are nervous or impatient
Sit still and do not fidget.

filmgoer

noun /'fɪlmɡəʊə/
a person who goes to the cinema
The filmgoer was a regular at DHA Cinema.

finagle

verb /fɪ'neɪɡəl/
to obtain something in a dishonest way
He managed to finagle a free CD from the agent.

fishmonger

noun /'fɪʃmʌŋɡə[r]/
a shopkeeper who sells fish
That fishmonger sells the finest fish.

flattering

adjective /'flætərɪŋ/
full of praise and compliments
The article began with some flattering words about us.

flavour

noun /'fleɪvə[r]/
the taste of something
Too much salt will spoil the flavour of the food.

flea

noun /fli:/
a small jumping insect that sucks blood

flexible

adjective /'fleksɪbl/
easy to bend or stretch
Gymnasts have flexible bodies.

flicker

verb /'flɪkə[r]/
to burn or shine unsteadily
The candle will flicker in the breeze.

floral

adjective /'flɔ:rəl/
of or decorated with flowers
The queen laid a floral wreath on the grave.

florid

adjective /'flɒrɪd/
very flowery in style or ornate
The florid style of the guest speaker impressed the audience.

flounder

verb /'flaʊndə[r]/
to move clumsily or with difficulty
He had to flounder through the deep water.

flour

noun /'flaʊə[r]/

a fine powder of wheat or other grain, used in cooking

She made the bread with flour and eggs.

flourish

verb /'flaɪʃ/

to grow or develop strongly

Plants flourish if they are watered regularly.

fluctuation

noun /ˌflʌktʃu'eɪʃn, ˌflʌktjʊ'eɪʃn/

constant change

The cake was spoilt because of the fluctuation in the temperature of the oven.

fluent

adjective /'flu:ənt/

able to speak easily and well

Mehr speaks fluent Sindhi.

flugelhorn

noun /'flu:g[ə]lhɔ:n/

a valved brass musical instrument resembling a trumpet

The flugelhorn, long used in European military bands, is now also used in jazz and popular music.

fluid

adjective /'flu:ɪd/

able to flow freely

Oil is a fluid substance.

fluke

noun /flu:k/

an accidental stroke of luck

The team is determined to show that its last win was no fluke.

fluoridation

noun /ˌflu:ri'deɪʃn/

the addition of fluoride to drinking water to help prevent tooth decay

Some people are against the fluoridation of potable water.

folklore

noun /'fəʊklɔ:[r]/

traditional beliefs and customs of a region or community passed on by word of mouth

Shazia is collecting the folklore of the Kalash.

foment

verb /fəʊ'ment, fə'ment/

to instigate or stir up an undesirable or violent sentiment or course of action

This report will foment disagreement in the club.

forbidden

adjective /fə'bɪdn/

not allowed

Hansel and Gretel ate the forbidden chocolate.

forecast

noun /'fɔ:kɑ:st/

a prediction

The weather forecast said it would be sunny today.

foreground

noun /'fɔ:graʊnd/

the front part of a scene or view

Several cows could be seen in the foreground of the painting of the farm.

forehand

noun /'fɔ:hænd/

a stroke made in tennis

The tennis player knew that his opponent had a sloppy forehand.

foreseeable

adjective /fɔ:'si:əbl/

able to be known beforehand

I will not be visiting Lahore in the foreseeable future.

forgiveness

noun /fɔ'gɪvnəs/

pardon

The convict begged for forgiveness, but to no avail.

F

9 to 11
age group

formidable

adjective /fə'mɪdəbl, 'fɔ:mɪdəbl/
frightening
A raging elephant is a formidable sight.

fortitudinous

adjective /,fɔ:tɪ'tju:dɪnəs/
courageous
Citizens wish to see a fortitudinous leader of the country.

fortnight

noun /'fɔ:tnaɪt/
a period of two weeks
The parcel will probably be here in a fortnight.

fortunately

adverb /'fɔ:tʃənətli/
luckily
Fortunately, it did not rain during the picnic.

fossil

noun /'fɒs[ə]l, 'fɒsɪl/
the remains of a prehistoric animal or plant that have been buried in the ground for centuries and become hardened in rock
A fossil reveals information about a prehistoric plant or animal.

fowl

noun /faʊl/
a bird, especially one kept on a farm for its eggs or meat

foxtrot

noun /'fɒks,tɹɒt/
a ballroom dance in quadruple time, combining short and long steps in various sequences
After learning the waltz, we learned the foxtrot.

foyer

noun /'fɔɪeɪ, 'fɔɪə/
an entrance hall or other open area in a building used by the public
I waited for my friends in the foyer.

fragile

adjective /'frædʒaɪl/
easy to break or damage
The fragile glass fell and broke.

frantic

adjective /'fræntɪk/
wildly agitated or excited
The doctors made frantic attempts to revive him.

freak

adjective /'fri:k/
very strange or abnormal
Arif was killed in a freak accident.

frightening

adjective /'fraɪnɪŋ/
making someone afraid or anxious
Frightening sounds were heard at night.

frisson

noun /'frɪsən, 'fri:sɔ/
a sudden strong feeling of excitement or fear
The emotionally-charged scene adds a frisson of excitement to the play's final act.

frolic

verb /'frɒlɪk/
to play about in a lively cheerful way
The children were allowed to frolic in the park.

frosty

adjective /'frɒsti/
very cold with frost forming on surfaces
The frosty weather signaled the start of winter.

frug

noun /frʌg/
a vigorous dance to pop music, popular in the mid 1960s
Mack and Beth danced the frug all night long.

frustration

noun /frʌ'streɪʃn/
angry disappointment
Ali banged the table in frustration.

fuel

noun /'fju:əl/
something that is burnt to produce heat or power
Coal is used as fuel to run train engines.

fundamental

adjective /ˌfʌndə'mentl/
basic
Believing in one God is a fundamental principle of Islam.

funeral

noun /'fju:nərəl/
the ceremony held when a dead person is buried
Malik's funeral will be on Monday.

fungus

noun /'fʌŋɡəs/
any member of a kingdom of organisms that lack chlorophyll, leaves, true stems, and roots
The bread was out all night so it developed a fungus on its surface.

furnace

noun /'fɜ:nɪs/
an enclosed structure in which material is heated at very high temperatures
The upper storey is like a furnace during summers.

furry

adjective /'fɜ:ri/
covered with fur
She found small furry animals very cute.

furtherance

noun /'fɜ:ðərəns/
the act of furthering or helping forward
Furtherance of his career was his only motivation at work.

fuse

noun /fju:z/
a safety device containing a short piece of wire that melts if too much electricity is passed through it
A fuse is used in an electrical circuit for safety.

fusilli

noun /fʊ'zi:li, fju'zi:li/
pasta in the form of short spirals
She had fusilli with pesto for dinner at the Italian restaurant.

G

9 to 11
age group

gadget

noun /'gædʒɪt/
any small, useful tool
This gadget is used to open tins.

gaily

adverb /'geɪli/
in a cheerful way
The children waved gaily as they left for school.

galactic

adjective /gə'læktɪk/
relating to a galaxy or galaxies, especially the galaxy containing the solar system
The astronomer was searching for a black hole at the galactic centre.

gale

noun /geɪl/
a very strong wind
A strong gale of wind toppled his makeshift hut.

gallant

adjective /'gælənt/
brave
The soldier's gallant behaviour was rewarded with a medal.

gallop

noun /'gæləp/
the fastest pace that a horse can go
The horse raced to the finishing line at a gallop.

gambit

noun /'gæmbɪt/
an act or remark that is calculated to gain an advantage, especially at the outset of a situation
Members of the opposition have dismissed promises of tax cuts as a pre-election gambit.

gamut

noun /'gæmət/
the complete range or scope of something
In this performance, the leading lady was able to demonstrate the complete gamut of her acting ability.

ganglion

noun /'gæŋɡliən/
a mass of nerve cells
The spinal ganglion contains the nerve-cell bodies of the nerve fibres.

garage

noun /'gærɑː[dʒ, 'gærɪdʒ, gə'rɑːʒ/
a building where a motor vehicle may be kept or serviced
He parked his car in the garage.

garbage

noun /'gɑːbɪdʒ/
rubbish or waste
The Municipal Committee picked up the garbage every evening.

garlic

noun /'gɑːlɪk/
a plant with a divided bulb which has a strong smell and taste
He seasoned the fish with garlic.

garnet

noun /'gɑːnɪt/
a red gemstone
She asked the jeweller to replace the broken garnet in her necklace.

garnish

noun /'gɑːnɪʃ/
something used to decorate food or give it extra flavour
Parsley is used as a garnish.

gasket

noun /'gæskɪt/
a piece of rubber between two metal surfaces used to prevent liquid or gas from escaping
A faulty gasket resulted in a coolant leak.

gasoline

noun /'gæsəli:n/

a light fuel oil that is obtained by distilling petroleum and used in internal-combustion engines
The rise in crude oil prices will make gasoline expensive.

gavage

noun /gə'vɑ:ʒ/

the administration of food or drugs by force, typically through a tube leading down the throat to the stomach
The rats were administered orange oil by gavage till the end of the experiment.

gemmology

noun /dʒe'mɒlədʒi/

the study of precious stones
Sana's interest in gems has led her to take a course in gemmology.

generation

noun /,dʒenə'reɪʃn/

all the people born at about the same time
Our parents' generation enjoys listening to classical music.

generator

noun /'dʒenəreɪtə[r]/

a machine that produces electricity
During the power cut, we used the generator to produce electricity.

generosity

noun /,dʒenə'rɒsɪti/

willingness in giving away one's money
The rich man was known for his generosity.

genius

noun /'dʒi:nɪəs/

a very clever person
Einstein was a mathematical genius.

genuine

adjective /'dʒenjʊɪn/

authentic
This painting is a genuine antique.

geology

noun /dʒɪ'ɒlədʒi/

the study of the structure of the Earth's crust and its layers
We learnt about the Earth's core in the geology class.

geometrician

noun /,dʒɪ:əmi'triʃən/

a person who is practiced in or who studies geometry
Proficiency in mathematics is a pre-requisite for a geometrician.

georgette

noun /dʒə:'dʒet/

a type of thin silk or cotton dress material
Her wedding dress was made of white georgette.

gesture

noun /'dʒestʃə[r]/

something that you do or say to show a particular feeling or intention
It would be a nice gesture to send her some flowers.

geyser

noun /'gi:zə, 'gaɪzəl/

a hot spring of boiling water that sends a tall column of steam or water into the air
The family visited the national park to see the geyser.

gimbal

noun /'dʒɪmbəl/

a device that permits a body to incline freely in any direction or suspends it so that it will remain level when its support is tipped
A typical tracking mechanism has the laser mounted on a gimbal.

G

9 to 11
age group

gimmick

noun /'ɡɪmɪk/

a trick or device intended to attract attention
His latest gimmick is a robotic ice cream maker.

ginger

noun /'dʒɪndʒə[r]/

a plant root with a hot and spicy taste, used as seasoning
He bought ginger and garlic from the vegetable market.

giraffe

noun /dʒɪ'rɑ:f, dʒɪ'ræf/

an African animal, the world's tallest mammal, which reaches up to 5.5 metres in height

gladiator

noun /'glædɪətə[r]/

a man trained to fight for public entertainment in ancient Rome
The gladiator fought bravely.

glamorous

adjective /'glæməərəs/

excitingly attractive
The movie star was wearing a glamorous dress.

glaze

verb /'gleɪz/

to give a shiny surface to something
Mehr is going to glaze the cake with some icing.

gleam

noun /'gli:m/

a faint or brief light
After spending many hours in the dark there was a gleam of light.

glide

verb /'glɑɪd/

to move along smoothly
I will glide across the ice on my skates.

glimpse

noun /'ɡlɪmps/

a brief view
I caught a glimpse of the film star as she arrived at the premiere.

glint

noun /ɡlɪnt/

a small flash of light, especially a reflected one
There was a glint of gold in his teeth.

glittering

adjective /'ɡlɪtərɪŋ/

sparkling
The glittering lake shone beautifully in the sunlight.

glorify

verb /'ɡlɔ:rɪfaɪ/

to make a thing seem more attractive than it really is
Many films glorify war.

glorious

adjective /'ɡlɔ:rɪəs/

wonderful or magnificent
The hikers enjoyed the glorious sunset.

glossary

noun /'ɡlɒsəri/

a list of difficult words with their meanings explained
The textbook contained a glossary at the end.

glossy

adjective /'ɡlɒsi/

shiny and smooth
The photograph has an attractive glossy finish.

glucose

noun /'ɡlu:kəʊs, 'glu:kəʊz/

a simple sugar which is an important energy source in living organisms
Glucose is formed from water and carbon dioxide by photosynthesis.

goad

verb /'gəʊd/

to provoke or annoy someone so as to stimulate an action or reaction

He was trying to goad her into a fight.

goatee

noun /'gəʊti:/

a small pointed beard like that of a goat

He drew a picture of a man with a goatee and a long pointed nose.

gobble

verb /'gɒbəl/

to eat hurriedly or noisily

Nasir has a tendency to gobble his food.

goddess

noun /'gɒdɪs/

a female god

Diana is the goddess of hunting in Greek mythology.

goober

noun /'gu:bə[r]/

another name for peanut

A goober is actually a legume that grows underground.

goose

noun /gu:s/

a long-necked water bird with webbed feet, larger than a duck

gorge

noun /'gɔ:dʒ/

a narrow valley with steep sides

The hikers had walked through a gorge to reach their camp.

gorilla

noun /'gɒ'rɪlə/

an African ape, the largest of all the apes

gossip

noun /'gɒsɪp/

casual conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details which are not confirmed as true

"You must never listen to gossip," advised Mrs. Khan.

governess

noun /'gʌvənɪs/

a female teacher employed in a household

The naughty children gave the young governess a very tough time.

government

noun /'gʌvənmənt/

the group of people who are in charge of the public affairs of a country

The government is responsible for maintaining the law and order of a country.

gradual

adjective /'grædʒʊəl/

happening slowly over a long period of time

There was a gradual change in the climate.

graduation

noun /'grædʒu'eɪʃn, grædʒu'eɪʃn/

the receiving or conferring of an academic degree or diploma

Graduation from a prestigious university can lead to a successful career.

grammatical

adjective /grə'mætɪkl/

of or relating to grammar

There are many grammatical errors in this essay.

grandiloquence

noun /græn'dɪləkwəns/

the use of long and difficult words

I was amused at the grandiloquence of his speech.

graphic

adjective /'græfɪk/

giving clear and vividly explicit details

Ali gave a graphic account of his camping trip.

G

9 to 11
age group

gratification

noun /ˌgrætɪfɪ'keɪʃn/

satisfaction

Teachers find gratification in the success of their students.

gratitude

noun /'grætɪtjuːd/

thanks

He expressed his gratitude for her help.

gravel

noun /'grævəl/

small stones often used for paths and roads

A gravel path led up to the villa.

gravitational

adjective /ˌgrævɪ'teɪʃənl/

relating to or resulting from the force of gravity

The gravitational pull of the Sun keeps the Earth in orbit.

grease

noun /ɡriːs/

a thick oily substance used as lubricant

I bought a can of grease for the machine.

greengrocer

noun /'ɡriːnɡrəʊsə[r]/

a person who keeps a shop that sells fruit and vegetables

I bought some carrots from the greengrocer.

grievance

noun /'ɡriːvəns/

something that people are discontented about

The teacher listened patiently to the student's grievance.

grind

verb /'graɪnd/

to crush into very small pieces or powder

She preferred to grind the flour using traditional methods.

groceries

noun /'grəʊsərɪz/

items of food

She has gone to the market to buy groceries.

groove

noun /ɡruːv/

a long narrow cut in a hard material

There was a deep groove on the rock.

groping

present participle /'grəʊpɪŋ/

searching blindly or uncertainly by feeling with the hands

She was groping for her glasses in the dark.

grove

noun /ɡrəʊv/

a small wood or other group of trees

The olive grove had been in the family for generations.

grudge

noun /ɡrʌdʒ/

a feeling of resentment or ill will

She isn't the sort of person who bears a grudge.

grumble

verb /'ɡrʌmbəl/

to complain or protest in a bad tempered voice

The passengers began to grumble about the long delay.

guarantee

noun /ˌɡærən'tiː/

an assurance that certain conditions will be fulfilled

There is no guarantee that he will succeed.

guardian

noun /'ɡɑːdiən/

a person who is legally in charge of a child whose parents cannot look after him or her

His aunt acted as his guardian while his parents were away.

gullible

adjective /'gʌlibəl/

easily persuaded to believe something

Maria was so gullible that people played practical jokes on her.

gymnasium

noun /dʒɪm'neɪzɪəm/

a place equipped for gymnastics

Nadia trained at the gymnasium from an early age.

gypsum

noun /'dʒɪpsəm/

a soft white or grey mineral used for making plaster of Paris and in construction

Mr. Khan nailed a gypsum sheet to the wall.

H

9 to 11
age group

habanero

noun /ˌæbəˈneərəʊ/

a very hot roundish chili pepper that is usually orange when mature

The excessive use of habanero spoiled the flavour of the dish.

habitation

noun /ˌhæbɪˈteɪʃn/

a place to live in

Trees provide habitation for many species of birds.

haematogenesis

noun /ˌhi:mətəʊˈdʒenɪsɪs/

the production of blood cells and platelets, which occurs in the bone marrow

The doctors could not explain the lack of haematogenesis.

haemoglobin

noun /ˌhi:məˈgləʊbɪn/

a red substance in the blood that carries oxygen and contains iron

Her blood test showed a low level of haemoglobin.

haggard

adjective /ˈhæɡəd/

looking ill or very tired

The haggard mountaineers were happy to reach their base camp.

haiku

noun /ˈhaɪkuː/

a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five

He likened text message poetry to haiku, the ancient Japanese art of writing three-line poems.

hairdresser

noun /ˈheədresə[r]/

a person whose job is to cut and arrange people's hair

Sara asked the hairdresser to trim her hair.

halite

noun /ˈhælaɪt/

a soft, colourless or white mineral known as rock salt

Halite is an important source of table salt.

halo

noun /ˈheɪləʊ/

a hazy ring of colored light in the sky around the Sun, Moon, or a similar bright object

People think that a halo around the moon forecasts rain.

halyard

noun /ˈhæljəd/

a rope used for raising the sail of a ship

The sailor tied the halyard to the mast.

hammer

noun /ˈhæmə[r]/

a tool with a heavy metal head used for driving nails or breaking things

Ali used a hammer to drive the nail into the wall.

handicapped

adjective /ˈhændɪˌkæpt/

disabled

There are special parking spaces reserved for cars driven by handicapped people.

handkerchief

noun /ˈhæŋkətʃɪf/

a small square of cloth for wiping the nose or face

Sara used a handkerchief to wipe her face.

haphazard

adjective /hæpˈhæzəd/

aimless or random

The haphazard arrangement of furniture made the room look untidy.

harbour

noun /ˈhɑːbə[r]/

a place where ships can shelter or unload

The harbour is packed with cargo ships.

harmonious

adjective /hɑː'məʊniəs/

friendly and peaceful

We enjoy a harmonious relationship with our neighbours.

harness

noun /'hɑːnɪs/

the straps put round a horse's head and neck for controlling it

Akbar put a harness on his horse.

hassium

noun /'hæsiəm/

the chemical element of atomic number 108

Hassium is produced when atoms collide.

hatch

verb /hætʃ/

to break out of an egg

The chicks are about to hatch out of the eggs.

hatchet

noun /'hætʃɪt/

a small axe with short handle

The boys took a hatchet and ropes when they went camping.

haughty

adjective /'hɔːti/

arrogantly superior

He was too haughty to listen to anyone else.

haunt

verb /hɔːnt/

to appear at a place regularly, usually referring to a ghost

A ghost is said to haunt the old castle.

hazardous

adjective /'hæzədəs/

dangerous

The hazardous chemicals were being emptied into the sea.

headmistress

noun /,hed'mɪstrəs/

a female head teacher

The teacher asked the headmistress to discipline the unruly students.

hectic

adjective /'hektɪk/

busy and confused

Zara was tired at the end of a hectic day.

hedgehog

noun /'hedʒhɒɡ/

a small animal with a spiny coat

heighten

verb /'haɪtn/

to make higher

The carpenter was asked to heighten the table.

helicopter

noun /'helɪkɒptə[r]/

an aircraft which derives both lift and propulsion from one or more sets of horizontally revolving overhead rotors

The helicopter circled over the forest fire.

henceforth

adverb /,hens'fɔːθ, 'hensfɔːθ/

from now on

Henceforth, wearing the school uniform will be mandatory.

heptagon

noun /'heptəɡən/

a figure with 7 sides and 7 angles

The new coin is shaped like a heptagon.

herald

noun /'herəld/

a person or thing viewed as a sign that something is about to happen

They considered the first primroses as the herald of spring.

H

9 to 11
age group

heredity

noun /hɪ'redɪti/

the process of inheriting physical or mental characteristics from parents or ancestors
Heredity determines the colour of our eyes.

hermetically

adverb /hɜː'metɪkli/

so as to be airtight
The tin is hermetically sealed.

hermit

noun /'hɜːmɪt/

a person who lives alone and keeps away from people
The hermit lived in a cave.

hesitate

verb /'hezɪteɪt/

to be slow or uncertain in speaking or moving
I hesitate to be the bearer of bad news.

hibernation

noun /ˌhaɪbə'neɪʃn/

a state of deep sleep in which some animals pass the winter
Bears go into hibernation in winter.

hieratic

adjective /ˌhaɪə'rætɪk/

of or concerning priests
He raised both his arms in a hieratic gesture.

hijack

verb /'haɪdʒæk/

to seize control of an aircraft or vehicle during a journey
The criminals tried to hijack the aeroplane.

hilarious

adjective /hɪ'leəriəs/

very funny
The comedian's hilarious jokes had the audience laughing.

hillock

noun /'hɪlək/

a small hill or mound
I climbed a little hillock to view the countryside.

hindquarters

noun /'haɪndkwɔːtəz/

the hind legs and adjoining parts of a quadruped
They held the sheep by its hindquarters.

hindrance

noun /'hɪndrəns/

something that causes delay
Illiteracy is a hindrance to the progress of the country.

hinge

noun /'hɪndʒ/

a joining device on which a lid or door turns when it opens
The door fell off its hinge.

hippopotamus

noun /ˌhɪpə'pɒtəməs/

a very large African animal that lives near water

historical

adjective /hɪ'stɒrɪkl/

of or concerning history or past events
Historical novels are very popular.

hitherto

adverb /ˌhɪðə'tuː, 'hɪðətuː/

until this time
Hitherto, there have been no problems.

hollow

adjective /'hɒləʊ/

having a hole or empty space inside
A drum is a hollow object.

honeysuckle

noun /'hʌni,sʌkl/

a climbing plant with fragrant yellow or pink flowers
I could smell the honeysuckle when I went out into the garden in the evenings.

honorary

adjective /'ɒnəˌrəri/

conferred as an honour without the usual requirements or functions

The president was awarded an honorary title.

hooligan

noun /'hu:lɪɡən/

a rough and violent young person

The hooligan was arrested by the police.

horizontal

adjective /ˌhɒrɪˈzɒntl/

parallel to the horizon

He drew horizontal lines on a piece of paper.

hormone

noun /'hɔ:məʊn/

a substance produced by glands in the body

Insulin is a hormone that is produced by the pancreas.

hornet

noun /'hɔ:nɪt/

a wasp that can inflict a severe sting

horoscope

noun /'hɒrəskəʊp/

an astrologer's forecast of future events

She enjoys reading her horoscope in the newspaper.

horrid

adjective /'hɒrɪd/

very unpleasant or horrible

He shuddered at the horrid idea.

horrify

verb /'hɒrɪfaɪ/

to make somebody feel very afraid or disgusted

He tried to horrify us with scary stories.

horticulture

noun /'hɔ:tɪˌkʌltʃə[r]/

the art of cultivating gardens

The gardener was trained in horticulture.

hospitality

noun /ˌhɒspɪˈtælɪti/

the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers

Thank you for your generous hospitality.

hostage

noun /'hɒstɪdʒ/

a person who is held prisoner until certain demands are met

The hostage was released once the ransom was paid.

hostile

adjective /'hɒstaɪl/

unfriendly

She gave me a hostile glare.

hotchpotch

noun /'hɒtʃpɒtʃ/

a confused mixture

The hotchpotch story of the film confused me.

hotelier

noun /həʊˈtelɪər, həʊˈtelɪəl/

a person who owns or manages a hotel

The hotelier provided the best service in town.

howl

noun /haʊl/

a long, loud, sad sound such as that made by a dog or wolf

I could hear the howl of the wolf.

hoyden

noun /'hɔɪdən/

a girl or woman of saucy, boisterous, or carefree behavior

Maria has often been described as a hoyden.

hula

noun /'hu:lə/

a Hawaiian dance performed by a woman

We were entertained by a girl dancing the hula at the luau.

H

9 to 11
age group

humane

adjective /hju:'meɪn/
kind-hearted and merciful
Animals deserve humane treatment.

humanitarian

adjective /hju:mæni'teəriən/
concerned with people's welfare
Since he is old and sick, doctors say he should be released from prison on humanitarian grounds.

humanoid

adjective /'hju:mənɔɪd/
having the appearance of or resembling human beings
The alien from space had a humanoid body.

humble

adjective /'hʌmbəl/
not proud or showy
Aisha is a humble girl.

humility

noun /hju:'mɪlɪti/
being humble
The king showed great humility when he addressed the council.

humongous

adjective /hju:'mʌŋgəs/
enormous
The Mall was so humongous that I was unable to locate the bookshop.

humour

noun /'hju:mə[r]/
the quality of being funny
Shahid has a great sense of humour.

hurdle

noun /'hɜ:dl/
an obstacle or difficulty
The race called for the children to jump over a hurdle.

hurricane

noun /'hʌrɪkən, 'hʌrɪkeɪn/
a storm with violent winds
The hurricane knocked down many trees.

husky

adjective /'hʌski/
describing a low-pitched and slightly hoarse voice
My voice became husky when I had a sore throat.

hyaline

adjective /'haɪələɪn/
clear and translucent, with no fibres or granules
Hyaline cartilage makes up the costal cartilage which connects the ribs to the sternum.

hydrodynamics

noun /,haɪdrədaɪ'næmɪks/
a branch of physics that deals with the motion of fluids and the forces acting on solid bodies immersed in liquids
Hydrodynamics plays a key role in Kayak racing.

hydromancy

noun /'haɪdrəʊ'mænsi/
divination by water
The fortune teller practises hydromancy, using a bowl of clear water to predict the future rather than the traditional crystal ball.

hydrophilic

adjective /,haɪdrəʊ'fɪlɪk/
having a tendency to mix with, dissolve in, or be wetted by water
The hydrophilic mesh pulls perspiration away from the body.

hydrotropism

noun /haɪ'drɒtrəpɪzəm/
the directional growth of plants in response to the stimulus of water
Roots often display hydrotropism in growing towards a water source.

hyena

noun /haɪ'ɪnə/
a doglike African mammal

hygrometer

noun /haɪ'grɒmɪtə/
an instrument for measuring the humidity of the air or a gas
Some dehumidifiers feature a hygrometer, which measures room humidity.

hyphen

noun /'haɪfən/
a short dash used to join words or parts of words together
A hyphen is sometimes necessary to connect two words.

hypnotize

verb /'hɪpnətaɪz/
to produce hypnosis in somebody
The hypnotist tried to hypnotize my aunt.

hypotaxis

noun /ˌhaɪpəʊ'tæksɪs/
the grammatical subordination of one clause to another
Parmenides' poem, despite its first-glance resemblance to epic poetry, is a mess of complicated hypotaxis.

hysterical

adjective /hɪ'sterɪkl/
uncontrollably emotional
That comedian was good at telling hysterical jokes.

9 to 11 age group

iceberg

noun /'aɪsbɜːg/
a large mass of ice floating in the sea with most of it under water
The ship was severely damaged when it hit an iceberg.

identical

adjective /aɪ'dentɪkəl/
exactly the same
Mehr and Maha are identical twins.

idle

adjective /'aɪdl/
avoiding work
The idle boy wasted his time.

idolize

verb /'aɪdəlaɪz/
to admire someone greatly
Children usually idolize their parents.

ignorance

noun /'ɪgnərəns/
not knowing about something
In my ignorance, I failed to come downstairs to meet the guests.

illegal

adjective /ɪ'liːɡl/
not lawful
The illegal immigrants were caught.

illite

noun /'ɪlaɪt/
a group of grey, green, or yellowish-brown clay minerals
Illite does not expand on absorption of water.

illiteracy

noun /ɪ'lɪtərəsi/
the inability to read or write
Illiteracy is Pakistan's heaviest burden.

illumination

noun /ɪˌljʊːmɪ'neɪʃən, ɪˌluːmɪ'neɪʃən/
lighting or light
The reading lamp provided little illumination in the large room.

illustrious

adjective /ɪ'ɪlɑːstriəs/
very famous and much admired
The composer was one of the many illustrious visitors to the town.

imagination

noun /ɪˌmædʒɪ'neɪʃn/
the ability to imagine things
A child has a wonderful imagination.

immature

adjective /ɪˌmæ'tʃʊə[r], ɪmæ'tʃʊə[r]/
not fully developed
His childish behaviour is immature for his age.

immeasurable

adjective /ɪ'meʒərəbl/
too large or great to be measured
The industrialist had accumulated immeasurable wealth.

immediately

adverb /ɪ'miːdiətli/
at once
His mother asked him to return home immediately after school.

immense

adjective /ɪ'mens/
extremely large or great
The forest covered an immense area.

immerse

verb /ɪ'mɜːs/
to dip or submerge in a liquid
The recipe requires us to immerse the vegetables in boiling water.

immigrant

noun /'ɪmɪgrənt/

a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country

An immigrant faces many difficulties in a new country.

immodest

adjective /ɪ'mɒdɪst/

lacking humility or decorum

An immodest person will say the most inappropriate things.

immoral

adjective /ɪ'mɒrəl/

morally wrong

Stealing is an immoral act.

immortal

adjective /ɪ'mɔ:tl/

living forever

Everything in life would be different if we were immortal beings.

immovable

adjective /ɪ'mu:vəbəl/

not able to be moved

The rock was immovable.

immunize

verb /'ɪmjənaɪz/

to give a person resistance to a disease

It is important to immunize every child against polio.

impassive

adjective /ɪm'pæsɪv/

not feeling or showing emotion

Her face remained totally impassive during the interview.

impatient

noun /ɪm'peɪʃnt/

easily irritated at delay or opposition

The impatient man was getting annoyed at their lack of haste.

impel

verb /ɪm'pel/

to urge or drive forward

There are various factors that impel me to take action.

impenetrable

adjective /ɪm'penetrəbl/

impossible to get through

The jungle was so dense it was impenetrable.

imperative

adjective /ɪm'perətɪv/

essential

It is imperative to continue treatment for two months.

imperceptible

adjective /ɪmpə'septɪbəl/

so slight, gradual, or subtle as not to be noticed or seen

His almost imperceptible change of expression went unnoticed by many.

imperfect

adjective /ɪm'pɜ:ʃɪkt/

with mistakes

We live in an imperfect world.

imperil

verb /ɪm'perɪl/

to put at risk of being harmed, injured, or destroyed

Do not imperil your health by smoking.

impersonal

adjective /ɪm'pɜ:sənəl/

not influenced by, showing, or involving personal feelings

The principal's voice was cold and impersonal when she addressed us.

impersonate

verb /ɪm'pɜ:səneɪt/

to pretend to be another person for entertainment or fraud

The actor will impersonate Hitler in the film.

9 to 11 age group

implausible

adjective /ɪmˈpləʊzɪbl/

not seeming reasonable or likely to be true
It sounded like an implausible excuse.

implicit

adjective /ɪmˈplɪsɪt/

not directly expressed
She had the implicit trust of her staff.

implode

verb /ɪmˈpləʊd/

to collapse or cause to collapse violently inwards
The detonation is designed to cause the building to implode.

impose

verb /ɪmˈpəʊz/

to force an unwelcome decision or ruling on someone
The government will not impose new taxes this year.

impractical

adjective /ɪmˈpræktɪkəl/

not sensible or realistic
It was impractical to continue work on the project because the funds had run out.

impregnable

adjective /ɪmˈpregnəbəl/

unable to be captured or broken into
The thick walls made the fortress impregnable.

impresario

noun /ɪmˈpriːsɑːriəʊ/

a person who finances theatrical productions
They needed an impresario to fund their new production.

impression

noun /ɪmˈpreʃn/

an effect produced on the mind
I think I made a good impression on my boss.

improbable

adjective /ɪmˈprɒbəbl/

unlikely
The police detective listened to the suspect's improbable story.

improvise

verb /ɪmˈprəvaɪz/

to compose or perform something without a rehearsal or with whatever is available
The actors forgot their lines and had to improvise the last scene.

impure

adjective /ɪmˈpjʊə[r]/

mixed with another substance
It is hard to detect impure spices in the market.

inaccurate

adjective /ɪnˈækjʊrət/

not exact or with mistakes
She gave me a horribly inaccurate description of the match between India and Pakistan.

inadvertently

adverb /ɪˌnədˈvɜːtəntli/

by accident
His hand inadvertently knocked over the cup of coffee.

inadvisable

adjective /ɪnədˈvaɪzəbəl/

unwise
It would be inadvisable for you to go alone at night.

inarticulate

adjective /ɪˌnɑːˈtɪkjʊlət/

not able to express ideas or feelings clearly or easily
Ahmed was an inarticulate boy and was shy of speaking in public.

inattentive

adjective /ɪˌnəˈtentɪv/

not focused on the task at hand
The teacher was unhappy with the inattentive students.

inaudible

adjective /ɪn'ɔːdɪbl/

not able to be heard

He was murmuring inaudible words.

incapable

adjective /ɪn'keɪpəbəl/

unable to do or achieve something

He seems incapable of learning anything new.

incautious

adjective /ɪn'kɔːʃəs/

heedless of potential problems or risks

Noman's incautious driving last night resulted in an accident.

incentive

noun /ɪn'sentɪv/

something that encourages a person to do something or to work harder

The pay raise gave her an incentive to work harder.

incident

noun /ɪn'sɪdɪnt/

an event or occurrence

I will never forget the incident which took place last summer at the beach.

inclination

noun /ɪn'klɪneɪʃn/

a feeling that makes you want to do something

He did not show the slightest inclination to leave.

include

verb /ɪn'kluːd/

to make or consider something as part of a group of things

Mehr wanted to include her entire class in her birthday celebration.

incomparable

adjective /ɪn'kɒmpərəbəl/

without an equal in quality or extent

Murree has incomparable natural beauty.

incompetent

adjective /ɪn'kɒmpɪtənt/

not having or showing the necessary skills to do something successfully

Habib proved to be so incompetent that he was fired from his job.

incomprehensible

adjective /ɪn'kɒmpri'hensɪbəl/

not able to be understood

His incomprehensible explanation totally confused me.

incompressible

adjective /ɪn'kɒm'presɪbəl/

not able to be compressed

Fluids are incompressible.

incomputable

adjective /ɪn'kɒm'pjʊtəbəl/

unable to be calculated or estimated

The distances between galaxies are incomputable.

inconceivable

adjective /ɪn'kən'sɪvəbl/

unimaginable

We all protested when she gave the inconceivable excuse of not being aware of the problem.

inconsequential

adjective /ɪn'kɒnsɪ'kwɛnʃl/

not important or significant

I've wasted an hour of my valuable time on inconsequential chatter.

inconsiderate

adjective /ɪn'kən'sɪdərət/

not considerate towards other people

Our previous neighbours were inconsiderate people.

inconsistent

adjective /ɪn'kən'sɪstənt/

not always the same

The coach was disappointed by the inconsistent performance of his team.

9 to 11 age group

inconsolable

adjective /ɪnˈkɒnˈsəʊləbəl/

not able to be comforted or alleviated

The death of the great leader plunged the nation into inconsolable grief.

inconvenience

noun /ɪnˈkɒnˈviːniəns/

the state of being troublesome or difficult with regard to one's personal comfort

She apologized for the inconvenience caused by her late arrival.

incorporate

verb /ɪnˈkɔːpəreɪt/

to take in or contain something as part of a whole

The new school play will now incorporate most of our suggestions.

incredible

adjective /ɪnˈkredɪbl/

unbelievable

Ali dressed with incredible speed.

incriminate

verb /ɪnˈkrɪmɪneɪt/

to make someone appear guilty of a crime or wrongdoing

The police tried to incriminate him under false pretext.

inculcate

verb /ɪnˈkʌlkert/

to instill an idea, attitude, or habit by persistent instruction

Teachers must inculcate a sense of duty and pride for Pakistan in their students.

incurable

adjective /ɪnˈkjʊərəbəl/

not able to be cured

Scientists are trying to find treatments for incurable diseases.

indebted

adjective /ɪnˈdetɪd/

owing money or gratitude to someone

I am indebted to you for all the support you have given me.

indecisive

adjective /ɪndɪˈsaɪsɪv/

not providing a clear and definite result

It was an indecisive battle with many casualties and no clear winner.

indefatigable

adjective /ɪndɪˈfætɪɡəbəl/

persisting tirelessly

She is an indefatigable campaigner for freedom of speech.

indefinable

adjective /ɪndɪˈfaɪnəbəl/

not able to be described exactly

I have an indefinable sense of national pride.

indent

verb /ɪnˈdent/

to start a line of text further from the margin than the main part of the text

Do not forget to indent the beginning of each paragraph.

independence

noun /ɪndɪˈpendəns/

the state of being free and not controlled by another person or country

August 14 is the anniversary of Pakistan's independence.

indicator

noun /ɪndɪˈkeɪtə[r]/

a flashing signal that a motor vehicle is turning

The traffic sergeant fined him for having a broken indicator.

indifference

noun /ɪnˈdɪfrəns/

lack of interest

He has always shown indifference to the needs of others.

indigestible

adjective /ɪndɪˈdʒestɪbəl/

difficult or impossible to digest

Uncooked beans are indigestible.

indigo

noun /ˈɪndɪɡəʊ/

a colour between blue and violet in the spectrum

We decided to buy an indigo shirt for Khalid.

indiscriminate

adjective /ɪndɪˈskrɪmɪnət/

done at random or without careful judgement

Indiscriminate attacks on civilians are still occurring.

indispensable

adjective /ɪndɪˈspensəbəl/

essential

A dictionary is an indispensable possession for any English teacher.

indisposed

adjective /ɪndɪˈspəʊzd/

slightly unwell

I was indisposed with fever and sore throat.

indissoluble

adjective /ɪndɪˈsɒljʊəbəl/

unable to be destroyed

Ali and Ahmed have an indissoluble friendship bond.

indistinct

adjective /ɪndɪˈstɪŋkt/

not clear

His indistinct speech made it difficult for them to understand him.

indium

noun /ˈɪndɪəm/

a very soft, silvery-white chemical element

Indium is used to coat the bearings of high speed motors.

inducement

noun /ɪnˈdjuːsmənt/

a thing that persuades or leads someone to do something

Free books were given to students as an inducement to promote reading.

indulgent

adjective /ɪnˈdʌldʒənt/

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

My indulgent grandmother gave me gifts and money when I passed the test.

industrialize

verb /ɪnˈdʌstriəlaɪz/

to develop factories in a country

The government plans to industrialize Gwadar Port over the next few years.

industrious

adjective /ɪnˈdʌstriəs/

hard working

The industrious weavers worked hard.

ineffective

adjective /ɪnɪˈfektɪv/

not producing any significant or desired effect

The medicine proved ineffective in clinical trials.

inelegant

adjective /ɪnɪˈelɪɡənt/

having or showing a lack of physical grace, elegance, or refinement

It was an inelegant solution, but it worked.

9 to 11 age group

inequality

noun /ɪnɪ'kwɒləti/

a difference in size, degree, or circumstances
Inequality between the rich and the poor is a cause of social unrest.

inescapable

adjective /ɪnɪ'skeɪpəbəl/

unable to be avoided or denied
The inescapable fact is that sweets cause tooth decay and must be avoided.

inexcusable

adjective /ɪnek'skjuːzəbəl/

too bad to be justified or tolerated
Rudeness is inexcusable and must never be tolerated.

inexhaustible

adjective /ɪnɪg'zɔːstɪbəl/

unable to be used up
His energy seems to be inexhaustible when he is on the playing field.

inexperience

noun /ɪnɪk'spɪəriəns/

a lack of experience
He did not get the job because of his inexperience.

infant

noun /'ɪnfənt/

a baby or young child
The infant was asleep in the cot.

infiltrate

verb /'ɪnfɪltreɪt/

to enter or gain access to an organization or place
The soldiers were able to infiltrate enemy territory.

infinite

adjective /'ɪnfɪnɪt/

endless or without limit
We do not have an infinite amount of time.

inflammatory

adjective /ɪn'flæmətəri/

relating to or causing swelling of a part of the body
Lupus is a chronic inflammatory disease.

inflate

verb /ɪn'fleɪt/

to fill something with air or gas to make it bigger
We had to inflate the balloons for the party.

inflict

verb /ɪn'flɪkt/

to cause something unpleasant or painful to be suffered by someone or something
Was it necessary to inflict such a punishment on him?

influential

adjective /ɪnflu'ensɪl/

having a lot of influence
She is a very influential politician.

influx

noun /'ɪnflʌks/

an arrival or entry of large numbers of people or things
The influx of tourists was beneficial to the local economy.

infomercial

noun /ɪnfəʊ'mɜːʃl/

a long advertisement on T.V. that tries to give a lot of information about a subject so that it does not appear to be an advertisement
The infomercial was selling the latest diet and exercise fad.

information

noun /ɪnfə'meɪʃn/

facts provided or learned about something
A library is a good place to look for information.

infraction

noun /ɪn'frækʃən/

a violation or infringement of a law or agreement
The infraction of this law will be dealt with severely.

infuriate

verb /ɪnˈfʊəriət/

to make a person very angry
Little Johnny always manages to infuriate his father with his naughtiness.

infuse

verb /ɪnˈfjuːz/

to fill or pervade
The coach tried to infuse some enthusiasm into the team.

ingrain

verb /ɪnˈgreɪn/

to firmly fix or establish a habit, belief, or attitude in a person
Parents must ingrain good manners in their children from an early age.

inhabitant

noun /ɪnˈhæbɪtənt/

a person who lives in a particular place
The oldest inhabitant of the village has survived a series of droughts and floods.

inherent

adjective /ɪnˈhɪərənt/

existing in something as a permanent, essential, or characteristic attribute
The desire to succeed is inherent in all of us.

inheritance

noun /ɪnˈherɪtəns/

money or property which you receive from someone who has died
Her inheritance allowed her to pay off all her debts and buy a house.

injurious

adjective /ɪnˈdʒʊəriəs/

causing or likely to cause damage or harm
Smoking is injurious to your health.

innovate

verb /ɪˈnəveɪt/

to make changes in something established, especially by introducing new methods, ideas, or products
Ms. Kamal tried to innovate new ideas and methods to improve the curriculum.

inoculate

verb /ɪˈnɒkjʊleɪt/

to inject or treat someone with a vaccine or serum as a protection against a disease
The doctor wanted to inoculate the child against typhoid.

insensitive

adjective /ɪnˈsensɪtɪv/

not thinking about other people's feelings
His insensitive remarks made her cry.

inseparable

adjective /ɪnˈsepərəbl/

incapable of being divided
Mehr and Yasha were inseparable friends.

insistent

adjective /ɪnˈsɪstənt/

very firm in asking for something
The management gave in to the insistent demands of the workers.

insolvency

noun /ɪnˈsɒlvənsi/

the state of being unable to pay debts owed
The club was on the verge of insolvency.

installation

noun /ɪnstəˈleɪʃən/

the action of placing equipment in position for use
The installation of the fan was done by an electrician.

instant

adjective /ɪˈnstənt/

happening immediately
She took an instant dislike to me.

9 to 11 age group

instinct

noun /'ɪnstɪŋkt/

an innate, typically fixed pattern of behaviour in animals in response to certain stimuli
Some birds have a natural instinct to migrate in winter.

instruct

verb /ɪn'strʌkt/

to teach a person a subject or skill
Sara asked her teacher to instruct her in mathematics.

instrument

noun /'ɪnstrʊmənt/

a tool or device used for a particular task
The piano is a musical instrument.

insurance

noun /ɪn'sʊərəns/

an agreement to compensate someone for a loss, damage or injury in return for a payment made in advance
He decided to take out insurance against fire and theft.

insurrection

noun /ɪnsə'rekʃən/

a violent uprising against an authority or government
The heavily taxed people rose in insurrection.

integrate

verb /'ɪntɪɡreɪt/

to combine one thing with another to form a whole
The immigrant tried to integrate into the local culture.

intensify

verb /ɪn'tensɪfaɪ/

to make or become stronger
The heat will intensify in the future due to global warming.

intensive

adjective /ɪn'tensɪv/

concentrated on a single subject or into a short time
I passed the entry test after intensive preparation.

intention

noun /ɪn'tenʃən/

an aim or plan
He has no intention of leaving the school.

intercept

verb /ɪntə'sept/

to stop or catch a person or thing that is going from one place to another
Reporters tried to intercept him as he was leaving the hotel.

intercontinental

adjective /ɪntəkɒntɪ'nentəl/

relating to or travelling between continents
The flight from Karachi to London is intercontinental.

interfere

verb /ɪntə'fɪə[r]/

to get in the way or obstruct
Please do not interfere in my business.

interim

noun /'ɪntərɪm/

the intervening time
In the interim, I'll just hope for the best.

interject

verb /ɪntə'dʒekt/

to say something abruptly, especially as an aside or interruption
Please interject if you have anything to add to the conversation.

interlude

noun /'ɪntəljuːd/

an intervening period of time or an interval
There was a brief interlude between the acts of the play.

intermingle

verb /ɪntə'mɪŋɡəl/

to mix or mingle together
We were told not to intermingle with the juniors.

intermission

noun /ɪntə'mɪʃən/
a pause or break
Kamil went to buy snacks during the intermission.

international

adjective /ɪntə'næʃ[ə]nəl/
belonging to more than one country
English is an international language.

internment

noun /'ɪntɜːnmənt/
the state of being confined as a prisoner
His internment in the holding cell seemed to last forever.

interrupt

verb /ɪntə'rʌpt/
to prevent something from continuing by breaking in on it
Please do not interrupt me when I am talking.

intersect

verb /ɪntə'sekt/
to divide something by passing or lying across it
Where do the two roads intersect?

intramural

adjective /ɪntrə'mjuərəl/
activities that happen within one college or university
Her favourite intramural activity was basketball.

intrigue

verb /ɪn'triːg/
to interest very much
The aim of the lecture was to intrigue the audience.

introduction

noun /ɪntrə'dʌkʃn/
the action of introducing somebody or something
The introduction to an essay should only be one paragraph long.

introspection

noun /ɪntrəʊ'spekʃən/
the examination or observation of one's own mental and emotional processes
I did some introspection and found myself at fault.

introvert

noun /'ɪntrəvɜːt/
a shy, reticent person
As an introvert, she hates going to parties.

inundate

verb /'ɪnʌndeɪt/
to overwhelm someone with things or people to be dealt with
Dissatisfied customers will inundate the front desk with complaints.

invaluable

adjective /ɪn'væljuəbl/
extremely useful or indispensable
Thank you for your invaluable help and support.

invariable

adjective /ɪn'veəriəbl/
never changing
Reading in bed is an invariable habit of mine.

invasion

noun /ɪn'veɪʒn/
the act of entering another territory by force to take control of it
Soldiers managed to stop the enemy invasion.

invention

noun /ɪn'venʃn/
something made by a person that has not been made before
Fax machines were a wonderful invention at the time.

investigation

noun /ɪn'vestri'geɪʃn/
a systematic inquiry
The police carried out an investigation into the crime.

9 to 11 age group

investment

noun /ɪn'vestmənt/

the action or process of investing money for profit
His investment in the shop was profitable.

invigilate

verb /ɪn'vɪdʒɪleɪt/

to supervise students at an examination
I was asked to invigilate the mathematics examination.

invigorate

verb /ɪn'vɪɡəreɪt/

to give strength or energy to
Invigorate yourself by going for a walk in the park.

invisible

adjective /ɪn'vɪzɪbəl/

not able to be seen
We watched a film about an invisible man.

irreconcilable

adjective /ɪ'rekən'saɪləbl, ɪ'rekənsaɪləbl/

so different from each other that they cannot be made compatible
Their irreconcilable differences prevented them from being friends.

irregular

adjective /ɪ'reɡjʊlə[r]/

not occurring at expected or equal intervals
Mrs. Amir was informed of her daughter's irregular attendance at school.

irrelevant

adjective /ɪ'relɪvənt/

not relating or pertinent to the matter at hand
Your argument is irrelevant to the subject matter.

irremediable

adjective /ɪ,ɪrɪ'mɪ:dɪəbl/

impossible to cure or put right
His lack of planning has put us all in an irremediable situation.

irreplaceable

adjective /ɪrɪ'pleɪsəbəl/

not able to be replaced
He was too scared to confess that he had broken the irreplaceable antique.

irrepressible

adjective /ɪrɪ'presɪbl/

not able to be controlled or restrained
He let out a great shout of irrepressible laughter.

isle

noun /aɪl/

a small island
The Isle of Wight is a small British island.

isometric

adjective /aɪsəʊ'metɪk/

of or having equal dimensions
An octahedron is an example of an isometric crystal shape.

itch

verb /ɪtʃ/

to feel a tickling sensation on the skin that makes you want to scratch it
My sweater makes me itch.

jade

noun /dʒeɪd/

a hard green gemstone
Jade is used in jewellery and decorative items.

jadeite

noun /'dʒeɪdaɪt/

a green, blue or white silicate mineral which is one of the forms of jade
The shop sold a variety of pendants, rings and bangles made of jadeite.

jaguar

noun /'dʒæɡjuə/

a large cat found mainly in the dense forests of Central and South America

jamboree

noun /ˌdʒæmbə'ri:/

a large celebration or party, typically a lavish and boisterous one
All the stars attended the film industry's annual jamboree in Cannes.

jaundice

noun /'dʒɔːndɪs/

a medical condition with yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes
Jaundice is a disease in which the eyes become yellow.

jewellery

noun /'dʒuːəlri/

objects such as rings and necklaces that people wear as decoration
Somebody stole her favourite jewellery.

jinx

noun /dʒɪŋks/

a person or thing that brings bad luck
The team thought that their string of losses must be the result of a jinx.

jitters

plural noun /'dʒɪtəs/

feelings of extreme nervousness
The spooky house always gave her the jitters.

jolt

noun /dʒɔʊlt/

a sudden, rough movement
The door closed with a jolt.

journalism

noun /'dʒɜːnəlɪzəm/

the profession of writing for newspapers or magazines
Ahmed is interested in studying journalism.

journey

noun /'dʒɜːni/

an act of travelling from one place to another
My father went on a journey by train.

jubilant

noun /ˌdʒuːbɪˈleɪʃn/

a feeling of great joy and celebration
There was jubilation amongst the students when a holiday was announced.

jubilee

noun /'dʒuːbɪli:/

a special anniversary of an event, especially one celebrating 25 or 50 years of a reign or activity
A golden jubilee is the 50th anniversary of an event.

juggle

verb /'dʒʌɡl/

to toss and catch a number of objects skilfully for entertainment, keeping one or more in the air at any time
The young circus boy had to learn to juggle.

jumble

noun /'dʒʌmbəl/

an untidy collection or pile of things
The clothes are lying in a jumble on the floor.

J

9 to 11
age group

junction

noun /'dʒʌŋkʃn/

a point where two or more things are joined
A railway junction is controlled by a switch.

jurisdiction

noun /ˌdʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃn/

the authority that an official organisation has to make legal decisions about somebody or something
Local courts do not have jurisdiction over a diplomat of another country.

kale

noun /keɪl/
a type of cabbage which produces erect stems with large leaves and no compact head
Kale is an excellent source of Vitamins A and C.

kame

noun /keɪm/
a short ridge or mound of sand and gravel deposited during the melting of glacial ice
It is quite common to see a kame in the glaciated valleys of the Scottish Lowlands.

karate

noun /kə'reɪti/
a Japanese method of self-defence in which the hands and feet are used as weapons
Every year the school hosts a karate competition.

kennel

noun /'kenl/
a shelter for a dog
I had a new kennel built for my puppy.

kettle

noun /'ketl/
a container for boiling water in
Sara used the kettle to boil water for tea.

kiln

noun /kɪln/
a furnace or oven for burning, baking, or drying
Pottery is fired in a kiln.

kilowatt

noun /'kɪləwɒt/
a unit of electrical power
In class we learnt that 1,000 watts is equal to 1 kilowatt.

kindling

noun /'kɪndlɪŋ/
small sticks or twigs used for lighting fires
The kindling we were using was wet and would not burn.

kirtle

noun /'kɜ:təl/
a tunic or coat worn by men, especially in the Middle Ages
A kirtle was part of fashionable attire into the mid-sixteenth century.

kitchenette

noun /,kɪtʃɪ'net/
a small room or part of a room used as a kitchen
The flat has a kitchenette overlooking the garden.

knack

noun /næk/
a special skill
He has a knack for solving puzzles.

knead

verb /ni:d/
to press and stretch something soft with your hands
Before baking bread you must knead the dough.

kneel

verb /ni:l/
to be in or assume a position in which the body is supported by a knee or the knees
The boy had to kneel to fasten his shoelace.

knit

verb /nɪt/
to make something by looping together wool or other yarn, using long needles or a machine
My grandmother will knit me a pink sweater to wear this winter.

knob

noun /nɒb/
the round handle of a door
She twisted the knob to open the door.

knockout

noun /'nɒkəʊt/
a contest in which the loser has to drop out
The result will be decided by a knockout.

K

9 to 11
age group

knowledgeable

adjective /'nɒlɪdʒəbəl/

well informed

The knowledgeable professor gave an interesting lecture on history.

knuckle

noun /'nʌkl/

any of the joints in the fingers, especially those connecting the fingers to the rest of the hand

He bruised his knuckle when he punched the wall.



laboratory

noun /ləˈbɒrətɹi, ˈlæbrəˌtɹi/
a room or building equipped for scientific experiments
There was a small explosion in our school laboratory yesterday.

laborious

adjective /ləˈbɔːrɪəs/
needing or using a lot of hard work and effort
I am not getting paid enough for such laborious work.

lackey

noun /ˈlæki/
a servant, especially a manservant
The lackey helped the lady down from the carriage.

lagoon

noun /ləˈɡuːn/
a stretch of salt water separated from the sea by a low sandbank or coral reef
The water in the lagoon was crystal clear and full of life.

lair

noun /leɪ[r]/
a place where a wild animal lives
The bear had his lair in the cave.

lamentable

adjective /ˈlæməntəbl/
regrettable
She shows a lamentable lack of understanding.

lancet

noun /ˈlɑːnsɪt/
a knife with a sharp point and two sharp edges used by doctors for cutting skin and flesh
The surgeon used the lancet with great skill.

languish

verb /ˈlæŋɡwɪʃ/
to lose or lack vitality
Wild animals will languish in captivity.

lapse

noun /læps/
a brief or temporary failure of concentration, memory, or judgement
The lapse of concentration cost him the match.

lather

noun /ˈlɑːðə[r], ˈlæðə[r]/
a frothy white mass of bubbles produced by soap when mixed with water
This soap gives plenty of lather.

latitude

noun /ˈlætɪtjuːd/
the distance of a place from the equator measured in degrees
In geography class today, we looked at the map to find out the latitude of London.

laudable

adjective /ˈlɔːdəbəl/
deserving praise and commendation
Her stage performance was laudable.

laughable

adjective /ˈlɑːfəbl/
so stupid as to be funny and not worth serious consideration
His laughable attempt at bowling was an embarrassment to the team.

laundry

noun /ˈlɔːndri/
a place where clothes are washed and ironed
She will take her dirty clothes to the laundry after work.

lavender

noun /ˈlævəndə[r]/
a shrub with sweet-smelling purple flowers
Lavender is used in the perfume industry.

lawnmower

noun /ˈlɔːnməʊə[r]/
a machine for cutting grass
Put the lawnmower in the garden shed after you have finished cutting the grass.



9 to 11 age group

lease

noun /li:s/

an agreement to allow someone to use a building or land for a fixed period in return for payment
The lease on this house will expire next month, and we must look for a new place to live.

leatherette

noun /ˌleðə'ret/

an artificial material that looks or feels like leather
I want to buy a jacket made of leatherette.

lectin

noun /'lektɪn/

any of a class of proteins which bind specifically to certain sugars
The study findings revealed that lectin was not acutely toxic to ladybirds.

lecture

noun /'lektʃə[r]/

an educational talk to an audience, especially one of students in a university
The history lecture was interesting because of the colour slides.

ledge

noun /ledʒ/

a narrow shelf
I placed a bowl of water on the window ledge for the birds.

leech

noun /li:tʃ/

a small, blood-sucking worm that lives in water

legator

noun /legə'tɔ:[r], li'gertə[r]/

a person who gives a legacy or makes a bequest
A prerequisite for the validity of a bequest is that the legator has the will witnessed by two qualified and credible witnesses.

legendary

adjective /'ledʒəndəri/

remarkable enough to be famous or very well known
There may be some truth to the legendary exploits of Robin Hood.

lemonade

noun /ˌlemə'neɪd/

a sweet lemon-flavoured drink
It is refreshing to drink cool lemonade on a hot summer day.

lenticular

adjective /len'tɪkjʊlə[r]/

having the shape of a double-convex lens
The largest lenticular telescope was marketed for the first time by the observatory.

leopard

noun /'lepəd/

a large solitary cat that has a brown coat with black spots

lethargy

noun /'leθədʒi/

an extreme lack of energy
A jog in the park will help take away your lethargy.

lettuce

noun /'letɪs/

a garden plant with broad, crisp leaves used in salads
Lettuce is good for your health.

liberation

noun /ˌlɪbə'reɪʃn/

the action of setting someone free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression
The liberation of Algeria was a historic event.

licence

noun /'laɪsns/

an official permit to do, use, or own something
I got my driving licence yesterday.



lieutenant

noun /leɪˈtənənt/

a rank of officer in the army or navy
The lieutenant performed his duties with great responsibility.

lilac

noun /ˈlaɪlək/

a shrub or small tree of the olive family which has fragrant flowers
The lilac bush is a popular garden ornamental.

linger

verb /ˈlɪŋɡə[r]/

to be slow to leave
Children tend to linger in the candy store.

lingual

adjective /ˈlɪŋɡwəl/

relating to speech or language
She has good lingual skills and speaks exceptionally well.

listen

verb /ˈlɪsn/

to pay attention in order to hear something
I told her three times, but she did not listen.

literacy

noun /ˈlɪtərəsi/

the ability to read and write
The literacy rate is not high in our country.

literature

noun /ˈlɪtrətʃə[r]/

books and other writings
William Shakespeare is famous for his great works of literature.

lithosphere

noun /ˈlɪθəsfiə[r]/

the layer of rock that forms the outer part of the Earth
The lithosphere is about sixty miles thick.

litter

verb /ˈlɪtə[r]/

to make a place untidy with rubbish left lying about
Use the dustbin and do not litter the park.

livestock

noun /ˈlaɪvstɒk/

farm animals
The farmer keeps his livestock in the barn at night.

llama

noun /ˈlɑːmə/

a South American animal with woolly fur

loch

noun /lɒk/

a Scottish word for a lake
The loch was known for both its beauty and its excellent fishing.

locomotive

noun /ˌləʊkəˈməʊtɪv/

a railway engine
The locomotive took six days to cross the desert.

locust

noun /ˈləʊkəst/

a kind of grasshopper that travels in large swarms which cause extensive damage to vegetation

lodging

noun /ˈlɒdʒɪŋ/

temporary accommodation
It is hard to find lodging at the height of the tourist season.

logically

adverb /ˈlɒdʒɪkli/

reasonably or sensibly
He answered the questions logically, using common sense and reason.



9 to 11 age group

logophile

noun /'lɒɡəfaɪl/

a lover of words

The new word was suggested by the logophile.

loiter

verb /'lɔɪtə[r]/

to linger or stand about idly

The high school students like to loiter in the market.

lollipop

noun /'lɒlɪpɒp/

a large, round sweet on a stick

I am going to buy a lollipop from the canteen.

lopsided

adjective /'lɒpsaɪdɪd/

having one side lower or smaller than the other

The lopsided tent collapsed when the wind blew.

lottery

noun /'lɒtəri/

a way of raising money by selling numbered tickets and giving prizes to people who hold winning numbers

Amna was thrilled when she won the lottery last week.

lounge

noun /laʊndʒ/

a waiting area in an airport or hotel

My friends and I waited in the departure lounge.

lousy

adjective /'laʊzi/

very bad or unpleasant

All she bought me was this lousy T-shirt.

lubricate

verb /'lu:brikeɪt/

to oil or grease something so that it moves smoothly

The mechanic will lubricate the engine of the car.

luciferin

noun /lu:'sɪfərɪn/

any of various organic substances in luminescent organisms such as fireflies

Fireflies produce light through a chemical reaction between luciferin and its enzyme counterpart.

luggage

noun /'lʌɡɪdʒ/

suitcases and bags

She had to carry her own luggage from the airport to the car.

lullaby

noun /'lʌləbaɪ/

a song that is sung to send a baby to sleep

The mother sang a lullaby to her baby.

luminary

noun /'lu:mɪnəri/

a person who inspires or influences others, especially one prominent in a particular sphere

The legal luminary knows that the law will take its own course.

luminous

adjective /'lu:mɪnəs/

glowing in the dark

I dared her to wear a luminous yellow hat.

luscious

adjective /'lʌʃəs/

having a pleasingly rich, sweet taste

We ate some luscious mangoes straight from the tree.

macaroon

noun /ˌmækəˈruːn/

a small sweet cake or biscuit made with ground almonds

The coconut macaroon was stale.

machinery

noun /məˈʃiːnəri/

machines as a group, especially large ones

The farmer was in need of agricultural machinery.

magenta

noun /məˈdʒentə/

a colour between bright red and purple

The wall was painted magenta.

magician

noun /məˈdʒɪʃn/

a person who does magic tricks

A magician performed tricks at Zara's birthday party.

magisterial

adjective /ˌmædʒɪˈstriəl/

having or showing great authority

It was impossible to ignore such a magisterial presence.

magneto

noun /mægˈniːtəʊ/

a small electric generator that has a permanent magnet

A magneto and hand crank can be used in place of a battery to start an engine.

magnificent

adjective /mægˈnɪfɪsnt/

impressive

You have all done a magnificent job.

mahogany

noun /məˈhɒɡəni/

a hard brown wood

The carpenter used mahogany to make the table.

mainstream

noun /ˈmeɪnstriːm/

the most widely accepted ideas or opinions about something

His radical views place him outside the political mainstream.

maintenance

noun /ˈmeɪntənəns/

the process of keeping something in good or workable condition

The engineer in charge of maintenance is on holiday.

maize

noun /meɪz/

a kind of corn with large seeds on cobs

Maize is a popular fodder for livestock.

majesty

noun /ˈmædʒəsti/

impressiveness in scale or proportion

I was awe struck by the majesty of the great mountains.

malaria

noun /məˈleəriə/

a disease spread by mosquitoes that causes fever

Steps have been taken to control the spread of malaria.

malfunction

noun /ˌmælˈfʌŋkʃn/

a failure to work properly

A malfunction in the car's engine caused it to stall.

malignant

adjective /məˈlɪɡnənt/

harmful or cruel

Doctors had diagnosed malignant cancer in his liver.

malnutrition

noun /mælˈnjuːtrɪʃən/

a condition of being weak and extremely thin due to a lack of food

Children in poor countries suffer from malnutrition.

M

9 to 11
age group

malpractice

noun /mæl'præktɪs/

improper, illegal, or negligent professional behaviour
The doctor was sued for malpractice.

maltreat

verb /mæl'tri:t/

to treat a person or animal cruelly or with violence
It is wrong to maltreat street animals.

mammoth

noun /'mæməθ/

an extinct elephant with hairy skin and curved tusks

mandarin

noun /'mændərɪn/

a kind of small orange
Mandarin is a citrus fruit.

manicure

noun /'mænikjʊə[r]/

the care and treatment of hands and nails
She has a manicure every Thursday.

manifestation

noun /,mænɪfe'steɪʃn/

an event, action, or object that clearly shows or embodies something abstract or theoretical
The riots are a clear manifestation of the people's discontent.

manipulate

verb /mæ'nɪpjʊleɪt/

to handle or arrange something skilfully
The worker learnt to manipulate the levers of the machine.

mannerism

noun /'mænərɪzəm/

a habitual gesture or way of speaking or behaving
An impersonator must master every mannerism of the person they are impersonating.

mansion

noun /'mænjən/

a large, stately house
The rich man lived in a mansion.

mantelpiece

noun /'mæntlpi:s/

a shelf above a fireplace
We keep old pictures on the mantelpiece.

manufacture

verb /,mænjʊ'fæktʃə[r]/

to make
He set up a factory to manufacture cloth.

manuscript

noun /'mænjʊskript/

something written or typed but not printed
He submitted the manuscript to his publisher a few days ago.

maracas

plural noun /mæ'rækəz/

a pair of hollow gourds filled with beans and shaken as a percussion instrument
She played the maracas in the school band.

marathon

noun /'mæɾəθən/

a long distance race
I am training to run the marathon.

margarine

noun /,mɑ:dʒə'ri:n, ,mɑ:gə'ri:n/

a substance used like butter, made from animal or vegetable fat
I like to eat my toast with margarine.

marigold

noun /'mæɾɪgəʊld/

a plant of the daisy family with yellow, orange, or copper-brown flowers
Marigold plants are cultivated for their showy yellow flowers.

marketable

adjective /'mɑ:kɪtəbl/

suitable for sale

Mobile phones are a very marketable item.

marshmallow

noun /mɑ:ʃ'mæləʊ/

a soft item of confectionery made from a mixture of sugar, albumen, and gelatin

He roasted the marshmallow.

marzipan

noun /'mɑ:zɪpæn/

a soft sugary food made of ground almonds, eggs, and sugar

The cake was iced with marzipan.

massage

verb /'mæsɑ:[d]ʒ, mə'sɑ:[d]ʒ/

to rub and press the body to make it less stiff or less painful

Ali will massage your shoulders to help ease the pain.

masterpiece

noun /'mɑ:stəpi:s/

a very good book, painting, or film

The painting of Mona Lisa is truly a masterpiece.

materialize

verb /mə'tɪəriəlaɪz/

to take place or start to exist as expected or planned

His promotion failed to materialize.

meadow

noun /'medəʊ/

a field of grass

The cows grazed in the meadow.

measles

noun /'mi:zlz/

an infectious disease that causes small red spots on the skin

The government is working on plans to control the spread of measles in the area.

measurement

noun /'meʒəmənt/

an amount, extent, or size determined by measuring

I took the measurement of the carpet with a measuring tape.

mechanical

adjective /mɪ'kænikl/

relating to or controlled or operated by physical forces

He used a mechanical typewriter to write the novel.

mechanism

noun /'mekənɪzəm/

a set of moving parts in a machine that performs a task

We were shown the delicate mechanism of a wrist-watch in class this morning.

medicated

adjective /'medɪkətɪd/

containing medicine

Medicated shampoos are useful for treating dandruff.

meditation

noun /,medɪ'teɪʃn/

remaining in a silent and calm state for a period of time

Meditation makes you calm.

medium

adjective /'mi:drəm/

neither large nor small

I bought a medium sized T-shirt.

megalopolis

noun /,megə'lɒpəlɪs/

an urban complex, usually comprising several large towns

The fact that Chicago is a megalopolis makes it difficult to know when you leave one suburb and enter another.

melee

noun /'meleɪ/

a confused fight or scuffle

The melee in the hall was such that it was almost impossible to retain order.

M

9 to 11
age group

melodramatic

adjective /ˌmelədrəˈmætɪk/
exaggerated and overemotional
She enjoys telling her stories in a melodramatic way.

melody

noun /ˈmelədi/
a tune
The song had a pleasant melody.

membrane

noun /ˈmembreɪn/
a thin skin or similar covering
The cell membrane is made up of fats.

memorandum

noun /ˌmeməˈrændəm/
a record of a legal agreement which has not yet been formally prepared and signed
The government promised to sign a memorandum with the rebel leaders.

memorial

noun /məˈmɔːriəl/
something to remind people of a person or event
The memorial was built to honour soldiers killed in the war.

memorize

verb /ˈmeməraɪz/
to commit to memory
We had to memorize the entire list of words.

menace

noun /ˈmenəs/
a threat or danger
Speeding drivers are a menace to others on the road.

mentality

noun /menˈtælɪti/
a person's mental attitude
His negative mentality means he always expects the worst to happen.

mentor

noun /ˈmentɔː[r]/
an experienced and trusted adviser
I regard my grandmother as my mentor as she always gives sound advice.

merchandising

noun /ˈmɜːtʃəndaɪzɪŋ/
the selection and display of goods in a retail outlet
Quality merchandising increases the sales of a shop.

mercury

noun /ˈmɜːkjʊəri/
a heavy, silver metal that is usually liquid and used in thermometers
Our chemistry teacher taught us the properties of mercury.

merge

verb /mɜːdʒ/
to combine
The banks are set to merge next year.

messenger

noun /ˈmesɪndʒə[r]/
a person who carries or delivers a message
The messenger arrived on horseback.

metadata

noun /ˈmetədeɪtəl/
a set of data that describes and gives information about other data
The ratio of actual data with respect to metadata will continue to shrink.

metallic

adjective /mɪˈtælək/
relating to or resembling metal or metals
The bell had a harsh, metallic sound.

metallurgy

noun /ˈmetəˌlɜːdʒi, mɪˈtælədʒi/
the branch of science concerned with the properties of metals and their production
Metallurgy deals with extracting metals and refining them for use.

metaphysics

noun /ˌmetəˈfɪzɪks/

the branch of philosophy that deals with the nature of existence, truth, and knowledge
Metaphysics is a fascinating and vast subject.

metropolitan

adjective /ˌmetrəˈpɒlɪtən/

connected with a large or capital city
The bus service operated in the metropolitan area.

mettlesome

adjective /ˈmetəlsəm/

spirited, courageous, or valiant
The mettlesome horse kicked and bucked, but the rider kept her balance.

microbiology

noun /ˌmaɪkrəʊbɪˈɒlədʒi/

the branch of science that deals with microorganisms
To learn about bacteria one needs to study microbiology.

microprocessor

noun /ˌmaɪkrəʊˈprəʊsesə[r]/

an integrated circuit that contains all the functions of a central processing unit of a computer
The microprocessor contains the processing unit in a single chip.

minefield

noun /ˈmaɪnfɪld/

an area where explosive mines have been laid
The world's biggest minefield is the border between North and South Korea.

mineral

noun /ˈmɪnərəl/

a solid, naturally occurring inorganic substance
Zinc is a useful mineral.

miniaturize

verb /ˈmɪnətʃəraɪz/

to make on a smaller or miniature scale
It is necessary to miniaturize nuclear warheads before launching them on missiles.

ministry

noun /ˈmɪnɪstri/

a government department
The ministry of defence is responsible for the safety of the citizens.

minority

noun /maɪˈnɒrɪti/

a small group that is different from others
In Australia, Aborigines are a minority.

miscalculate

verb /ˌmɪsˈkælkjuleɪt/

to make a mistake in judging a situation or making a calculation
He tried hard not to miscalculate in making his assessment.

mischief

noun /ˈmɪstʃɪf/

naughty or troublesome behaviour
The naughty child was full of mischief.

misconception

noun /mɪskənˈsepʃən/

a view or opinion that is incorrect because it is based on faulty thinking or understanding
That the grass is greener on the other side of the fence is a misconception.

misconduct

noun /ˌmɪsˈkɒndʌkt/

bad behaviour
The principal scolded the student for his misconduct.

misconstrue

verb /ˌmɪskənˈstruː/

to mistake the meaning of
The counsellor advised the couple not to misconstrue what he was about to say.

misdemeanour

noun /ˌmɪsdɪˈmiːnə[r]/

an action that is bad or unacceptable, but not very serious
As it was only a small misdemeanour, the child was not punished.

M

9 to 11
age group

miserable

adjective /'mɪz[ə]rəbl/

very unhappy

I spent a miserable weekend at home alone.

mishap

noun /'mɪʃæp/

an unlucky accident

The employee was injured in a mishap at work.

mismanagement

noun /,mɪs'mænɪdʒmənt/

the act of running an organization badly or wrongly

The captain of the team was replaced due to his mismanagement.

missal

noun /'mɪsəl/

a book containing all that is said or sung at mass during the entire year

The primary purpose of the missal is to provide spoken and sung prayer texts for the assembly.

misshapen

adjective /,mɪs'ʃeɪpən/

having a form that is not normal or natural

His misshapen fingers were caused by arthritis.

mission

noun /'mɪʃn/

a military or scientific expedition

The explorers set out on a mission to the North Pole.

mistletoe

noun /'mɪsltəʊ/

an evergreen shrub with leathery leaves, yellowish flowers, and waxy white berries

They used mistletoe to decorate the house at Christmas.

mitre

noun /'maɪtə[r]/

a tall headdress worn by a bishop

The mitre was covered in white silk.

mobilize

verb /'məʊbəlaɪz/

to assemble people or things for a particular purpose, especially for war

The troops received orders to mobilize for war.

moderate

adjective /'mɒdərət/

between extremes

California has a moderate climate.

modernize

verb /'mɒdənaɪz/

to make a thing more up-to-date

We need to modernize our transport system.

moist

adjective /məɪst/

slightly wet

Wipe off any excess makeup with a clean moist cloth.

moisture

noun /'məɪstʃə[r]/

tiny drops of water in the air, on a surface, or in the ground

Moisture is bad for electronic equipment.

molecule

noun /'mɒlɪkjʊ:l/

the smallest part into which a substance can be divided without changing its chemical nature

We studied the structure of a molecule in chemistry class.

mollusc

noun /'mɒləsk/

any of a group of animals including snails, slugs, and mussels, with soft bodies, no backbones, and sometimes external shells

momentum

noun /mə'mentəm/

the ability to keep increasing or developing

The fight for his release gathers momentum each day.

mongrel

noun /'mʌŋgrəl/
a dog of mixed breeds

monochromatically

adverb /mɒnəʊkrə'mætɪkli/
containing or using only one colour
Some scenes in the film were filmed monochromatically.

monopolize

verb /mə'nɒpəlaɪz/
to keep or get control of the whole of something that others cannot share
She always likes to monopolize the conversation.

monotonous

adjective /mə'nɒtənəs/
boring because it does not change
The audience was getting bored by his monotonous speech.

monstrosity

noun /mɒn'strɒsɪti/
something that is extremely large and ugly
The new multi-storey car park is an utter monstrosity.

moot

adjective /mu:t/
unlikely to happen and therefore not worth considering
He argued that the issue had become moot since the board had changed its policy.

morass

noun /mə'ræs/
an area of muddy or boggy ground
In midwinter, the track beneath this bridge became a muddy morass.

morgue

noun /mɔ:g/
a mortuary, a building where dead bodies are kept before cremation or burial
Every hospital should have a morgue.

morpheme

noun /'mɔ:fɪm/
the smallest unit of meaning in a language
The word 'like' contains one morpheme but 'un-like-ly' contains three.

morphology

noun /mɔ:'fɒlədʒi/
the study of forms of things in particular
The morphology of the churchyard is a clear indicator of an early medieval origin.

motive

noun /'məʊtɪv/
a reason for doing something
There seemed to be no motive for the murder.

mountaineering

noun /ˌmaʊntə'niəriŋ/
the sport of climbing mountains
His passion for mountaineering led him to climb Mount Everest.

mountainous

adjective /'maʊntɪnəs/
having a lot of mountains
The government has decided to develop the mountainous areas.

mule

noun /mju:l/
an animal that is the offspring of a donkey and a mare, known for being stubborn

multicultural

adjective /ˌmʌltɪ'kʌltʃərəl/
for or including people of different races, religions, languages and traditions
Canada is a multicultural country.

multilingual

adjective /ˌmʌltɪ'liŋgwəl/
in or using several different languages
I went to the bookstore to purchase a multilingual phrase book.

M

9 to 11
age group

muscle

noun /'mʌsl/

bundles of fibrous tissue that can contract and relax to produce movement in parts of the body

Exercise will help strengthen your damaged muscle.

museum

noun /mju:'ziəm/

a place where interesting, old, or valuable objects are displayed for people to see

My mother loves spending time at the national art museum.

mussel

noun /'mʌsl/

a marine creature having two valves with a dark elongated shell

mysterious

adjective /mɪ'stɪəriəs/

puzzling

The mysterious circumstances of the murder were never fully resolved.

mystify

verb /'mɪstɪfaɪ/

to puzzle or bewilder

The strange events are sure to mystify everyone.

mystique

noun /mɪ'sti:k/

an aura of mystery, power, and awe that surrounds a person or thing

The actor had been attracted to his profession by the mystique of the theatre.

mythical

adjective /'mɪθɪkl/

occurring in or characteristic of myths or folk tales

The unicorn is a mythical creature.

naive

adjective /nɑː'iv, naɪ'iv/
showing a lack of experience, wisdom, or judgement
The naive child did not understand what was happening.

naphtha

noun /'næfθə, 'næpθə/
an essence or distillate of petroleum or coal
Naphtha is used as a solvent in paints and varnishes.

narrate

verb /nə'reɪt/
to tell
The teacher began to narrate a story to the class.

nationality

noun /'næʃə'nælɪti/
being born in or having citizenship in a particular country
All applicants will be considered, regardless of religion or nationality.

nautch

noun /nɔ:tʃ/
an intricate traditional Indian dance performed by professional dancing girls
The first thing we noticed at the Indian restaurant was the absence of flock wallpaper and posters of nautch dancing girls.

navigate

verb /'nævɪɡeɪt/
to make sure that a ship, aircraft, or vehicle is going in the right direction
In the olden days people used to navigate with the help of the stars.

necessarily

adverb /'nesɪ'serɪli, 'nesɪsərɪli/
as an inevitable or natural consequence
Wealth does not necessarily make you happy.

necessity

noun /nɪ'sesɪti/
the state or fact of being required
Clean drinking water is an absolute necessity.

negligence

noun /'neglɪdʒəns/
a lack of proper care or attention
The accident was the result of the driver's negligence.

negotiable

adjective /nɪ'ɡəʊʃɪəbl/
able to be changed after being discussed
He purchased the negotiable bonds from the agent.

Nematoda

noun /'nemə'təʊdə/
a large phylum of worms with slender, unsegmented, cylindrical bodies

neon

adjective /'niːn/
extremely bright or vivid
Her neon purple nail polish caught everyone's attention.

nestle

verb /'nesl/
to curl up comfortably
The cat loves to nestle in my lap.

neuralgia

noun /njoə'rældʒə/
intense, typically intermittent pain along the course of a nerve
I was diagnosed with neuralgia.

nimble

adjective /'nɪmbl/
quick and light in movement or action
He is a nimble fielder on the boundary line.

N

9 to 11
age group

nominate

verb /'nɒmɪneɪt/

to propose someone as a candidate in an election
The class decided to nominate Akbar for the post of prefect.

noncommittal

adjective /nɒnkə'mɪtəl/

not expressing or revealing commitment to a definite opinion or course of action
The minister gave a typically noncommittal reply.

nondescript

adjective /'nɒndɪskrɪpt/

lacking distinctive or interesting features or characteristics
He was just another nondescript face in the crowd.

nonsensical

adjective /nɒn'sensɪkl/

stupid and ridiculous
Osman comes up with the most nonsensical ideas.

northward

adjective /'nɔːθwəd/

moving, facing, or situated towards the north
The northward train arrived late.

notation

noun /nəʊ'teɪʃən/

a system of written symbols used to represent numbers, amounts, or elements
Scientific notation is useful for extremely large and small numbers.

noticeable

adjective /'nəʊtɪsəbl/

easily seen
The noticeable stain on the carpet was difficult to remove.

nourish

verb /'nʌrɪʃ/

to keep alive and well by means of food
Mammals nourish their young ones until they have grown.

novelist

noun /'nɒvəlɪst/

a person who writes novels
J.K. Rowling is a novelist.

nuclease

noun /'njuːkliːz/

an enzyme that cleaves the chains of nucleotides in nucleic acids into smaller units
An active nuclease will cleave the DNA at the sites indicated.

nuclein

noun /'njuːkliːn/

any of a group of proteins, containing phosphorus, that occur in the nuclei of living cells
Friedrich Miescher a Swiss physician and biologist was the first researcher to isolate and identify nuclein.

nuisance

noun /'njuːsns/

an annoying person or thing
My little brother is a nuisance.

numerator

noun /'njuːməreɪtə[r]/

the number above the line in a fraction
The numerator in the fraction is three.

numerous

adjective /'njuːməəs/

great in number
There were numerous votes cast in the election.

nurture

verb /'nɜːtʃə[r]/

to care for and protect someone or something while they are growing
Water and minerals are needed to nurture the seedlings.

nuzzle

verb /'nʌzl/

to rub gently with the nose
The mare likes to nuzzle her foal.



obconical

adjective /ɒb'kɒnɪkəl/

shaped like an inverted cone and attached at the pointed end

The carnivorous pitcher plant has pitcher elements that are obconical in shape to capture insects.

obedience

noun /ə'bi:diəns/

compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another's authority

Teachers expect obedience from students.

obi

noun /'əʊbi/

a broad sash worn round the waist of a Japanese kimono

Mr. Bekku's principal job as dresser was to wrap the obi around the kimono.

objectification

noun /ɒbdʒektɪfɪ'keɪʃn/

the act of treating people as if they are objects without rights or feelings of their own

Most of the advertisements on T.V. indulge in the objectification of women.

objectionable

adjective /əb'dʒekʃənəbl/

unpleasant or nasty

Teachers took offence to his objectionable behaviour.

obligation

noun /ɒblɪ'geɪʃn/

a duty

It is an obligation to look after your guests.

observant

adjective /əb'zɜ:vənt/

quick to notice things

He is quite an observant young man.

obstacle

noun /'ɒbstəkl/

something that stands in the way or hampers progress

The horse jumped over the obstacle with ease.

obstetrician

noun /ɒbstə'trɪʃn/

a doctor specially trained to deal with pregnancy and birth

Dr. Saad is a well known obstetrician.

occasional

adjective /ə'keɪʒənəl/

happening from time to time but not regularly

Ali makes occasional visits to the museum.

occidental

adjective /ɒksɪ'dentl/

relating to the countries of the West

Occidental culture has had a profound global effect.

occultation

noun /ɒkəl'teɪʃən/

temporary disappearance of a celestial body as it moves behind another body

An occultation occurs when an apparently larger body passes in front of an apparently smaller one.

occupational

adjective /ɒkjʊ'peɪʃənəl/

associated with one's job

Exposure to infections is an occupational risk for doctors.

octagonal

adjective /ɒk'tægənəl/

a flat shape with eight sides and eight angles

The new swimming pool is an octagonal shape.

octopoda

noun /ɒktə'pəʊdə/

an order of cephalopod molluscs that comprises the octopuses

An octopus is an octopoda.

odonata

noun /ɒdə'nɑ:təl/

an order of predatory insects comprising the dragonflies and damselflies

Dragonflies are an example of the odonata group of insects.



9 to 11 age group

okra

noun /'ɒkrə, 'əʊkrə/

a plant of the mallow family with long ridged seed pods

Okra is native to the Old World tropics.

olivine

noun /'ɒlɪvɪn/

a hard, olive green, grey green, or brown mineral

Olivine is sometimes used in making bricks.

omelette

noun /'ɒmlɪt/

eggs beaten together and cooked in a pan, often with a filling

I like to eat an omelette for breakfast.

omnivorous

adjective /ɒm'nɪvərəs/

eating all types of food, especially both plants and meat

Man is an omnivorous mammal.

onyx

noun /'ɒnɪks, 'əʊnɪks/

a semi-precious variety of agate with different colours in layers

I have a pendant made of onyx.

operate

verb /'ɒpəreɪt/

to make a machine work

She learnt how to operate the computer.

opponent

noun /ə'pəʊnənt/

a person or group opposing another in a contest or war

I had a tough opponent in the debating competition.

opportunist

noun /,ɒpə'tju:nɪst/

a person who is quick to seize opportunities

The businessman was a true opportunist.

opposition

noun /ɒpə'zɪʃn/

resistance

The invading army met with a lot of opposition.

optician

noun /ɒp'tɪʃən/

a person qualified to prescribe glasses and contact lenses and to detect eye diseases

The optician said coloured contact lenses may be harmful to the eyes.

option

noun /'ɒpʃn/

choice

I have the option of wearing black or white trousers.

orangutan

noun /ɔː'ræŋu:'tæn, ə'ræŋu:tæn/

a large, mainly solitary arboreal ape with long red hair, long arms, and hooked hands and feet

The orangutan is smaller than the gorilla.

orator

noun /'ɒrətə/

a public speaker, especially one who is eloquent or skilled

He is an orator of great power, and crowds flock to hear him.

orchard

noun /'ɔ:tʃəd/

an area planted with fruit trees

She had an orchard behind her house.

ordeal

noun /ɔ:'di:əl/

a very unpleasant and prolonged experience

The floods were a big ordeal for the farmers.

ordinal

adjective /'ɔ:dɪnəl/

relating to the order of something in a series

It has an ordinal rank of seventh in the listing.



ordinance

noun /'ɔːdɪnəns/

an authoritative order

An ordinance was issued banning the use of plastic bags.

organon

noun /'ɔːɡənɒn/

an instrument of thought, especially a means of reasoning or a system of logic

He defines logic as being neither a science nor an art, but, in keeping with the traditional meaning of the word organon, just an instrument.

oriental

adjective /ɔːri'entl, ɒri'entl/

of, from, or characteristic of Asia, especially East Asia
This restaurant serves oriental food.

originate

verb /ə'ɪdʒɪneɪt/

to happen or appear for the first time

The rumour did not originate from him.

orthography

noun /ɔː'θɒɡrəfi/

the conventional spelling system of a language

The two languages are essentially the same, but their orthography is different.

ostrich

noun /'ɒstrɪtʃ/

a flightless, swift-running African bird with a long neck, long legs, and two toes on each foot

outlandish

adjective /aʊt'lændɪʃ/

looking or sounding bizarre or unfamiliar

Her outlandish clothes made her noticeable.

outskirts

noun /'aʊtskɜːts/

the outer parts of a town or city

I live on the outskirts of Karachi.

ovation

noun /əʊ'veɪʃən/

a sustained and enthusiastic show of appreciation from an audience, especially by means of applause

She received a standing ovation for her performance.

overbearing

adjective /,əʊvə'beərɪŋ/

domineering

His overbearing attitude was disliked by all.

overwhelm

verb /,əʊvə'welɪn/

to overcome completely

We do not want to overwhelm you with requests for information.

oyster

noun /'ɔɪstə[r]/

a kind of shellfish whose shell sometimes contains a pearl

P

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age group

pacify

verb /'pæsɪfaɪ/

to calm

I tried to pacify the crying baby by giving her a toy.

packaging

noun /'pækɪdʒɪŋ/

material used to wrap an object

The packaging was sturdy enough to protect the goods.

paediatrician

noun /ˌpiːdiə'triʃn/

a doctor who studies and treats the diseases of children

They consulted a paediatrician when the baby refused to eat.

pagination

noun /ˌpædʒɪ'neɪʃən/

the sequence of numbers assigned to pages in a book

The new edition follows the same pagination as the original text.

painstaking

adjective /'peɪnzteɪkɪŋ/

very careful and thorough

He works with painstaking attention to detail.

palaeontology

noun /ˌpælɪən'tɒlədʒi, ˌpeɪlɪən'tɒlədʒi/

the branch of science concerned with fossil animals and plants

Her interest in dinosaurs led her to pursue a career in palaeontology.

palatial

adjective /pə'leɪʃəl/

resembling a palace in being spacious and splendid

She lives in a grand, palatial mansion.

palisade

noun /ˌpælɪ'seɪd/

a fence of wooden stakes or iron railings fixed in the ground, forming an enclosure or defence

The wooden palisade was not enough to stop the attackers.

palmistry

noun /'pɑːmɪstri/

the art or practice of interpreting a person's character or predicting their future by examining the lines and other features of the hand

According to the palmistry book, I have a travel line.

palpate

verb /pæl'peɪt, 'pælpeɪt/

to medically examine part of the body by touching it
For initial diagnosis doctors usually palpate the patient.

palsy

noun /'pɔːlzi/

complete or partial muscle paralysis

Her grandmother was bedridden after a severe attack of palsy.

pamper

verb /'pæmpə[r]/

to treat someone very kindly

My grandmother likes to pamper me by giving me sweets.

pamphlet

noun /'pæmfli:t/

a small booklet

The camera comes with a pamphlet which explains how it works.

pancreas

noun /'pæŋkriəs/

a gland near the stomach that secretes a digestive fluid

If the cells in the pancreas fail to produce insulin, you may develop diabetes.

pantograph

noun /'pæntəgrɑ:f/

a device used for copying a plan or drawing on a different scale

A pantograph has a scale system of hinged and jointed rods.

parachute

noun /'pærəʃu:t/

an umbrella-like device on which people or things can float to the ground from an aircraft

He fell ten thousand feet before opening his parachute.

parade

noun /pə'reɪd/

a procession that displays people or things

The school band was at the front of the parade.

paradiddle

noun /'pærəˌdɪdəl/

one of the basic patterns of drumming

He spent hours perfecting the paradiddle on the snare drum.

paradox

noun /'pærədɒks/

a self-contradictory statement that is or may be true

'More haste, less speed' is an example of a paradox.

paragon

noun /'pærəɡən/

a person or thing regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality

Cleopatra is regarded as a paragon of beauty.

parakeet

noun /'pærəki:t/

a small, long-tailed parrot

parallelism

noun /'pærələlɪzəm/

the state of being parallel or of corresponding in some way

I think he exaggerates the parallelism between the two cases.

paralysis

noun /pə'reɪləsɪs/

a state of being unable to move

A snake bite can sometimes cause paralysis.

paramedic

noun /,pærə'medɪk/

a person who is trained to do medical work, especially emergency first aid

He was given aid by a paramedic at the scene of the accident.

paramilitary

adjective /,pærə'mɪlɪtəri/

organized similarly to a military force

Fire brigades are also examples of paramilitary organizations.

paramount

adjective /'pærəmaʊnt/

more important than anything else

Her paramount goal was to win the race.

paraphrase

verb /'pærəfreɪz/

to give the meaning in different words

The teacher asked the class to paraphrase the poem.

parasitism

noun /'pærəsəɪtɪzəm/

the practice of living as a parasite on or with another animal or organism

These warblers have no known defence against cowbird parasitism.

paratrooper

noun /'pærətru:pə[r]/

a military person trained to parachute into combat

He always wanted to be a paratrooper because it seemed exciting.

parenthesis

noun /pə'renθɪsɪs/

a phrase, often explanatory or qualifying, inserted into a passage and marked off by brackets or dashes

He always states the name of his department in parenthesis.

P

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age group

parsley

noun /'pɑːsli/

a small, green plant used to flavour and decorate food

Garnish the pasta with parsley.

participate

verb /pɑː'tɪsɪpeɪt/

to take part in

They asked as many people as possible to participate in the charity event.

partridge

noun /'pɑːtrɪdʒ/

a short-tailed game bird with mainly brown plumage

passenger

noun /'pæsɪndʒə[r]/

a person who is driven or carried in a vehicle or aircraft

The passenger next to me slept through the whole flight.

passion

noun /'pæʃn/

great enthusiasm

Akbar has a passion for playing cricket.

pastry

noun /'peɪstri/

a dough made with flour, fat, and water, used as a base and covering in baked dishes such as pies

If the oven is too hot, the pastry might burn.

pasture

noun /'pɑːstʃə[r]/

land covered with grass that cattle or horses can eat

His horse is grazing in the pasture behind the house.

pathetic

adjective /pə'thetɪk/

arousing pity, especially through vulnerability or sadness

The kitten looked so pathetic that we brought it home.

patio

noun /'pætiəʊ/

a paved outdoor area adjoining a house

They decided to have lunch on the patio.

patriot

noun /'pætriət, 'peɪtriət/

a person who vigorously supports their country

I am a patriot, and I will support my country with fervour.

patroon

noun /pə'truːn/

a Dutch land-holder in New Netherland and New York with manorial rights in the colonial era

A patroon could create civil and criminal courts, appoint local officials and hold land in perpetuity.

pavement

noun /'peɪvmənt/

a flat part at the side of a road for people to walk on

The authorities removed the makeshift book stall on the pavement.

pavilion

noun /pə'vɪljən/

a building at a sports ground, especially a cricket pitch, in which players change

All of the batsman's sixes landed on the roof of the pavilion.

peasant

noun /'peznt/

a poor agricultural labourer of low social status

The peasant was very busy at harvest time.

pedestrian

noun /pɪ'destrɪən/

a person who is walking

A pedestrian should look in both directions before crossing the road.

pedicure

noun /'pedɪkjʊə[r]/

a cosmetic treatment of the feet and toenails

I have a regular pedicure to take care of my feet.

pedlar

noun /'pedlə[r]/

a person who goes from place to place selling small goods

The pedlar went from door to door selling shawls.

peevish

adjective /'pi:vɪʃ/

having or showing an irritable disposition

The celebrity became peevish when she was made to wait.

pelagic

adjective /pɪ'lædʒɪk/

relating to the open sea

The biologist studied the migratory behaviour of pelagic seabirds.

penalize

verb /'pi:nəlaɪz/

to punish

The teacher decided to penalize the student for not doing his homework.

penalty

noun /'penəlti/

a punishment imposed for breaking a law, rule, or contract

The penalty for speeding is usually a fine.

pendant

noun /'pendənt/

an ornament worn hanging on a chain around the neck

She is wearing a pink pendant to match her dress.

pendulum

noun /'pendjələm/

a weight hung so that it can swing to and fro, especially in a clock

The clock's pendulum needs to be repaired.

pensioner

noun /'penʃənə[r]/

a person who is receiving a pension, especially the retirement pension

The pensioner had to wait in a long line in the bank.

pentathlon

noun /pen'tæθlɒn, pen'tæθlən/

an athletic contest consisting of five events

The Czech athlete won a gold medal in the pentathlon.

perceive

verb /pə'si:v/

to become aware or conscious of something

He was quick to perceive that there was little future in such arguments.

perch

noun /pɜ:tʃ/

a place where a bird sits or rests

A crow was using the television antenna as a perch.

perchance

adverb /pə'tʃɑ:ns/

by some chance

Perchance we will meet in the future.

percipience

noun /pə'sɪpiəns/

a perceptive understanding of things

He is a novelist who reveals an exceptional percipience of human aspirations and desires.

perfectionist

noun /pə'fekʃənɪst/

a person who likes to do things perfectly

He is a perfectionist, and it shows in his work.

performance

noun /pə'fɔ:məns/

a formal exhibition or presentation before an audience

Sara's award winning performance in the play received a standing ovation.

P

9 to 11
age group

periodontal

adjective /ˌpɪəriəˈdɒntəl/

of, denoting, or affecting the gums and other tissues surrounding the teeth

Periodontal disease causes the gum margin to fall away from the teeth.

periscope

noun /ˈpɪrɪskəʊp/

a device with a tube and mirrors used on submarines to see over the water's surface

The crew of the submarine is blind without a periscope.

perpendicular

adjective /ˌpɜːpənˈdɪkjʊlə[r]/

at a right angle to a line or surface

The wall is perpendicular to the floor.

perseverance

noun /ˌpɜːsɪˈvɪərəns/

persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay

Your perseverance will lead you to success.

Persian

adjective /ˈpɜːʒn, ˈpɜːʃn/

relating to ancient Persia or modern Iran or its people or language

Persian carpets are beautiful.

persistent

adjective /pəˈsɪstənt/

determined to continue doing something

How do you deal with a persistent salesman who won't take no for an answer?

personable

adjective /ˈpɜːsənəbəl/

having a pleasant appearance and manner

He is a charming and personable young man.

personality

noun /ˌpɜːsəˈnælɪti/

a person's character

She has a cheerful personality.

perspective

noun /pəˈspektɪv/

viewpoint

The film gave me a new perspective on the subject.

perspiration

noun /ˌpɜːspɪˈreɪʃn/

the process of sweating

Exercise causes perspiration and an elevated heart rate.

pessimist

noun /ˈpesɪmɪst/

a person who expects that things will turn out badly

A pessimist always sees the glass as half empty.

petroleum

noun /pɪˈtrəʊliəm/

an oil found underground that is refined to make fuel

The price of petroleum has recently escalated.

petunia

noun /pɪˈtjuːniə/

a garden plant with brightly coloured, funnel-shaped flowers

This petunia plant won the prize because of its beautiful purple flowers.

phalanx

noun /ˈfælæŋks/

a body of troops or police officers standing or moving in close formation

A phalanx of army vehicles passed by swiftly.

phantom

noun /ˈfæntəm/

a ghost

He says he was attacked by a phantom, but nobody seems to believe him.

pheasant

noun /ˈfezənt/

a large, long-tailed game bird native to Asia

phenomenon**noun** /fɪˈnɒmɪnən/

an event or fact, especially one that is remarkable
The solar eclipse was quite a phenomenon.

phial**noun** /'faɪəl/

a small cylindrical glass bottle
The phial of medicine fell down and broke.

philharmonic**adjective** /ˌfɪlhɑː'mɒnɪk/

devoted to music, chiefly used in the names of orchestras
The philharmonic society sponsors a concert every month.

philosopher**noun** /fɪ'lɒsəfə[r]/

a person who has developed a set of ideas and beliefs about the meaning of life
Aristotle was a famous philosopher.

phonetic**adjective** /fə'netɪk/

relating to speech sounds
A phonetic alphabet connects each letter with a single sound.

phosphorus**noun** /'fɒsfərəs/

a chemical substance that glows in the dark
Phosphorous is an essential component of safety matches.

photographer**noun** /fə'tɒgrəfə[r]/

a person who takes photographs
The photographer is loading film into his camera.

photosynthesis**noun** /ˌfəʊtəʊ'sɪnθɪsɪs/

the process by which green plants use sunlight to turn carbon dioxide and water into food
Photosynthesis is a natural process which provides plants with food.

photovoltaic**adjective** /ˌfəʊtəʊvɒl'teɪk/

relating to the production of electric current at the junction of two substances exposed to light
Photovoltaic panels are becoming cheaper and more efficient.

physiotherapy**noun** /ˌfɪziəʊ'therəpi/

the treatment of disease, injury, or deformity by physical methods
Physiotherapy is prescribed after joint replacement surgery.

physique**noun** /fɪ'zi:k/

a person's build
The wrestler has a large physique.

picturesque**adjective** /ˌpɪktʃə'resk/

visually attractive, especially in a quaint or charming way
She couldn't take her eyes off the photograph of the picturesque cottage.

pigmentation**noun** /ˌpɪgmən'teɪʃn/

the coloring of a person's skin, especially when abnormal or distinctive
She has a skin disorder that affects the pigmentation in her skin.

pilgrimage**noun** /'pɪlgrɪmɪdʒ/

a journey to a holy place for religious reasons
Every year, Muslims from around the world gather at Mecca for the holy pilgrimage known as Hajj.

piscatory**adjective** /'pɪskətəri/

of or concerning fishermen or fishing
The natives of the island had piscatory vocations and hobbies.

P

9 to 11
age group

pistachio

noun /pɪ'stɑːʃiəʊ, pɪ'stætʃəʊ/
the edible, pale green seed of an Asian tree
I love the green pistachio ice cream.

planetarium

noun /ˌplænɪ'teəriəm/
a domed building in which images of stars and planets are projected onto the ceiling
We are going on a field trip to the planetarium.

plantation

noun /plæn'teɪʃən/
an estate on which crops such as coffee, sugar, and tobacco are grown
He owned a rubber plantation in Malaysia.

platoon

noun /plə'tuːn/
a subdivision of a company of soldiers
The small platoon of soldiers captured the enemy fort.

pleasurable

adjective /ˈpleʒərəbəl/
enjoyable
Our trip to the zoo was a pleasurable experience.

pledge

noun /pledʒ/
a solemn promise
The Girl Guides took a pledge to be good citizens.

plight

noun /plaɪt/
a difficult situation
The plight of the refugees brought tears to my eyes.

plunge

verb /plʌndʒ/
to jump or dive quickly and energetically
It was a mistake to plunge into the frigid water.

poacher

noun /'pəʊtʃə/
a pan for cooking eggs or other food by poaching
An egg poacher is used to cook eggs without oil or butter.

politician

noun /ˌpɒlɪ'tɪʃn/
one who is a member of parliament or of the government
The politician gave a wonderful speech.

pollination

noun /ˌpɒlɪ'neɪʃn/
fertilisation of a plant with pollen
Pollination usually takes place in spring.

pollution

noun /pə'luːʃn/
the presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects
Water pollution has killed many fish in this lake.

polyester

noun /ˌpɒlɪ'estə[r]/
a synthetic resin in which the polymer units are linked by ester groups
This material is a blend of polyester and cotton.

polytechnic

noun /ˌpɒlɪ'teknɪk/
an institution of higher education offering courses at degree level or below
At the polytechnic institute, courses are offered in textile designing.

polythene

noun /ˌpɒlɪθiːn/
a lightweight plastic used to make bags and wrappings
Our school discourages the use of polythene because it harms the environment.

pomegranate

noun /'pɒmɪgrænɪt/

a spherical fruit with a tough golden-orange outer skin
The pomegranate was juicy and sweet.

populace

noun /'pɒpjʊləs/

the people living in a particular country or area
The entire populace of the town turned out to greet the cricket team.

porcelain

noun /'pɔːsəlɪn/

a white, vitrified, translucent ceramic
The table was laid with porcelain china plates.

porcupine

noun /'pɔːkjuːpaɪn/

a small animal covered with long quills

portable

adjective /'pɔːtəbəl/

able to be carried
A laptop is a portable computer.

portfolio

noun /pɔːt'fəʊliəʊ/

a large, thin, flat case for loose sheets of paper such as drawings or maps
The artist kept all her drawings in a portfolio.

possession

noun /pə'zeʃn/

something you own
This collection of books is my most valuable possession.

possum

noun /'pɒsəm/

a tree-dwelling Australasian marsupial that typically has a prehensile tail

postpone

verb /,pəʊst'pəʊn/

to delay an event to take place at a later time than planned
They had to postpone the annual charity dinner because of rain.

postscript

noun /'pəʊstskɪpt/

an additional remark at the end of a letter after the signature
The writer gives further information in a postscript.

posture

noun /'pɒstʃə[r]/

a particular position of the body
His erect posture made him stand out in a crowd.

pottery

noun /'pɒtəri/

pots, dishes and other articles made of fired clay
Multan is famous for its blue and white pottery.

practical

adjective /'præktɪkl/

concerned with the actual doing or use of something rather than with theory and ideas
He is renowned for his practical approach.

practise

verb /'præktɪs/

to do something repeatedly in order to become better at it
You must practise playing the piano every day.

precarious

adjective /prɪ'keəriəs/

not very safe or secure
The museum is in a financially precarious position.

precaution

noun /prɪ'kɔːʃn/

something done to prevent future trouble or danger
She took the precaution of taking an umbrella with her in case it rained.

P

9 to 11
age group

predacious

adjective /ˈpriːdeɪʃəs/

predatory

He was studying the predacious behaviour of wolves.

predecessor

noun /ˈpriːdɪsəsə[r]/

an earlier person or thing

His predecessor retired after thirty years of service.

predicament

noun /ˈpriːdɪkəmənt/

an unfortunate or trying position

I am afraid we are in a bit of a predicament.

preferential

adjective /ˌˈprefəˈrenʃl/

unfairly favourable

Why should his son get preferential treatment at work?

prejudice

noun /ˈpredʒʊdɪs/

an unfavourable opinion or dislike formed without examining the facts fairly

His prejudice against his co-workers did not go unnoticed.

premiere

noun /ˈpremiə[r], ˈpremiə[r]/

the first public performance of a play or film

Julia Roberts attended the premiere of her new film.

premonition

noun /ˌˈpriːməˈnɪʃn, ˌˈpreməˈnɪʃn/

a feeling that something is about to happen, especially something bad

Aliya had a premonition that her cat was going to be ill.

preoccupied

adjective /ˈpriːˈɒkjʊpaɪd/

to dominate or engross the mind of someone to the exclusion of other thoughts

The preoccupied boy was too lost in his thoughts to notice anything wrong.

preposterous

adjective /ˈpriːpɒstərəs/

completely unreasonable

The insurance company refuses to pay for his preposterous claim.

prescience

noun /ˈpresɪəns/

the ability to know or appear to know about things before they happen

She showed great prescience in selling her shares just before the market crashed.

prescription

noun /ˈpriːskrɪpʃn/

a doctor's written order for medicine

The prescription made out by the doctor was not legible.

presentiment

noun /ˈpriːzɛntɪmənt, ˈpriːsɛntɪmənt/

an intuitive feeling about the future, especially one of foreboding

I had a presentiment this morning that my car was not going to start.

preserve

verb /ˈpriːˈzɜːv/

to keep something safe

We should preserve our culture for future generations.

presidential

adjective /ˌˈprezɪˈdenʃl/

pertaining to the president

The campaign for the presidential elections is at its peak these days.

prestige

noun /ˈpresˈtiː[dʒ]/

widespread respect and admiration felt for someone or something on the basis of their achievements or quality

She has earned prestige as a good teacher.

prestigious

adjective /pre'stɪdʒəs/
highly respected and admired
LUMS is a prestigious university.

presumably

adverb /pri'zju:məbli/
according to what you may suppose
Presumably the plane was late because of bad weather.

presumptuous

adjective /pri'zʌm[p]tʃʊəs/
too bold or confident
The duchess would not put up with presumptuous servants.

primadonna

noun /ˌpri:mə'dɒnə/
the main woman singer in an opera performance or an opera company
The primadonna will be remembered for her heart wrenching performance at the opera house in London.

primeval

adjective /praɪ'mi:vəl/
of the earliest time in history
In a primeval forest, the trees can be centuries old.

privileged

adjective /'prɪvəlɪdʒd/
having an advantage or opportunity that others do not have
He enjoyed a privileged childhood.

procedure

noun /prə'si:dʒə[r]/
an orderly way of doing something
The procedure for changing the fuse was a complex one.

procession

noun /prə'seʃən/
a number of people or vehicles moving forward in an orderly fashion
The procession moved slowly through the streets.

procrastination

noun /prəʊ,kɹæstɪ'neɪʃn/
the action of delaying or postponing something
His boss is tired of his constant procrastination on deadlines.

professor

noun /prə'fesə[r]/
a senior teacher at a university
The professor gave his students a long lecture.

proficient

adjective /prə'fɪʃənt/
competent or skilled in doing or using something
He is proficient in several languages.

progressive

adjective /prə'gresɪv/
happening or developing gradually or in stages
The progressive illness has weakened him greatly.

projector

noun /prə'dʒektə[r]/
a machine for showing films or photographs on a screen
The teacher used a projector to show us a film in class.

prominent

adjective /'prɒmɪnənt/
easily seen
The house stood in a prominent position.

prompt

adjective /prɒmpt/
without delay
I would like a prompt reply to my letter.

P

9 to 11
age group

pronunciation

noun /prəˌnʌnsɪ'eɪʃn/

the way a word is pronounced

Unless you have heard a word before, it is difficult to know its correct pronunciation.

proportional

noun /prə'pɔːʃənəl/

corresponding in size or amount to something else

The weight is not proportional to the height.

proprietor

noun /prə'praɪətə[r]/

the owner of a shop or business

The new proprietor plans to install security cameras in the shop.

prosecution

noun /ˌprɒsɪ'kjuːʃn/

the institution and conducting of legal proceedings against someone in respect of a criminal charge

There was a public outcry over the prosecution of political dissidents.

protein

noun /'prəʊtɪn/

a substance that is found in all living things and is an essential part of the food of animals

Beans and meat contain a lot of protein.

protestation

noun /ˌprɒtə'steɪʃn/

a solemn declaration, especially of dissent

She repeated her protestation of innocence.

provision

noun /prə'vɪʒən/

the action of providing or supplying something for use

Government's first responsibility is the provision of basic necessities to its citizens.

provoke

verb /prə'vəʊk/

to stimulate or give rise to a reaction or emotion in someone

Your bad behaviour will provoke her into punishing you.

pseudoscience

noun /'sjuːdəʊˌsaɪəns/

theories presumed without proof of a scientific nature

Even health care workers are falling for the pseudoscience behind this myth.

psychology

noun /saɪ'kɒlədʒi/

the study of the mind and how it influences behaviour

She spent three years at university studying psychology.

publication

noun /ˌpʌblɪ'keɪʃn/

a published book or newspaper

His publication won first prize at the convention.

publicity

noun /pʌb'lɪsɪti/

the attention that is given to somebody or something by media

There has been a great deal of publicity surrounding his disappearance.

pulsar

noun /'pʌlsɑːr/

a celestial object thought to be a rapidly rotating neutron star that emits regular pulses of radio waves

The radiation emitted by the pulsar is too weak to be observed on the earth with existing techniques.

punctuation

noun /ˌpʌŋktʃu'eɪʃn/

marks such as commas, full stops, and brackets put into a piece of writing to make it easier to read

She habitually neglects to use punctuation in her sentences.

pygmy

adjective /'pɪɡmi/

used in names of animals and plants that are much smaller than more typical kinds

The pygmy hippopotamus is one species facing extinction.

pyramid

noun /'pɪrəmid/

a structure with a square base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top

He made a pyramid from sand at the beach.

pyre

noun /'paɪə[r]/

a heap of combustibles for burning a corpse as a funeral rite

They built a high pyre on the bank of the river.

pyretic

adjective /paɪ'retɪk/

relating to or producing fever

The doctor did not feel the baby had any pyretic symptoms.

pyrotechnics

noun /ˌpaɪrəʊ'teknɪks/

a firework display

The kids these days don't have much of an attention span, so you have to give them pyrotechnics to keep them interested.

Pythagorean

adjective /paɪ,θæɡə'ri:ən/

relating to or characteristic of the Greek philosopher Pythagoras or his ideas

The Pythagorean theorem was my favourite topic at school.

python

noun /'paɪθən/

a large snake that kills its prey by coiling around and crushing it



9 to 11 age group

quadrilateral

noun /ˌkwɒdrɪˈlætərəl/

a flat geometric shape with four sides
A square is a quadrilateral.

quantifiable

adjective /kwɒntɪˈfaɪəbl/

able to be expressed or measured as a quantity
The research company based its report on the quantifiable data provided by the client.

quarantine

noun /ˈkwɒrəntɪn/

keeping a person or animal isolated in case they have a disease which could spread to others
The dog was kept in quarantine for six months.

quatrefoil

noun /ˈkætrəˌfɔɪl/

an ornamental design of four lobes or leaves as used in architectural tracery
The decorative quatrefoil on the wood cresting enhanced the ambience of the hallway.

quench

verb /kwentʃ/

to satisfy your thirst by drinking
He drank some juice to quench his thirst.

query

noun /ˈkwɪəri/

a question
You must submit your query in writing.

quest

noun /kwest/

a long search for something
His quest to find the treasure was unsuccessful.

questionable

adjective /ˈkwestʃənəbl/

doubtful as regards truth or validity
He refused to sign the questionable contract.

queue

noun /kju:/

a line of people or vehicles waiting for something
There was a long queue of people outside the cinema hall.

quota

noun /ˈkwəʊtə/

a limited amount
You have had your quota of sweets for today.

quote

verb /kwəʊt/

to repeat words that were first written or spoken by someone else
She decided to quote Shakespeare in her speech.

quotient

noun /ˈkwəʊʃnt/

the result of dividing one number by another
When six is divided by three, the quotient is two.

rabies

noun /'reɪbiːz/

a fatal disease that affects dogs, cats, and can be passed to humans by the bite of an infected animal
Pets must be vaccinated against rabies.

racism

noun /'reɪsɪzəm/

discrimination against or hostility towards people of other races
Let's all work towards ending racism.

radiant

adjective /'reɪdɪənt/

looking very bright and happy
Women turned and looked at the radiant bride.

radicalization

noun /ˌrædɪkəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/

the action or process of causing someone to adopt radical positions on political or social issues
There was a grand coalition in Germany in the late 1960s, which was also a time of growing radicalisation.

radioactive

adjective /ˌreɪdɪəʊ'æktɪv/

sending out harmful radiation caused when central parts of atoms are broken up
Radioactive waste from industries is polluting our rivers.

radius

noun /'reɪdɪəs/

the distance from the centre of a circle to the circumference
The radius of a circle may be used to calculate its area.

ragged

adjective /'ræɡɪd/

old and torn
The poor man was wearing ragged clothes.

ramshackle

adjective /'ræmʃækəl/

badly made and needing repair
The ramshackle hut fell down during the storm.

ransack

verb /'rænsæk/

to go through a place stealing things and causing damage
The thief had time to ransack the apartment looking for money and valuables.

rapture

noun /'ræptʃə[r]/

a feeling of extreme pleasure and happiness
The children gazed at her in rapture when she agreed to take them out for a picnic.

raspberry

noun /'ræzbəri/

a small, soft red fruit
Raspberry ice cream is delicious.

rasping

adjective /'rɑːspɪŋ/

harsh-sounding and unpleasant
She opened her mouth to try and speak, but all she could manage was a rasping croak.

ratio

noun /'reɪʃəʊ/

the quantitative relationship between two amounts
Mix flour and butter in the ratio of two to one.

ravage

verb /'rævɪdʒ/

to cause severe and extensive damage
Floods will ravage this entire town.

reassurance

noun /ˌriːə'ʃʊərəns/

advice or help that you give somebody to restore their confidence
When the toddler fell down he looked at his mother for reassurance.

R

9 to 11
age group

rebellious

adjective /rɪ'beljəs/

showing a tendency towards rebellion

The rebellious outlaw was in trouble with the police.

receiver

noun /rɪ'si:və[r]/

something that receives electrically transmitted sounds

She picked up the telephone receiver to answer a call.

reception

noun /rɪ'sepʃn/

a formal party

A wedding reception was held for the bride and groom.

recession

noun /rɪ'seʃn/

a reduction in a country's trade or prosperity

A recession is bad for the country's economy.

recipe

noun /'resɪpi/

instructions for cooking or preparing food

Mehr followed a recipe to bake a chocolate cake.

reciprocate

verb /rɪ'sɪprəkeɪt/

to give or feel in return

I must reciprocate his generosity with a gift.

reckless

adjective /'rekləs/

ignoring risk or danger

One day the reckless driver will crash.

recognize

verb /'rekəɡnaɪz/

to know who someone is or what something is because you have seen that person or thing before

She did not recognize me after such a long time.

recommendation

noun /ˌrekəmen'deɪʃn/

the act of saying that a person or thing would be good or suitable for a particular job or purpose

The principal's recommendation helped me get the scholarship.

reconcile

verb /'rekənsaɪl/

to restore friendly relations between

The mediator tried to reconcile the feuding tribes.

reconstruct

verb /ˌri:kən'strʌkt/

to rebuild

We will have to reconstruct the buildings damaged by the earthquake.

recoup

verb /rɪ'ku:p/

to get back an amount of money that you have spent or lost

They were hoping to recoup the money they had lost.

redundant

adjective /rɪ'dʌndənt/

no longer needed

The redundant typewriters were sold when the office was computerised.

referee

noun /refə'ri:/

an official who watches a game or match closely to ensure that the rules are adhered to

The referee sent two of the players off the field.

reference

noun /'refərəns/

the action of mentioning or alluding to something

There was no reference to recent events.

reflection

noun /rɪ'flekʃn/

the image produced by a reflecting surface

She could see her reflection in the shiny metal tray.

refrigerator

noun /rɪ'frɪdʒəreɪtə[r]/

a cabinet or room in which food is stored at a very low temperature

Last night's food is in the refrigerator.

refugee

noun /ˌrefʃʊ'dʒiː/

someone who has had to leave their home or country and seek safety elsewhere

The refugee fled from his war-torn country.

regeneration

noun /rɪ,dʒenə'reɪʃn/

the regrowth and redevelopment of something that has been damaged or destroyed

We desperately need to work on the regeneration of forested areas.

rehabilitate

verb /rɪ:hə'bɪlɪteɪt/

to restore someone to health or normal life by training and therapy

It took a long time to rehabilitate him after the accident.

rehearse

verb /rɪ'hɜːs/

to practise a play or music

We only had two weeks to rehearse before the final showing.

relentless

adjective /rɪ'lentləs/

not stopping

The relentless rain caused floods.

relevant

adjective /ˈreləvənt/

connected with what is being discussed or dealt with

She circulated the letter to all the relevant institutions.

reliable

adjective /rɪ'laɪəbl/

able to be trusted

The encyclopaedia is a reliable source of information.

religious

adjective /rɪ'lɪdʒəs/

concerned with religion

Arif's father is a religious scholar.

relinquish

verb /rɪ'lɪŋkwɪʃ/

to voluntarily cease to keep or claim

The queen will relinquish control of the country.

remarkable

adjective /rɪ'mɑːkəbl/

unusual or extraordinary

He climbed over the wall with remarkable ease.

rendezvous

noun /ˈrɒndɪvuː, ˈrɒndɪvuː/

a meeting at an agreed time and place

We had arranged a rendezvous at the café.

renunciation

noun /rɪˌnʌnsɪ'eɪʃn/

the formal rejection of something

Do not sign this renunciation of your rights until you have consulted a lawyer.

repercussion

noun /ˌrɪ:pəˈkʌʃn/

an indirect and usually bad result of an action or event

Analysts felt the downfall in the stock market was a repercussion of the terrorist attacks.

repetition

noun /ˌrepɪ'tɪʃən/

the action of repeating something that has already been said or written

After much repetition he finally got the equation right.

reputation

noun /ˌrepjuː'teɪʃn/

what people say about a person or thing

I'm aware of Mark's reputation for being late.

R

9 to 11
age group

request

verb /rɪ'kwest/
to politely or formally ask for
Please request a meeting with the mayor.

resemblance

noun /rɪ'zembləns/
similar traits
There was a remarkable resemblance between Ali and Harris.

resentment

noun /rɪ'zentmənt/
bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly
Poverty breeds resentment and envy.

residential

adjective /rɪ'zɪdɪəntʃl/
containing people's homes
There is a strict law against making noise in residential areas.

resilient

adjective /rɪ'zɪliənt/
able to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching, or being compressed
The resilient ball bounced very high.

resolution

noun /rɪ'zɒluːʃn/
something you have decided to do
I made a resolution to study hard for my exams.

resourceful

adjective /rɪ'sɔːsfʊl, rɪ'zɔːsfʊl/
having the ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties
He is an able and resourceful politician.

respiration

noun /rɪ'spi'reɪʃn/
breathing
Running increases your rate of respiration.

respire

verb /rɪ'spaɪə[r]/
to breathe
We use our lungs to respire.

respite

noun /'respait, 'respɪt/
an interval of rest or relief
The meteorological department predicted that the bad weather would continue throughout the week without respite.

responsible

adjective /rɪ'spɒnsɪbl/
reliable and trustworthy
Ali is a responsible student.

restaurant

noun /'rest[ə]rɒnt, 'restr[ə]nt/
a place where you can buy and eat a meal
The new restaurant serves good Chinese food.

retention

noun /rɪ'tenʃən/
the continued possession, use, or control of something
Retention of his control was the dictator's primary goal.

retrieve

verb /rɪ'triːv/
to bring or get something back
The dog ran to retrieve the ball.

retroactive

adjective /rɪ'trəʊ'æktɪv/
taking effect from a particular date in the past rather than from the present date
The public was pleased with the retroactive ruling of the court.

retrospective

adjective /rɪ'trəʊ'spektɪv/
looking to the past
This is a retrospective exhibition of the painter's work.

rhinoceros

noun /raɪ'nɒsərəs/

a large, heavy animal with one or two horns on its nose

rhinovirus

noun /'raɪnəʊˌvaɪrəs/

any of various viruses that occur in the human respiratory tract and cause diseases, such as the common cold

Diagnostic difficulties may have led to underestimation of rhinovirus infections in long-term care facilities.

rhubarb

noun /'ru:bɑ:b/

a plant with thick reddish stalks that are cooked and eaten as fruit

I like pies made from rhubarb.

rhythm

noun /'rɪðəm/

a regular pattern of beats, sounds, or movements

This song has a pleasant rhythm.

ridiculous

adjective /rɪ'dɪkjʊləs/

very silly or unreasonable

She was wearing a ridiculous hat.

rinderpest

noun /'rɪndəpest/

an acute contagious viral disease of cattle

The cattle imported from Australia were infected with rinderpest.

ritualistic

adjective /ˌrɪtʃʊə'lɪstɪk/

relating to or characteristic of rituals followed as part of a religious or solemn ceremony

She was well acquainted with the ritualistic nature of the graduation ceremony.

Romanesque

adjective /ˌrəʊmə'nesk/

relating to a style of architecture which prevailed in Europe from the 10th to the 13th century

We toured several Romanesque churches on our trip to Europe.

romanticize

verb /rəʊ'mæntɪsaɪz/

to make something seem more attractive or interesting than it really is

I like her novel because it refuses to romanticize the grim realities of war.

rookery

noun /'rʊkəri/

a breeding colony of rooks, seabirds, seals, or turtles

Conservationists are making efforts to protect Cape Lisburne, an important bird rookery.

Rottweiler

noun /'rɒtwaɪlə, 'rɒtvɑɪlə/

a large powerful dog of a tall black-and-tan breed

rouble

noun /'ru:bl/

the unit of money in Russia

The Russian rouble cannot be used in America.

ruckus

noun /'rʌkəs/

a row or commotion

They were shouting, and it created a big ruckus.

rudimentary

adjective /ˌru:drɪ'mentəri/

involving or limited to basic principles

His dancing was limited to a few rudimentary steps.

rugged

adjective /'rʌɡɪd/

having an uneven surface or outline

A jeep is designed to travel over rugged terrain.

R

9 to 11
age group

ruination

noun /ruːˈneɪʃən/

a state of destruction or collapse

His ruination was caused by living beyond his means.

rumour

noun /ˈruːmə[r]/

a currently circulating story or report of uncertain or doubtful truth

I heard a rumour that they are getting married.

sabotage

verb /'sæbətɑːʒ/

to deliberately destroy, damage, or obstruct something, especially for political or military advantage

The spies tried to sabotage the military's communication systems.

sacrificial

adjective /ˌsækrɪ'fɪʃl/

given up in order to obtain something of greater value
Sacrificial animals are usually taken care of very well.

salary

noun /'sæləri/

a regular wage

Due to my hard work, my employer increased my salary.

saliva

noun /sə'laɪvə/

the natural liquid in a person's or animal's mouth
Saliva plays an important part in digesting starch.

salmon

noun /'sæmən/

a large, edible fish with pink flesh

salmonella

noun /ˌsælmə'nelə/

a bacterium that occurs mainly in the gut, especially a serotype causing food poisoning
Melons contaminated with salmonella caused the outbreak of food poisoning.

saltation

noun /sæl'teɪʃən, sɒl'teɪʃən/

abrupt evolutionary change

New genetic characters appear suddenly by saltation.

saltire

noun /'sɔːltɑɪə[r], 'sæltɑɪə[r]/

a heraldic symbol in the form of a diagonal cross

The saltire appears on numerous flags, including those of Scotland and Jamaica.

sanctity

noun /'sæŋktɪti/

holiness

Visitors to a mosque should respect its sanctity.

sapphire

noun /'sæfaɪə[r]/

a bright blue jewel

Her favourite jewel was a large, blue sapphire.

sashay

verb /sæ'ʃeɪ/

to walk in an ostentatious yet casual manner, typically with exaggerated movements of the hips and shoulders

The designer told the model to sashay down the runway.

satire

noun /'sætɑɪə[r]/

critical humour

The novel is full of political satire.

sausage

noun /'sɒsɪdʒ/

a food item in the form of a cylindrical length of minced meat encased in a skin

We had sausage and eggs for breakfast today.

savage

adjective /'sævɪdʒ/

fierce, violent, and uncontrolled

The savage dog tried to bite the man.

saviour

noun /'seɪvjə[r]/

a person who saves someone

The fireman was hailed as a saviour by the people he rescued from the burning building.

scalar

adjective /'skeɪlə[r]/

describing a quantity having only magnitude and not direction

Unlike scalar quantities, vectors have magnitude and direction.

S

9 to 11
age group

scald

verb /sko:ld/

to burn with hot liquid or steam

Be careful, the hot coffee might scald your mouth.

scarecrow

noun /'skeəkrəʊ/

a figure of a person set up to frighten birds away from crops

The birds have stopped paying attention to the scarecrow.

scene

noun /si:n/

the place where something has happened

The police arrived at the scene of the crime.

schedule

noun /'ʃedju:l, 'skedju:l/

a timetable of planned events or work

I have a busy schedule today.

scheme

noun /ski:m/

a plan of action

His scheme to make money proved fruitful.

scholarship

noun /'skɒləʃɪp/

a grant of money given to someone to help pay for his or her education

The scholarship was awarded based on merit.

scissors

plural noun /'sɪzəz/

a tool for cutting that has two sharp parts that are joined together

The scissors need to be sharpened.

scorch

verb /sko:tʃ/

to burn the surface of something with flame or heat

You will scorch the dress with the iron.

scramble

verb /'skræmb/

to move hurriedly or clumsily from or into a particular place or position

We always scramble into our desks at the sound of the bell.

screwdriver

noun /'skru:draɪvə[r]/

a tool for turning screws

The robber used a screwdriver to unscrew the door's hinges.

scripture

noun /'skriptʃə/

the sacred writings of a religion

Religious people like to quote scripture.

scull

noun /skʌl/

each of a pair of small oars used by a single rower

He had a callous on his hand where the scull rubbed.

sculpture

noun /'skʌlptʃə/

the art of making two-or three-dimensional representative or abstract forms

She went to art school to study sculpture and painting.

seasoning

noun /'si:zənɪŋ/

a substance used to season or add flavour to food, especially salt and pepper

I felt the salad could do with a little more seasoning.

secluded

adjective /sɪ'klu:dɪd/

quiet or sheltered from view

They picnicked on a secluded beach.

secretary

noun /'sekɪtəri/

a person whose job is to help with letters, answer the telephone, and make business arrangements for a person or organisation

His new secretary is very efficient.

secure

adjective /sɪ'kjʊə[r]/

safe

I hid my money in a secure place.

sedative

noun /'sedətɪv/

a drug that makes one sleep or feel calm and relaxed

The doctor prescribed him a sedative for his anxiety attacks.

seldom

adverb /'seldəm/

rarely

It is very seldom that I have time to visit the cinema.

sensitivity

noun /,sensə'tɪvɪti/

understanding of the feelings of others

Her sensitivity towards animals inspired her to become a vet.

separate

adjective /'sepəreɪ/

not shared

My sister and I have separate rooms.

sequence

noun /'si:kwəns/

the order in which things occur

The sequence of events was listed on the website.

serpent

noun /'sɜ:pənt/

a snake

shallow

adjective /'ʃæləʊ/

not deep

The food was served in a shallow dish.

sharpen

verb /'ʃɑ:pən/

to make or become sharp

Mehr decided to sharpen her pencils.

sharpshooter

noun /'ʃɑ:pʃu:tə[r]/

a proficient marksman

The sharpshooter never missed the mark.

sheer

adjective /ʃiə[r]/

nothing other than or unmitigated

He succeeded as a result of sheer luck.

shepherd

noun /'ʃepəd/

a person whose job is to look after sheep

The shepherd fell asleep and lost his sheep.

sheriff

noun /'ʃerɪf/

the chief law officer of a county

The sheriff was in charge of law and order in the town.

shovel

noun /'ʃʌvəl/

a tool like a spade with the sides turned up, used for lifting coal, sand, earth or snow

Each miner carried a lamp and a shovel.

shrewd

adjective /'ʃru:d/

having common sense and good judgement

He is a very shrewd man.

shrimp

noun /'ʃrɪmp/

a small shellfish, pink when boiled

shrubbery

noun /'ʃrʌbəri/

an area planted with shrubs

The rabbit hid in the shrubbery.

sightseeing

noun /'saɪtsi:ɪŋ/

the activity of visiting places of interest in a particular location

Sightseeing is a popular activity while on vacation.

S

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age group

signature

noun /ˈsɪɡnətʃə[r]/

a person's name written by himself or herself
My signature was required on the document.

significance

noun /sɪɡˈnɪfɪkəns/

importance
This new drug has great significance for the treatment of the disease.

silencer

noun /ˈsaɪlənsə[r]/

a device for reducing the sound made by a gun or a vehicle's exhaust system
A car without a silencer is very noisy.

silken

adjective /ˈsɪlkən/

made of silk
The wedding gown was made of silken silver fabric.

simultaneously

adverb /sɪmlɪˈteɪniəsli/

at the same time
She studies and listens to music simultaneously.

siren

noun /ˈsaɪrən/

a device that makes a long, loud sound as a warning
The police car had flashing lights and a siren.

skewer

noun /ˈskjuə[r]/

a long pin or stick for holding meat in position while being cooked
She put the chicken pieces on a skewer for barbecuing.

skilful

adjective /ˈskɪlfʊl/

having or showing great skill
He is a skilful craftsman.

sledgehammer

noun /ˈsledʒhæmə[r]/

a very large, heavy hammer
The labourer knocked the remaining wall down with a sledgehammer.

sleigh

noun /sleɪ/

a sledge drawn by horses or reindeer
The horses were having a hard time pulling the overloaded sleigh.

smear

verb /smɪə[r]/

to rub something greasy, sticky or dirty on a surface
I watched the child smear his food all over the table.

snuffed

past tense verb /ˈsnʌft/

extinguished a candle or flame
A breeze snuffed out the candle.

solitary

adjective /ˈsɒlɪtəri/

done or existing alone
Her grandmother has been living a solitary life in the huge house.

solitude

noun /ˈsɒlɪtjuːd/

the state or situation of being alone
She likes solitude and prefers her own company.

sorcerer

noun /ˈsɔːsərə[r]/

a person who can perform magic
The sorcerer made a dragon appear magically from smoke.

sousaphone

noun /ˈsuːzəfəʊn/

an American form of tuba with a wide bell pointing forward above the player's head, used in marching bands
The student marched with a sousaphone in the parade.

spaghetti

plural noun /spəˈɡeti/

pasta made in solid strings, between macaroni and vermicelli in thickness

She makes delicious spaghetti and meatballs.

spatula

noun /ˈspætjələ/

a tool with a broad, flat blade used for mixing and spreading things, especially in cooking

I used a rubber spatula to get all the sauce out.

specialist

noun /ˈspeʃəlist/

a person who concentrates primarily on a particular subject or activity

He had to see a specialist for his condition.

species

noun /ˈspiːsiːz, ˈspiːʃiːz/

a group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding

The dodo is an extinct species of bird.

specimen

noun /ˈspesɪmən/

an individual or piece of something used as an example of its species or type for study or display

That is a fine specimen of an oak tree.

spectacular

adjective /spekˈtækjələ[r]/

impressive or striking

The Olympics are a spectacular event.

speedometer

noun /spiːˈdɒmɪtə[r]/

a device showing a vehicle's speed

I think your speedometer might be malfunctioning.

sphinx

noun /sfɪŋks/

an ancient Egyptian stone figure having a lion's body and a human or animal head

The huge sphinx near the pyramids has a broken nose.

spinach

noun /ˈspɪnɪʃ, ˈspɪnɪdʒ/

a vegetable with dark green leaves

They had spinach for dinner.

spinmeister

noun /ˈspɪn,maɪstə/

an accomplished or politically powerful spin doctor

The spinmeister has played a very significant role in improving the rating of his political party.

spontaneous

adjective /spɒnˈteɪniəs/

happening or done without planning or forethought

Spontaneous laughter is a beautiful thing.

spoonerism

noun /ˈspuːnəˌrɪzəm/

a verbal error in which a speaker accidentally transposes the initial sounds or letters of two or more words

The students laughed at the teacher's spoonerism.

sprinkle

verb /ˈsprɪŋkl/

to make tiny drops or pieces fall on something

Mehr decided to sprinkle glitter over her artwork.

spurt

verb /spɜːt/

to gush out in a sudden and forceful stream

He watched the water spurt out of the pump.

squadron

noun /ˈskwɒdrən/

an operational unit in an air force consisting of two or more flights of aircraft and personnel

His squadron will be deploying soon.

squib

noun /skwɪb/

a small firework that burns with a hissing sound before exploding

He was injured when the squib exploded in his hand.

S

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age group

squid

noun /skwɪd/

a cephalopod mollusc with eight arms and two long tentacles

squirt

verb /skwɜːt/

to cause a liquid to be ejected from a small opening in a thin, fast stream or jet
The soda will squirt out of the can if shaken.

stabilize

verb /'steɪbalaɪz/

to make or become unlikely to overturn, change, fail or decline
The doctor will first stabilize his condition.

staggeringly

adverb /'stægərɪŋli/

to a large extent or degree
It was a staggeringly inappropriate comment to make at a funeral.

stallion

noun /'stæljən/

a male horse

stampede

noun /stæm'piːd/

a sudden rush by animals or people
The stampede at the football stadium caused many injuries.

stationary

adjective /'steɪʃənəri/

not moving or not intended to be moved
The car remained stationary.

statistician

noun /,stætɪ'stɪʃn/

a person who studies or works with statistics
The statistician was requested to supply the government with figures on rural health care workers.

statistics

noun /stə'tɪstɪks/

the study of information based on the numbers of things
According to official statistics, the disease killed over 500 people.

statue

noun /'stætʃuː, 'stætjuː/

a carved or cast figure of a person or animal
A bronze statue of the brave soldier was placed in the town square.

statuesque

adjective /stætʃu'esk, stætju'esk/

attractively tall, graceful, and dignified
The statuesque Miss USA won the Miss World title.

steak

noun /steɪk/

a thick slice of meat or fish
I would like to have steak for dinner.

stealthy

adjective /'stelθi/

behaving or done in a cautious and secret manner, so as not to be seen or heard
The stealthy tiger approached the deer.

stethoscope

noun /'steθəskəʊp/

an instrument used by doctors to listen to the chest, heart and lungs
The doctor listened to his heart using a stethoscope.

stimulating

adjective /'stɪmjʊleɪtɪŋ/

full of interesting or exciting ideas
They had a stimulating discussion.

stollen

noun /'stɒləŋ, 'ʃtɒləŋ/

a rich German fruit and nut loaf
Stollen is usually eaten during the Christmas season in Germany.

stouthearted

adjective /ˌstaʊtˈhɑːtɪd/

valiant and brave

We should honour our stouthearted policemen who risk their lives for us.

straddling

present participle /ˈstrædəlɪŋ/

to sit or stand with one leg on either side of something

He sat there straddling the motorcycle.

strafe

verb /straːf, streɪf/

to attack repeatedly with bombs or machine-gun fire from low-flying aircraft

The enemy planes returned to strafe the ship launches which were in the water.

straighten

verb /ˈstreɪtn/

to make or become straight

Straighten up slowly, then repeat the exercise ten times.

stratification

noun /ˌstrætɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/

the arrangement of sedimentary rocks in distinct layers

It is possible to see the stratification of rocks in the Salt Range.

stratosphere

noun /ˈstrætəsfiə[r]/

a layer of the atmosphere between 10 and 50 kilometers above the Earth's surface

The air is very thin in the stratosphere.

structure

noun /ˈstrʌktʃə[r]/

the arrangement of and relations between the parts or elements of something complex

The structure of the brain is really complex.

studious

adjective /ˈstjuːdiəs/

spending a lot of time studying or reading

The studious girl did well on her exams.

subaqueous

adjective /sʌbˈeɪkwɪəs/

existing, formed, or taking place under water

Subaqueous rocks can be dangerous for divers.

subdue

verb /səbˈdjuː/

to overcome, quieten, or bring under control

I do not want to subdue his high spirits and enthusiasm.

submarine

noun /ˌsʌbməˈriːn, ˈsʌbməriːn/

a ship that can travel underwater

The submarine stayed underwater for a whole week.

subordinate

adjective /səˈbɔːdɪnət/

lower in rank or position

As a subordinate, he must obey his seniors.

subside

verb /səbˈsaɪd/

to become less intense, violent, or severe

She needed to go to the market, but she had to wait for the storm to subside.

substantial

adjective /səbˈstænʃl/

of considerable size, value or importance

She received a substantial raise in her salary last month.

S

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age group

substitute

noun /ˈsʌbstɪtjuːt/

a person or thing that acts or is used instead of another

The doctor advised them to substitute regular milk with fat-free milk.

sufficient

adjective /səˈfɪʃnt/

enough

There was sufficient evidence to bring the case to trial.

suffocate

verb /ˈsʌfəkeɪt/

to die or cause to die from lack of air or inability to breathe

A baby may suffocate if it sleeps with a pillow.

sully

verb /ˈsʌli/

to damage the purity or integrity of something

They were outraged that anyone should sully their good name.

supererogatory

adjective /ˌsuːpəriˈrɒɡətəri/

above and beyond the call of duty

In some schools of thought, donating money to charity is regarded as supererogatory.

superficial

adjective /ˌsuːpəˈfɪʃl/

only affecting the surface

He only suffered some superficial injuries in the accident.

superintendent

noun /ˌsuːpəriˈtendənt/

a person with authority to manage and control

The superintendent of the nightshift is responsible for the security of the building.

supersonic

adjective /ˌsuːpəˈsɒnɪk/

faster than the speed of sound

Modern military jets travel at supersonic speeds.

supplementary

adjective /ˌsʌplɪˈmentəri/

additional

The paper had three supplementary answer sheets.

surgeon

noun /ˈsɜːdʒən/

a doctor who treats an injury by operating on the affected part of the body

The surgeon operated on the patient.

suspense

noun /səˈspens/

an anxious or uncertain feeling while waiting for something to happen or become known

The suspense kept the audience glued to their seats.

suspicious

adjective /səˈspɪʃəs/

having or showing a cautious distrust of someone or something

The suspicious behaviour of the man alerted the police.

syllable

noun /ˈsɪləbəl/

any of the units into which a word is divided, containing a vowel and one or more consonants

'Potato' is stressed on the second syllable.

symmetrical

adjective /sɪˈmetrɪkəl/

made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis

She cut the cake in symmetrical pieces.

symptom

noun /'sɪmptəm/

a physical or mental feature which is regarded as indicating a condition of disease

High fever is a symptom of influenza.

synagogue

noun /'sɪnəɡɒɡ/

a place where Jews meet for worship

Jacob goes to the synagogue every Saturday.

systematic

adjective /sɪstə'mætɪk/

done or acting according to a fixed plan or system

The police were conducting a systematic investigation of the criminal's house.

T

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age group

taconite

noun /'tækənait/
low-grade iron ore
The iron content in taconite is about 25-30%.

talkative

adjective /'tɔːkətɪv/
fond of or given to talking
She is a talkative person.

tamarind

noun /'tæməɪnd/
sticky brown acidic pulp from the pod of a tree of the pea family
The tamarind chutney was quite sour.

tantalizing

adjective /'tæntəlaɪzɪŋ/
teasing or tempting a person by showing him or her something good but keeping it out of reach
The tantalizing smell of freshly baked cookies brought him to the kitchen.

tantalum

noun /'tæntələm/
chemical element number 73, a hard silver-grey metal of the transition series
Tantalum is used in the production of electronic parts.

tattoo

noun /tæ'tuː/
a picture on somebody's skin
I have a butterfly tattoo on my left arm.

tauntingly

adverb /'tɔːntɪŋli/
in a manner intended to provoke or challenge someone with insulting remarks
He spoke tauntingly to provoke his opponent.

taxis

noun /'tæksɪs/
the restoration of displaced organs or bones by manual pressure alone
The patient endured a lot of pain during the taxis.

technician

noun /tek'nɪʃn/
an expert in the practical application of a science
He is a computer technician.

technique

noun /tek'niːk/
the method of doing something
There are hardly any flaws in his technique.

technology

noun /tek'nɒlədʒi/
the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes
Computer technology is making rapid advances.

temperamental

adjective /ˌtemprə'mentl/
having moods that change often and suddenly
The temperamental opera singer refused to perform.

tenant

noun /'tenənt/
a person who rents a house, building, or land from a landlord
The tenant was late in paying his rent.

tension

noun /'tenʃn/
the condition of being stretched or strained
I suffered from a lot of tension due to my exams.

tequila

noun /tɪ'kiːlə/
a spirit that is distilled in Mexico from an agave plant and forms the basis of many mixed drinks
Tequila is used to make margaritas.

terminal

noun /'tɜːmɪnəl/
a building where air passengers arrive or depart
I made my way to the air terminal to receive my guests.

terminate

verb /'tɜːmɪneɪt/

to end or stop immediately

Your employment contract will terminate in December.

termite

noun /'tɜːmaɪt/

a small insect that lives in large colonies and typically feeds on wood causing damage

terrific

adjective /tə'rfɪk/

of great size, amount, or intensity

The flash of light was followed by a terrific bang.

terrify

verb /'terɪfaɪ/

to make someone feel extremely frightened

She likes to terrify us with scary stories.

testimonial

noun /,tɛstɪ'məʊniəl/

a writing or certificate which bears testimony in favour of one's character, good conduct, or ability

The court asked the witness to give a testimonial.

testimony

noun /'tɛstɪməni/

a declaration of truth or fact

The witness gave his testimony in court.

theatre

noun /'θɪətə[r]/

a building where plays are performed for an audience

I enjoy visiting the theatre.

tincture

noun /'tɪŋktʃə[r]/

a medicine made by dissolving a drug in alcohol

Tincture of iodine is used to treat cuts and bruises.

titanic

adjective /taɪ'tænɪk/

of exceptional strength, size, or power

It took a titanic effort to reach the summit.

tobacco

noun /tə'bækəʊ/

the dried leaves of certain plants prepared for smoking in cigarettes and cigars

The tobacco in cigarettes is injurious to health.

tortellini

plural noun /,tɔːtə'liːni/

pasta cut into small rounds, folded about a filling, and boiled

The master chef contestants were asked to make their own tortellini for the contest.

tostada

noun /tɒ'stɑːdə/

a crispy deep-fried tortilla topped with meat, cheese, and refried beans

She was on a low calorie diet and avoided having a tostada.

totalitarian

adjective /təʊ,tælɪ'teəriən/

relating to a system of government that is centralized and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state

The totalitarian government was unpopular.

tragedy

noun /'trædʒədi/

a very sad or distressing event

It was a real tragedy that the hailstorm destroyed all the crops.

transference

noun /'trænsfərəns/

the action of transferring something or the process of being transferred

Education involves the transference of knowledge.

transfusion

noun /træns'fjuːʒn/

an act of transferring donated blood or other fluid into the circulatory system of a person or animal

The injured driver needed a blood transfusion.

T

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age group

transgression

noun /trænz'greʃn, trɑːns'gresn/
an act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct
As her transgression was a minor one, the principal did not suspend her from school.

transition

noun /træn'ziʃn/
the process of changing from one condition to another
The transition from school to college can be difficult for students.

transliteration

noun /trænz,lɪtə'reɪʃən/
the process of writing words using corresponding letters of another alphabet
The transliteration provided by the author is in accordance with the Michigan-Claremont Encoding System.

transparent

adjective /træns'pærənt, trɑːn'speərənt/
able to be seen through
He was drawing on a large transparent sheet.

treacherous

adjective /'tretʃərəs/
dangerous or unreliable
The treacherous mountain pass claims several lives every year.

trefoil

noun /'trefɔɪl, 'tri:fɔɪl/
a small European plant of the pea family with yellow flowers and three-lobed clover-like leaves
The field was covered in clover and trefoil.

tremendous

adjective /trə'mendəs/
very great in amount, scale, or intensity
A tremendous wave rocked the boat.

trespasser

noun /'trespəsə[r]/
a person who enters someone's land unlawfully
The trespasser was caught by the police.

tricot

noun /'trɪkəʊ, 'tri:kəʊ/
a fine knitted fabric made of natural or man-made fibre
Since 1840 the name tricot has been applied to finely woven woolen cloth.

tricycle

noun /'traɪsɪkl/
a vehicle like a bicycle but with three wheels
Atif got a tricycle for his fourth birthday.

triplicate

noun /'trɪplɪkət/
done three times
Each sample was tested in triplicate.

triumphantly

adverb /traɪ'ʌmfəntli/
in a way that shows great happiness or joy at a victory or achievement
Alexander marched triumphantly through the streets of Persepolis.

turquoise

adjective /'tɜːkwɔɪz/
a greenish-blue colour
She wore a turquoise jacket.

tweezers

plural noun /ˈtwiːzəz/

a small pincers for picking up or pulling small things
I used tweezers to remove the thorn from my finger.

typical

adjective /ˈtɪpɪkəl/

having the usual characteristics of a particular sort of person or thing
A typical car owner drives 10,000 miles a year.

tyrannosaur

noun /tɪˈrænəsɔːr/

a very large bipedal carnivorous dinosaur with powerful jaws and small claw-like front legs
She has a recurring dream of a tyrannosaur trampling her.

U

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age group

ultimatum

noun /ʌltɪ'meɪtəm/

a final demand or statement of terms, the rejection of which will result in retaliation

Their employers issued an ultimatum demanding an immediate return to work.

ultraviolet

adjective /ˌʌltrə'vaɪələt/

beyond the violet end of the light spectrum and not visible to the human eye

Ultraviolet rays can be very harmful for our skin.

unaccountable

adjective /ˌʌnə'kaʊntəbl/

unable to be explained

For some unaccountable reason, I completely forgot to do my homework.

unaccustomed

adjective /ʌnə'kʌstəmd/

not familiar or usual

I am unaccustomed to eating such spicy food.

unacquainted

adjective /ʌnə'kweɪntɪd/

not having met before

I am unacquainted with her, but I know her sister well.

unadventurous

adjective /ʌnəd'ventʃərəs/

not offering, involving, or eager for new or stimulating things

The unadventurous child did not want to leave the house.

unanimous

adjective /ˌjʊ'nænɪməs/

with everyone in agreement

They reached a unanimous decision to go to the beach.

unappreciated

adjective /ʌnə'pri:ʃieɪtɪd/

not fully understood, recognized, or valued

The poet was unappreciated during his lifetime.

unascertained

adjective /ˌʌnæsə'teɪnd/

not made certain or known

It still remains unascertained whether the jet was hit by a bird or a bullet.

unavoidable

adjective /ˌʌnə'vɔɪdəbl/

not able to be prevented or ignored

Unavoidable circumstances led to the accident.

unbearable

adjective /ʌn'beərəbl/

not able to be endured

Dubai is known for its unbearable heat.

unbelievable

adjective /ˌʌnbɪ'li:vəbl/

unlikely to be true

She gave us an unbelievable excuse for being late.

uncanny

adjective /ʌn'kæni/

strange or mysterious

Our waiter had an uncanny resemblance to the creepy villain in the film we had just seen.

unconcerned

adjective /ˌʌnkən'sɜ:nd/

not worried

The unconcerned policeman ignored the traffic jam.

unconquerable

adjective /ʌn'kɒŋkərəbəl/

not able to be overcome or defeated

The nation has an unconquerable pride in its military.

unconscious

adjective /ʌn'kɒnʃəs/

lacking normal sensory awareness of the environment

They ran towards the unconscious man.

uncooperative

adjective /ʌŋkəʊ'pɒrətɪv/
unwilling to help others or do what they ask
She is uncooperative, and nobody wants her on the team.

undiagnosed

adjective /ʌŋ'daɪəgnəʊzd, ʌndaɪəg'nəʊzd/
not having been identified
Her illness remains undiagnosed.

unenthusiastic

adjective /ʌŋɪnθju:zɪ'æstɪk/
not wanting to be involved in a particular activity
The unenthusiastic audience did not applaud or cheer.

unfashionable

adjective /ʌŋ'fæʃənəbəl/
not popular at a particular time
This style is unfashionable now.

uninhabitable

adjective /ʌŋɪn'hæbɪtəbl/
unfit to live in
They were stuck on an uninhabitable island for weeks.

uninhibited

adjective /ʌŋɪn'hɪbɪtɪd/
behaving or expressing yourself freely without worrying about what other people think
The other guests were shocked by her uninhibited laughter during dinner.

unintelligible

adjective /ʌŋɪn'telɪdʒɪbl/
not able to be understood
The baby uttered unintelligible words.

unpleasantness

noun /ʌŋ'plezntnəs/
the state or quality of giving you bad feelings
I did not want to cause any unpleasantness by arriving late.

unreasonable

adjective /ʌŋ'ri:znəbl/
behaving in a way that is not fair or sensible
The greedy child made unreasonable demands.

unreliable

adjective /ʌŋrɪ'laɪəbl/
not able to be trusted
The unreliable student came late for the exam.

unsatisfactory

adjective /ʌŋsætɪs'fæktəri/
not good enough
He went back to the shop to return all the unsatisfactory goods.

unscrupulous

adjective /ʌŋ'skru:pjʊləs/
prepared to act in a dishonest or immoral way to get what they want
His unscrupulous behaviour is shocking.

unsympathetic

adjective /ʌŋsɪmpə'tetɪk/
not kind or helpful to a person in difficulties
He was unsympathetic to the suffering of the poor man.

untimely

adjective /ʌŋ'taɪmli/
occurring before the expected, normal, or proper time
We were not prepared for the untimely arrival of our guests.

U

9 to 11
age group

unveil

verb /ˌʌnˈveɪl/

to remove a covering from something

The bride did not want to unveil during the wedding ceremony.

upheaval

noun /ʌpˈhi:vəl/

a sudden change or disturbance

Upheaval in the stock market caused everyone to panic.

utensil

noun /juːˈtensl/

a tool, device, or container, especially one for use in the house

Which utensil will you use to turn the pancakes?

vague

adjective /veɪg/

not definite or clear

She gave a vague answer to my question.

vanadium

noun /və'neɪdɪəm/

a hard grey metal of the transition series, used to make alloy steels

Vanadium is added to some types of steel to make them stronger.

vanquish

verb /'væŋkwɪʃ/

to defeat thoroughly

The army vowed to vanquish the enemy.

variability

noun /ˌvɛəriə'bɪləti/

a lack of consistency or fixed pattern

The degree of variability in the exchange rate is expected to decrease.

vector

noun /'vektə[r]/

an organism, typically a biting insect or tick, that transmits a disease or parasite from one animal to another

The vector for malaria is the mosquito.

vegetarian

noun /ˌvedʒə'teəriən/

a person who does not eat meat

Ayesha is a vegetarian.

vehicle

noun /'viːkl/

a means of transporting people or goods, especially on land

A bus is a vehicle that can accommodate many passengers.

vengeance

noun /'vendʒəns/

revenge

He swore vengeance on everyone involved in the killing.

venison

noun /'venɪsən, 'venɪzən/

meat from a deer

I prefer the smoked venison to the pizza.

vernacular

noun /və'nækjʊlə[r]/

the language of a country or district, as distinct from an official or formal language

She is fluent in the vernacular of the area.

versatile

adjective /'vɜːsətaɪl/

able to do or be used for many different things

She is a versatile actress and can play many different roles.

versus

preposition /'vɜːsəs/

against

It is France versus Brazil in the finals.

victorious

adjective /vɪk'tɔːriəs/

having defeated an opponent

The victorious cricket team celebrated.

villein

noun /'vɪleɪn, 'vɪlən/

a feudal tenant in medieval England entirely subject to a lord or manor to whom he paid dues and services in return for land

The poor villein had no option but to work despite his ill health.

V

9 to 11
age group

viola

noun /vɪ'əʊlə/
an instrument of the violin family, larger than the violin and tuned a fifth lower
She was an expert at playing the viola, and the guests enjoyed her performance at the party.

violin

noun /ˌvaɪə'lɪn/
a musical instrument with four strings, played with a bow
The violin makes a beautiful sound.

virtue

noun /'vɜːtʃuː, 'vɜːtjuː/
behaviour showing high moral standards
Honesty is a virtue.

vision

noun /'vɪʒn/
the ability to see
He needs glasses to improve his vision.

vocabulary

noun /vəʊ'kæbjʊləri/
all the words used in a particular subject or language, or that an individual person uses
Mehr has an extensive vocabulary.

vocational

adjective /vəʊ'keɪʃənəl/
connected with the skill that you need to do a particular job
She went to a vocational training institute to learn sewing.

volta

noun /'vɒltə/
a turning point or point of change in a poem, most commonly a sonnet
After a turning point, sometimes called a "volta": the sonnet changes tone or perspective in order to start moving to a solution.

voluntary

adjective /'vɒləntəri/
done willingly, not because you are forced to do it
We are funded by voluntary contributions.

volunteer

noun /ˌvɒləntiə[r]/
a person who offers to do something
He is working as a volunteer at the hospital.

vulnerable

adjective /'vʌlnərəbl/
able to be hurt, harmed or attacked
The vulnerable bridge was guarded by the army.

warrantable

adjective /ˈwɒrəntəbəl/

able to be guaranteed

He made sure to buy a warrantable CD player.

waxen

adjective /ˈwæksən/

having a smooth, pale, translucent surface or appearance like that of wax

The old man's face was pale and waxen.

wayward

adjective /ˈweɪwəd/

difficult to control or predict because of wilful or perverse behaviour

He is a disobedient, wayward son.

weasel

noun /ˈwiːzəl/

a small, slender carnivorous mammal related to, but smaller than, the stoat

weathervane

noun /ˈweðəveɪn/

a pointer that turns in the wind and shows from which direction it is blowing

The weathervane shows that the wind is blowing from the south.

weaver

noun /ˈwiːvə/

a person who weaves fabric

The weaver has woven an intricate design in the fabric.

wedge

noun /wedʒ/

a piece of wood or metal having one thick end and tapering to a thin edge, that is driven between two objects or parts of an object

She put a wedge under the door to prevent it from swinging shut.

weevil

noun /ˈwiːvəl, ˈwiːvɪl/

a small beetle that feeds on plants and fruits

westernization

noun /ˌwestənəɪˈzeɪʃn/

the adoption or influence of the cultural, economic, or political systems of Europe and North America

According to critics, globalization is just another word for the westernization of the entire world.

wheeze

verb /wiːz/

to breathe with difficulty, producing a hoarse, whistling sound

The asthmatic boy began to wheeze as his condition worsened.

whereabouts

noun /ˈweərəbaʊts/

location

His whereabouts are still unknown.

whim

noun /wɪm/

a sudden desire or change of mind, especially one that is unusual or unexplained

I decided to buy this dress on a whim.

whistle

noun /ˈwɪsl/

a device that makes a shrill sound when air or steam is blown through it

The referee blew his whistle repeatedly.

windshield

noun /ˈwɪndʃiːld/

a big window in front of a car

The windshield of the jeep was dirty after we returned from the desert safari.

woollen

adjective /ˈwʊlən/

made of wool

He put on woollen socks when his feet got cold.



9 to 11
age group

worrisome

adjective /ˈwʌrɪsəm/
causing anxiety or concern
His poor health is worrisome.

wrestle

verb /ˈresəl/
to take part in a fight that involves grappling with
one's opponent
The Rock will wrestle the Undertaker this weekend.

wretched

adjective /ˈretʃɪd/
in a very unhappy or unfortunate state
She lives a wretched life without any money.

wriggle

verb /ˈrɪɡl/
to move with short twisting movements
They managed to wriggle through the thick hedge.

writhe

verb /raɪð/
to twist or move your body without stopping, often
because you are in great pain
She began to writhe around on the floor in agony.

xenolith

noun /'zenəlɪθ/

a rock fragment different in kind from the rock it is enclosed in

A xenolith may be anything from angular to round in its shape.

Y

9 to 11
age group

yacht

noun /jæt/

a sailing boat used for racing or cruising
He went to sea in a yacht for the weekend.

yogurt

noun /'jɒgət, 'jəʊgət/

milk thickened by the action of certain bacteria, giving it a sharp taste
My mother encourages me to have yogurt as it is rich in calcium.

zenith

noun /'zenɪθ/

the time at which something is most powerful or successful

He has reached the zenith of his career.

zirconium

noun /zɜː'kəʊniəm/

a hard metallic chemical element

Most of the zirconium produced today is used in water-cooled nuclear reactors.

zodiac

noun /'zəʊdiæk/

an area in the sky in which the sun, moon and most familiar planets appear which is divided into twelve equal divisions or signs

There are twelve signs of the zodiac.