

 **EASIER ENGLISH™**

bloomsburyreference

# BASIC DICTIONARY

**PRE-INTERMEDIATE LEVEL**

OVER 10,000 MEANINGS CLEARLY EXPLAINED

'A useful beginner's  
dictionary at a good price'

**Spotlight**

second edition

EASIER  
ENGLISH  
BASIC  
DICTIONARY

SECOND EDITION

## Dictionary Titles in the Series

### *English Language:*

Easier English Basic Synonyms	0 7475 6979 7
English Study Dictionary	1 9016 5963 1
Easier English Student Dictionary	0 7475 6624 0
English Thesaurus for Students	1 9016 5931 3

### *Specialist Dictionaries:*

Dictionary of Accounting	0 7475 6991 6
Dictionary of Banking and Finance	0 7475 6685 2
Dictionary of Business	0 7475 9680 0
Dictionary of Economics	0 7475 6632 1
Dictionary of Environment and Ecology	0 7475 7201 1
Dictionary of Hotels, Tourism and Catering Management	1 9016 5999 2
Dictionary of Human Resources and Personnel Management	0 7475 6623 2
Dictionary of ICT	0 7475 6990 8
Dictionary of Marketing	0 7475 6621 6
Dictionary of Medical Terms	0 7475 6987 8
Dictionary of Military Terms	1 9038 5620 5
Dictionary of Nursing	0 7475 6634 8
Dictionary of Science and Technology	0 7475 6620 8

### *Check your English Vocabulary Workbooks:*

Business	0 7475 6626 7
Computing	1 9016 5928 3
English for Academic Purposes	0 7475 6691 7
PET	0 7475 6627 5
FCE +	0 7475 6981 9
IELTS	0 7475 6982 7
TOEFL®	0 7475 6984 3

Visit our website for full details of all our books  
<http://www.bloomsbury.com/reference>

# EASIER ENGLISH BASIC DICTIONARY

SECOND EDITION

*General editor*

P.H. Collin

BLOOMSBURY

A BLOOMSBURY REFERENCE BOOK

**www.bloomsbury.com**

Second edition published 2004  
First published in Great Britain 2001

© Copyright P.H. Collin, F. Collin, S.M.H. Collin 2001  
This edition © Copyright Bloomsbury Publishing 2004

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc  
38 Soho Square  
London W1D 3HB

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may  
be reproduced in any form or by any means without the  
permission of the publishers.

**British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data**

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 7475 6644 5  
eISBN-13: 978-1-4081-0202-2

Text processing and computer typesetting by Bloomsbury Publishing  
Printed and bound in Italy by Legoprint

All papers used by Bloomsbury Publishing are natural, recyclable  
products made from wood grown in well-managed forests.

The manufacturing processes conform to the  
environmental regulations of the country of origin.

**GENERAL EDITOR**

P. H. Collin

**Editorial Contributors**

Penelope Hands, Howard Sargeant

**Text Production and Proofreading**

Katy McAdam, Joel Adams,

Daisy Jackson, Sarah Luszkat



# Preface

This dictionary contains the most frequently used words in English and provides the basic vocabulary needed for everyday communication by anyone starting to learn the language. It is especially useful for elementary and pre-intermediate students of all ages and would be suitable for those working towards an elementary level English examination such as KET or PET.

Each word is individually defined, and no words, not even adverbs, are given without a definition. Examples are included for many words to provide patterns for the user's own production of English sentences.

Each word, including compound words and phrasal verbs, has its own easy-to-find main entry in bold type. Each word has a pronunciation in the International Phonetic Alphabet. Common phrases and idioms associated with the main term are shown in bold type and separately defined within the entry.

The meanings of the main common senses of each word are given clearly and simply, using a limited and easily understood vocabulary. Meanings are grouped together by their part of speech.

Extra help is offered in Notes at the end of some entries. These include warnings about words which can be confused with each other, unusual inflected forms and regularly collocating prepositions. The major differences in US and British spelling are noted.

A useful companion to this dictionary is *Easier English Basic Synonyms* which compares and contrasts words with similar meanings, showing the similarities and differences in usage.



# Symbols

■	before a new part of speech
○	before examples
□	before a phrase or collocation
◇	before an idiom
◊	a definition of the word will be found at the place indicated
◆	extra information will be found at the place indicated

## Pronunciation

The following symbols have been used to show the pronunciation of the main words in the dictionary.

Stress has been indicated by a main stress mark ( ' ) and a secondary stress mark ( , ). Note that these are only guides, as the stress of the word changes according to its position in the sentence.

### Vowels

æ	back
ɑ:	harm
ɒ	stop
aɪ	type
aʊ	how
aɪə	hire
aʊə	<b>hour</b>
ɔ:	course
ɔɪ	annoy
e	head
eə	fair
eɪ	make
əʊ	go
ɜ:	word
i:	keep
i	happy
ə	about
ɪ	fit
ɪə	near
u	annual
u:	pool
ʊ	book
ʊə	tour
ʌ	shut

### Consonants

b	buck
d	dead
ð	other
dʒ	jump
f	fare
g	gold
h	head
j	yellow
k	cab
l	leave
m	mix
n	nil
ŋ	sing
p	print
r	rest
s	save
ʃ	shop
t	take
tʃ	change
θ	theft
v	value
w	work
x	loch
ʒ	measure
z	zone

# A

**a**<sup>1</sup> /eɪ/, **A** *noun* the first letter of the alphabet, followed by B ○ *Do you mean 'dependant' spelt with an 'a' or 'dependent' with an 'e'?* ◇ **from A to Z** completely, all the way through

**a**<sup>2</sup> /ə, eɪ/, **an** /ən, æn/ *article* **1.** one ○ *an enormous hole* ○ *a useful guidebook* ○ *She's bought a new car.* ○ *I want a cup of tea.* ○ *We had to wait an hour for the bus.* (NOTE: **an** is used before words beginning with **a, e, i, o, u** and with **h** if the **h** is not pronounced: *an apple* or *an hour.* **a** is used before words beginning with all other letters and also before **u** where **u** is pronounced /ju:/ : *a useful guidebook*) **2.** for each or to each ○ *Apples cost £1.50 a kilo.* ○ *The car was travelling at 50 kilometres an hour.* ○ *He earns £100 a day.*

**abandon** /ə'bændən/ *verb* **1.** to leave someone or something in an unkind way ○ *The dog had been abandoned by its owner.* **2.** to give up or stop doing something ○ *The company has decided to abandon the project.* ○ *We abandoned the idea of setting up a London office.*

**abbreviation** /ə,bri:vi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a short form of a word

**ability** /ə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* **1.** a natural tendency to do something well ○ *I admire his ability to stay calm in difficult situations.* ○ *We can develop their natural abilities.* (NOTE: The plural is **abilities**.) □ **I'll do it to the best of my ability** I'll do it as well as I can **2.** the fact of being clever ○ *suitable for different levels of ability* (NOTE: no plural)

**able** /'eɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** □ **to be able to do something** to be capable of something or have the chance to do something ○ *They weren't able to find the house.* ○ *Will you be able to come to the meeting?* **2.** good at doing something, or good at doing many things ○ *She's a*

*very able manager.* ○ *There are special activities for able children.*

**about** /ə'baʊt/ *preposition* **1.** referring to something ○ *He told me all about his operation.* ○ *What do you want to speak to the doctor about?* **2.** □ **to be about to do something** to be going to do something very soon ○ *We were about to go home when you arrived.* **3.** not exactly ○ *I've been waiting for about four hours.* ○ *She's only about fifteen years old.* ◇ **how about?** **1.** what do you think about? ○ *We can't find a new chairperson for the club – What about Sarah?* **2.** would you like a cup of tea? ◇ **while you're about it** at the same time as the thing you are doing ○ *While you're about it, can you post this letter?*

**above** /ə'baʊ/ *preposition* **1.** higher than ○ *The plane was flying above the clouds.* ○ *The temperature in the street was above 30 degrees.* ○ *At prices above £20, nobody will buy it.* **2.** older than ○ *If you are above 18, you have to pay the full fare.* **3.** louder than ○ *I couldn't hear the telephone above the noise of the drills.*

**abroad** /ə'brɔ:d/ *adverb* in or to another country ○ *They've gone abroad on holiday.* ○ *I lived abroad for three years.*

**absence** /'æbsəns/ *noun* the fact of being away from a place ○ *She did not explain her absence from the meeting.* ○ *The former president was sentenced in his absence.* □ **in the absence of** because someone or something is not there ○ *In the absence of the chairman, his deputy took over.* ○ *In the absence of any official support, we had to raise our own funds.*

**absent** /'æbsənt/ *adjective* not there ○ *Ten of the staff are absent with flu.*

**absolute** /'æbsəlu:t/ *adjective* complete or total

**absolutely** *adverb* 1. /'æbsəlu:tli/ completely ○ *I am absolutely sure I left the keys in my coat pocket.* 2. /,æbsə'lu:tli/ yes, of course ○ *Did you build it yourself?* – *Absolutely!*

**absorb** /əb'zɔ:b/ *verb* 1. to take in something such as a liquid ○ *The water should be absorbed by the paper.* ○ *Salt absorbs moisture from the air.* 2. to reduce a shock ○ *The car's springs are supposed to absorb any shock from the road surface.*

**absurd** /əb'sɜ:d/ *adjective* completely unreasonable or impossible to believe ○ *It's absurd to expect you will win the lottery if you only buy one ticket.*

**abuse**<sup>1</sup> /ə'bju:z/ *noun* 1. rude words ○ *The people being arrested shouted abuse at the police.* 2. very bad treatment ○ *the sexual abuse of children* ○ *She suffered physical abuse in prison.* (NOTE: [all senses] no plural)

**abuse**<sup>2</sup> /ə'bju:z/ *verb* 1. to treat someone very badly, usually physically or sexually ○ *She had been abused as a child.* 2. to make the wrong use of something ○ *He abused his position as finance director.* 3. to say rude things about someone ○ *The crowd noisily abused the group of politicians as they entered the building.*

**academic** /,ækə'demɪk/ *adjective* 1. relating to study at a university ○ *Members of the academic staff received a letter from the principal.* 2. only in theory, not in practice ○ *It is only of academic interest.* ■ *noun* a university teacher ○ *All her friends are academics.*

**accelerate** /æk'seləreɪt/ *verb* to go faster ○ *Don't accelerate when you get to traffic lights.*

**accent** /'æksənt/ *noun* 1. a particular way of pronouncing something ○ *He speaks with an American accent.* 2. the stronger or louder part of a word or sentence ○ *In the word 'letter' the accent is on the first syllable.* 3. a mark over a letter showing a particular way of pronouncing it ○ *Café has an accent on the 'e'.*

**accept** /æk'sept/ *verb* 1. to take and keep a present ○ *We hope you will accept this*

*little gift.* 2. to say 'yes' or to agree to something ○ *She accepted the offer of a job in Australia.* ○ *I invited her to come with us and she accepted.* (NOTE: Do not confuse with **except**.)

**acceptable** /æk'septəb(ə)l/ *adjective* good enough to be accepted, although not particularly good ○ *Fighting in the street is not acceptable behaviour.* ○ *Smoking is becoming less socially acceptable.* ○ *A small gift of flowers would be very acceptable.* ○ *The offer is not acceptable to the vendor.*

**access** /'ækses/ *noun* a way of reaching a place ○ *The concert hall has access for wheelchairs.* ○ *At present there is no access to the site.* □ **to have access to something** to be able to reach a place, meet a person, or obtain something ○ *I'll have access to the studio day and night.* ○ *The company has access to substantial funds.* ■ *verb* to get information from a computer ○ *She tried to access the address list.*

**accident** /'æksɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* 1. an unpleasant thing which happens and causes damage or injury ○ *He lost his leg in an accident at work.* ○ *She was involved in a car accident and had to go to hospital.* 2. something that happens unexpectedly ○ *Their third baby was an accident.* □ **by accident** without being planned or expected ○ *He found the missing papers by accident.*

**accidental** /,æksɪ'dent(ə)l/ *adjective* happening without being planned or expected ○ *an accidental meeting* ○ *accidental damage* ○ *His death was not accidental.*

**accidentally** /,æksɪ'dent(ə)li/ *adverb* without being planned or expected

**accommodation** /ə,kɒmə'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a place to live or somewhere to stay for a short time ○ *Are you still looking for accommodation?* ○ *Visitors have difficulty in finding hotel accommodation during the summer.* (NOTE: In British English, **accommodation** has no plural.)

**accompany** /ə'kʌmp(ə)ni/ *verb* 1. to go with someone or something ○ *She accompanied me to the door.* 2. to play a musical instrument while someone

else plays another instrument or sings ○ *She sang and was accompanied on the piano by her father.* (NOTE: accompanied **by** someone or something)

**accomplish** /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/ *verb* to do something successfully ○ *You won't accomplish anything by arguing.*

**according to** /ə'kɔːdɪŋ tuː/ *preposition* **1.** as someone says or writes ○ *The washing machine was installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.* ○ *According to the police, the car was going too fast.* **2.** in agreement with rules or a system ○ *Everything went according to plan or schedule.* **3.** in relation to ○ *The teachers have separated the children into classes according to their ages.*

**account** /ə'kaʊnt/ *noun* **1.** same as **bank account** **2.** □ **I was worried on her account** I was afraid something might happen to her ◇ **on account of** because of, due to ○ *The trains are late on account of the fog.* ○ *We don't use the car much on account of the price of petrol.* ◇ **take something into account** to consider something ○ *We have to take the weather into account.* ◇ **on no account** not at all

**accurate** /'ækjʊrət/ *adjective* correct in all details ○ *Are the figures accurate?* ○ *We asked them to make an accurate copy of the plan.*

**accurately** /'ækjʊrətli/ *adverb* correctly ○ *The weather forecast accurately predicted the storm.*

**accuse** /ə'kjuːz/ *verb* to say that someone has done something wrong ○ *The police accused her of stealing the money.* (NOTE: You accuse someone **of** a crime or **of** doing something.)

**achieve** /ə'tʃiːv/ *verb* to succeed in doing something after trying very hard ○ *Have you achieved all your aims?* ○ *The company has achieved great success in the USA.*

**achievement** /ə'tʃiːvmənt/ *noun* something which has been done successfully ○ *She is very modest about her achievements.* ○ *Coming sixth was a great achievement, since he had never entered the competition before.*

**acid** /'æsɪd/ *noun* a chemical substance that is able to dissolve metals

**acknowledge** /ə'k'nɒlɪdʒ/ *verb* **1.** to say that something has been received ○ *She didn't acknowledge receiving my letter.* **2.** to accept that something is true ○ *She acknowledged that she had seen me there.*

**acknowledgement** /ə'k'nɒlɪdʒmənt/ *noun* a letter or note sent to say that something has been received

**acorn** /'eɪkɔːn/ *noun* the fruit of an oak tree

**acquaintance** /ə'kweɪntəns/ *noun* a person you know slightly ○ *She has many acquaintances in the travel industry but no real friends.*

**acquire** /ə'kwɪə/ *verb* to become the owner of something ○ *She has acquired a large collection of old books.*

**across** /ə'krɒs/ *preposition* **1.** from one side to the other ○ *Don't run across the road without looking to see if there is any traffic coming.* **2.** on the other side of ○ *He saw her across the street.* ■ **adverb** from one side to the other ○ *The river is only twenty feet across.* ○ *The stream is very narrow – you can easily jump across.*

**act** /ækt/ *noun* **1.** something which is done ○ *He thanked her for the many acts of kindness she had shown him over the years.* **2.** a part of a play or show ○ *Act 2 of the play takes place in the garden.* **3.** a short performance ○ *The show includes acts by several young singers.* **4.** a law passed by Parliament ○ *an act to ban the sale of weapons* ■ **verb** **1.** to do something ○ *You will have to act quickly if you want to stop the fire.* ○ *She acted in a very responsible way.* □ **to act as someone or something** to do the work of someone or something ○ *The thick curtain acts as a screen to cut out noise from the street.* **2.** to behave in a particular way ○ *She's been acting very strangely.* ◇ **to get your act together** to organise yourself properly ○ *If they don't get their act together, they'll miss their train.*

**action** /'æksjən/ *noun* **1.** the fact of doing something ○ *We recommend swift ac-*

tion to prevent the problem spreading. ○ *What action are you going to take to prevent accidents?* □ **out of action** not working ○ *The car has been out of action for a week.* **2.** something that is done ○ *They've shown their commitment by their actions.* **3.** a movement ○ *Avoid sudden actions that could alarm the animals.* **4.** the things that happen in a performance such as a play or film ○ *The action of the play takes place in a flat in London.* **5.** a case in a law court where someone tries to get money from someone else ○ *to bring an action for damages against someone*

**active** /'æktɪv/ *adjective* **1.** involved in an activity or activities, especially in an energetic way ○ *He didn't play an active part in the attack on the police station.* ○ *My grandmother is still very active at the age of 88.* **2.** (of a volcano) exploding or likely to explode ○ *Scientists think the volcano is no longer active.* **3.** the form of a verb which shows that the subject is doing something (NOTE: If you say 'the car hit him' the verb is active, but in 'he was hit by the car' it is passive.)

**activity** /æk'tɪvɪti/ *noun* **1.** the act or fact of being active **2.** something that someone does to pass time pleasantly ○ *Children are offered various holiday activities – sailing, windsurfing and water-skiing.* (NOTE: The plural in this sense is **activities**.)

**actor** /'æktə/ *noun* a person who acts in the theatre, in films or on TV

**actress** /'æktres/ *noun* a woman who acts in the theatre, in films or on TV (NOTE: Many women prefer to call themselves actors rather than actresses.)

**actual** /'æktʃuəl/ *adjective* real ○ *It looks quite small but the actual height is 5 metres.* ○ *Her actual words were much stronger.*

**actually** /'æktʃuəli/ *adverb* really ○ *It looks quite small, but actually it is over 5 metres high.* ○ *He said he was ill, but actually he wanted to go to the football match.*

**ad** /æd/ *noun* an advertisement (*informal*)  
○ *If you want to sell your car quickly, put an ad in the paper.*

**adapt** /ə'dæpt/ *verb* **1.** to change something to be suitable for a new situation ○ *She adapted the story for TV.* ○ *The car has been adapted for disabled drivers.* **2.** to change your behaviour to fit into a new situation ○ *We'll all have to learn to adapt to the new system.*

**adaptable** /ə'dæptəb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to change or be changed easily to deal with new situations or uses

**add** /æd/ *verb* **1.** to make a total of numbers ○ *If you add all these numbers together it should make fifty.* (NOTE: **Adding** is usually shown by the sign + : **10 + 4 = 14.**) **2.** to join one thing to another ○ *Interest is added to the account monthly.* ○ *Add two cupfuls of sugar.* ○ *Put a teabag into the pot and add boiling water.* ○ *By building the annexe, they have added thirty rooms to the hotel.* **3.** to say or to write something more ○ *I have nothing to add to what I put in my letter.* ○ *She added that we still owed her some money for work she did last month.*

**add up** *phrasal verb* to make a total □ **the figures do not add up** the total is not correct

**addition** /ə'dɪf(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** someone or something added to something else ○ *the latest addition to the family* ○ *He showed us the additions to his collection of paintings.* **2.** the act of adding figures to make a total ○ *You don't need a calculator to do a simple addition.* □ **in addition to** as well as ○ *There are twelve registered letters to be sent in addition to this parcel.* ◇ **in addition** as well ◇ **in addition to** as well as ○ *There are twelve registered letters to be sent in addition to this parcel.*

**additional** /ə'dɪf(ə)nəl/ *adjective* included as well as what there is already

**address** /ə'dres/ *noun* **1.** a set of details of the number of a house, the name of a street and the town where someone lives or works ○ *What is the doctor's address?* ○ *Our address is: 1 Cambridge Road, Teddington, Middlesex.* **2.** the set of letters, symbols and numbers that

identify someone's email account ■ **verb** **1.** to write details such as someone's name, street and town on a letter or parcel ○ *That letter is addressed to me – don't open it!* **2.** to speak or write to someone ○ *Please address your questions to the information office.* ○ *Teachers are not normally addressed as 'Sir' here.* **3.** to make a formal speech to a group ○ *The chairman addressed the meeting.*

**address book** /ə'dres bu:k/ **noun** a notebook or computer file in which you can record people's names, home addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses

**adequate** /'ædɪkwət/ **adjective** **1.** enough for a purpose ○ *We don't have adequate supplies for the whole journey.* ○ *His salary alone is barely adequate.* **2.** only just satisfactory

**adhesive** /əd'hi:sv/ **adjective** able to stick to things ■ **noun** a substance which sticks things together

**adjacent** /ə'dʒeɪs(ə)nt/ **adjective** very close to or almost touching something ○ *My office is in an adjacent building.*

**adjective** /'ædʒɪktɪv/ **noun** a word which describes a noun ○ *In the phrase 'a big black cloud', 'big' and 'black' are both adjectives.*

**adjust** /ə'dʒʌst/ **verb** to make a slight change to something ○ *I need to adjust this belt a bit.* □ **to adjust to something** to become used to something ○ *How are you adjusting to being a parent?*

**admiration** /,ædmə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ **noun** respect for someone or something

**admire** /əd'maɪə/ **verb** to consider someone or something with approval ○ *He was admired for his skill as a violinist.* ○ *We admired the view from the balcony.*

**admission** /əd'mɪʃ(ə)n/ **noun** **1.** the act or fact of being allowed to go in to a place ○ *Admission to the exhibition is free on Sundays.* ○ *My friend was refused admission to the restaurant because he was not wearing a tie.* □ **no admission** no one can enter **2.** a statement saying that something bad is true ○ *Her*

*admission that she had taken the money led to her arrest.*

**admission fee** /əd'mɪʃ(ə)n fi:/ **noun** an amount of money paid to go into a place such as a museum

**admit** /əd'mɪt/ **verb** to allow someone to go in to a place ○ *Children are admitted free, but adults have to pay.* ○ *This ticket admits three people.* (NOTE: **admits – admitting – admitted**) □ **to admit (to) doing something** to say that you have done something wrong ○ *They admitted stealing the car.*

**adopt** /ə'dɒpt/ **verb** **1.** to take someone legally as a son or daughter ○ *They have adopted a little boy.* **2.** to decide to start using something ○ *The book has been adopted for use in all English classes.* ○ *We need to adopt a more flexible approach.*

**adore** /ə'dɔ:/ **verb** to like someone or something very much

**adult** /'ædʌlt/ **noun** a fully-grown person ■ **adjective** **1.** fully grown ○ *an adult tiger* **2.** relating to a mature person or people ○ *adult fiction*

**advance** /əd'vɑ:ns/ **verb** to move forward ○ *The police slowly advanced across the square.* ■ **noun** **1.** a movement forwards ○ *The police have made some advances in their fight against crime.* ○ *The team made an advance into their opponents' half.* **2.** money paid as a loan or as a part of a payment to be made later ■ **adjective** done before something happens ○ *She made an advance payment of £3000.* ◇ **in advance** earlier than the time something happens ○ *You must phone in advance to make an appointment.* ○ *They asked us to pay £200 in advance.*

**advanced** /əd'vɑ:nst/ **adjective** which is studied at a higher level ○ *He's studying advanced mathematics.* ○ *She's studying for an advanced degree.*

**advantage** /əd'vɑ:ntɪdʒ/ **noun** something which will help you to be successful ○ *Being able to drive a car is an advantage.* ○ *Knowledge of two foreign languages is an advantage in this job.* ○ *She has several advantages over the other job candidates.* ◇ **to take advan-**

**tage of something** to profit from something ○ *They took advantage of the cheap fares on offer.* ◇ **to take advantage of someone** to get something unfairly from someone ◇ **to (good or best) advantage** in a way that helps someone or something appear especially good ○ *She used her knowledge of Italian to good advantage.*

**adventure** /əd'ventʃəl/ *noun* a new, exciting and dangerous experience ○ *I must tell you about our adventures in the desert.*

**adverb** /'ædvɜ:b/ *noun* a word which applies to a verb, an adjective, another adverb or a whole sentence ○ *In the sentence 'He walked slowly, because the snow was very thick.' both 'slowly' and 'very' are adverbs.*

**adverse** /'ædvɜ:s/ *adjective* (of conditions) unpleasant and unwanted ○ *an adverse reaction* ○ *adverse effects*

**advert** /'ædvɜ:t/ *noun* same as **advertisement**

**advertise** /'ædvətaɪz/ *verb* to make sure that people know that something is for sale, or that something is going to happen ○ *The company is advertising for secretaries.* ○ *Did you see that the restaurant is advertising cheap meals on Sundays?* ○ *I saw this watch advertised in the paper.*

**advertisement** /əd'vɜ:tɪsmənt/ *noun* an announcement which tries to make sure that people know that something is for sale, or that something is going to happen

**advertising** /'ædvətaɪzɪŋ/ *noun* the act of making sure that people know that something is for sale, or that something is going to happen ○ *The company has increased the amount of money it spends on advertising.* ○ *They spent millions on the advertising campaign.*

**advice** /əd'vaɪs/ *noun* an opinion that someone gives you about what you should do ○ *He went to the bank manager for advice on how to pay his debts.* ○ *They would not listen to the doctor's advice.* ○ *My grandfather gave me a very useful piece of advice.* ○ *His mother's advice was to stay in bed.* (NOTE: no plu-

ral: use *some advice* or, for one item, a *piece of advice*)

**advise** /əd'vaɪz/ *verb* **1.** to suggest to someone what they should do ○ *He advised her to save some of the money.* **2.** to tell someone officially that something has happened (*formal*) ○ *They advised us that the sale of the house had been completed.*

**adviser** /əd'vaɪzə/, **advisor** *noun* someone who helps people to make decisions about what to do

**aerial** /'eəriəl/ *noun* a piece of equipment for receiving radio or TV signals

**aeroplane** /'eərəpleɪn/ *noun* a vehicle which flies in the air, carrying passengers or goods

**affair** /ə'feə/ *noun* **1.** something which is relevant to one person or group of people only ○ *That's his affair – it's nothing to do with me.* ○ *It's an affair for the police.* ○ *His business affairs were very complicated.* **2.** a sexual relationship with someone who is not your husband or wife ○ *He's having an affair with his boss's wife.* **3.** an event ○ *The party is just a family affair.* **4.** an event or situation that shocks people ○ *The whole sorry affair was on the front page of the newspapers for days.* ■ **plural noun affairs** situations or activities relating to public or private life

**affect** /ə'fekt/ *verb* to have an influence on someone or something ○ *The new regulations have affected our business.* ○ *Train services have been seriously affected by the strike.*

**affection** /ə'fekʃən/ *noun* a feeling of liking someone, especially a friend ○ *She always spoke of him with great affection.*

**afford** /ə'fɔ:d/ *verb* to have enough money to pay for something ○ *How will you afford such an expensive holiday?* □ **be unable to afford, can't afford** to be unable to accept something because it might cause you a problem ○ *I can't afford a delay of more than three weeks.*

**afraid** /ə'freɪd/ *adjective* **1.** frightened of something or someone ○ *I am afraid of snakes.* ○ *He is too afraid to climb the ladder.* **2.** □ **to be afraid (that)** to be

sorry to say ○ *I'm afraid that all the cakes have been sold.* ○ *You can't see the boss – I'm afraid he's ill.* ○ *Have you got a pocket calculator? – No, I'm afraid not.*

**after** /'ɑ:ftə/ *preposition* **1.** following or next in order to ○ *If today is Tuesday, the day after tomorrow is Thursday.* ○ *They spoke one after the other.* ○ *What's the letter after Q in the alphabet?* □ **after you** you go first **2.** later than ○ *We arrived after six o'clock.* ○ *We don't let the children go out alone after dark.* ■ **conjunction** later than a time ○ *After the snow fell, the motorways were blocked.* ○ *Phone me after you get home.* (NOTE: **after** is used with many phrasal verbs: **to look after, to take after, etc.**) ◇ **after all** **1.** in spite of everything ○ *Everything was all right after all.* **2.** the fact is ○ *He should be OK; after all, he is eighteen now.*

**afternoon** /,ɑ:ftə'nu:n/ *noun* the time between midday and the evening ○ *He always has a little sleep in the afternoon.* ○ *There is an afternoon flight to Paris.* ○ *Can we meet tomorrow afternoon?*

**afterwards** /'ɑ:ftəwədz/ *adverb* later ○ *We'll have lunch first and go shopping afterwards.*

**again** /ə'gen/ *adverb* **1.** another time ○ *He had to take his driving test again.* □ **again and again** several times, usually in a firm or determined way ○ *The police officer asked the same question again and again.* **2.** back as you were before ○ *Although I like going on holiday, I'm always glad to be home again.*

**against** /ə'genst/ *preposition* **1.** so as to touch ○ *He was leaning against the wall.* ○ *She hit her head against the low doorway.* **2.** in opposition to ○ *England is playing against South Africa tomorrow.* ○ *It's hard cycling uphill against the wind.* ○ *They went against his advice.*

**age** /eɪdʒ/ *noun* the number of years which you have lived ○ *She is thirty years of age.* ○ *He looks younger than his age.* ■ **plural noun ages** a very long time (informal) ○ *I've been waiting here for ages.* ○ *It took us ages to get served.*

**aged**<sup>1</sup> /eɪdʒd/ *adjective* with the age of ○ *a girl aged nine* ○ *She died last year, aged 83.*

**aged**<sup>2</sup> /'eɪdʒɪd/ *adjective* very old ○ *an aged man*

**agency** /'eɪdʒənsi/ *noun* an office which represents another firm ○ *an advertising agency*

**agenda** /ə'dʒendə/ *noun* a list of points for discussion □ **what's on the agenda?** what are we going to discuss? ■ a set of things that someone plans to do □ **top of your agenda** what someone wants most ○ *A holiday is top of my agenda at present.*

**agent** /'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* a person who works for or represents someone else ○ *Our head office is in London but we have an agent in Paris.*

**aggression** /ə'ɡresj(ə)n/ *noun* a feeling of anger against someone that is expressed, especially in physical force □ **an act of aggression** an attack on someone

**aggressive** /ə'ɡresɪv/ *adjective* ready to attack someone

**aggressively** /ə'ɡresɪvli/ *adverb* as if wanting to attack someone

**ago** /ə'ɡəʊ/ *adverb* in the past ○ *He phoned a few minutes ago.* ○ *This all happened a long time ago.* (NOTE: **ago** always follows a word referring to time.)

**agree** /ə'ɡri:/ *verb* **1.** to say yes or give permission ○ *After some discussion he agreed to our plan.* (NOTE: You agree **to** or **on** a plan.) **2.** to say or show that you have the same opinion as someone else ○ *Most of the group agreed with her suggestion.*

**agreement** /ə'ɡri:mənt/ *noun* **1.** the act or fact of thinking the same ○ *to reach an agreement* or *to come to an agreement on salaries* ○ *Agreement between the two sides is still a long way off.* □ **they are in agreement with our plan** they agree with our plan ○ *We discussed the plan with them and they are in agreement.* **2.** a contract ○ *to draw up or to draft an agreement* ○ *We signed an agreement with the Italian company.*



**ahead** /ə'hed/ *adverb* **1.** in front ○ *Our team was losing, but now we are ahead again.* ○ *Run on ahead and find some seats for us.* ○ *You need to go straight ahead, and then turn left.* **2.** in future ○ *My diary is filled with appointments for six weeks ahead.* **3.** before ○ *We try to fill the vacancies at least three weeks ahead.* ◇ **ahead of** /ə'hed 'bʊv/ **1.** in front of ○ *Ahead of us was a steep hill.* ○ *They ran on ahead of the others.* **2.** in a future time ○ *You have a mass of work ahead of you.* **3.** before (informal) ○ *They drafted in extra police ahead of the international match.*

**aid** /eɪd/ *noun* **1.** help, especially money, food or other gifts given to people living in difficult conditions ○ *aid to the earthquake zone* ○ *an aid worker* (NOTE: This meaning of **aid** has no plural.) □ **in aid of** in order to help ○ *We give money in aid of the Red Cross.* ○ *They are collecting money in aid of refugees.* **2.** something which helps you to do something ○ *kitchen aids* ■ **verb** **1.** to help something to happen **2.** to help someone

**aim** /eɪm/ *noun* what you are trying to do ○ *His aim is to do well at school and then go to university.* ○ *One of our aims is to increase the speed of service.* ■ **verb** **1.** to plan to do something ○ *We aim to go on holiday in June.* **2.** to point a gun at someone or something ○ *He was aiming or aiming a gun at the policeman.*

**air** /eə/ *noun* **1.** a mixture of gases which cannot be seen, but which is all around us and which every animal breathes ○ *His breath was like steam in the cold air.* **2. the air** the space around things and above the ground ○ *He threw the ball up into the air.* (NOTE: These meanings of **air** have no plural.) ■ *adjective* referring to a method of travelling or sending goods using aircraft ○ *new air routes* □ **by air** in an aircraft ○ *I don't enjoy travelling by air.* ○ *It's quicker to send the letter by air.* ■ *verb* to make a room or clothes fresh by giving them more air ○ *Let's open the windows to air the room.*

**aircraft** /'eəkrɑ:ft/ *noun* a vehicle which flies in the air ○ *The passengers got into or boarded the aircraft.* ○ *The airline*

*has a fleet of ten aircraft.* (NOTE: The plural is **aircraft**: *one aircraft, six aircraft.*)

**airfare** /'eəfeə/ *noun* the amount of money a passenger has to pay to travel on an aircraft

**air force** /'eə fɔ:ɪs/ *noun* a country's military air organisation

**airline** /'eəlaɪn/ *noun* a company which takes people or goods to places in aircraft ○ *The airline has been voted the most popular with business travellers.* ○ *He's an airline pilot.*

**airplane** /'eəpleɪn/ *noun* US an aircraft

**airport** /'eəpɔ:t/ *noun* a place where aircraft land and take off ○ *You can take the underground to the airport.* ○ *We are due to arrive at Heathrow Airport at midday.*

**alarm** /ə'lɑ:m/ *noun* **1.** a loud warning sound ○ *An alarm will sound if someone touches the wire.* □ **to raise the alarm** to warn everyone of danger **2.** same as **alarm clock** ■ *verb* to frighten someone ○ *I don't want to alarm you, but there's a police car parked outside your house.*

**alarm clock** /ə'lɑ:m klɒk/ *noun* a clock which rings a bell to wake you up

**album** /'ælbəm/ *noun* **1.** a large book **2.** a collection of songs on a CD, cassette or record

**alcohol** /'ælkəhɒl/ *noun* a substance in drinks such as beer or wine that can make people drunk ○ *They will not serve alcohol to anyone under the age of 18.*

**alcoholic** /,ælkə'hɒlɪk/ *adjective* relating to alcohol

**alert** /ə'lɜ:t/ *adjective* watching or listening carefully, ready to notice something

**alike** /ə'laɪk/ *adjective* very similar ■ *adverb* in a similar way ○ *My sister and I just don't think alike.* ○ *The change will affect rich and poor alike.*

**alive** /ə'laɪv/ *adjective* **1.** living ○ *He was still alive when he was rescued from the burning building.* ○ *When my grandfather was alive, there were no supermarkets.* (NOTE: not used in front of a noun: *the fish is alive* but *a live fish*.) **2.** lively

○ *The holiday village really comes alive at night.* □ **to come alive** to become busy and active

**all** /ɔ:l/ *adjective, pronoun* everything or everyone ○ *They all* or *All of them* like coffee. ○ *All trains stop at Clapham Junction.* ○ *Did you pick all (of) the tomatoes?* ○ *Where are all the children?*

■ **adverb** 1. completely ○ *The ground was all white after the snow had fallen.*

○ *I forgot all about her birthday.* 2. □ **all by yourself** all alone ○ *You can't do it all by yourself.* ○ *I'm all by myself this evening – my girlfriend's gone out.* ◇ **all along** right from the beginning ◇ **all at once** suddenly ◇ **all in** 1. tired out 2.

including everything ◇ **all of a sudden** suddenly ◇ **all over** 1. everywhere over something 2. finished ◇ **all right** well ○ *She was ill yesterday but she's all right now.* ◇ **all the same** in spite of this ○ *I'm not really keen on horror films, but I'll go with you all the same.*

**allergic** /ə'li:dʒɪk/ *adjective* suffering from or referring to an allergy □ **to be allergic to** to react badly to a substance ○ *Many people are allergic to grass pollen.* ○ *She is allergic to cats.*

**allergy** /'ælədʒi/ *noun* a bad reaction to a substance which makes you sneeze, or makes your skin itch, e.g. ○ *She has an allergy to household dust.* ○ *The baby has a wheat allergy.*

**allow** /ə'laʊ/ *verb* to let someone do something ○ *She allowed me to borrow her book.* ○ *Smoking is not allowed in the restaurant.* ○ *You are allowed to take two pieces of hand luggage onto the plane.*

**allowance** /ə'laʊəns/ *noun* 1. an amount of money paid to someone regularly ○ *a weekly allowance* 2. an amount of money which you are allowed to earn without paying tax on it 3. □ **to make allowances for** to take something into account ○ *You must make allowances for his age.*

**ally**<sup>1</sup> /'ælaɪ/ *noun* 1. a country which works together with another, especially in a war (NOTE: The plural is **allies**.) 2. someone who is willing to support you in something you want to achieve ○

*Jack has been my closest ally in the campaign.*

**ally**<sup>2</sup> /ə'laɪ/ *verb* □ **to ally yourself with or to someone** to join forces with someone ○ *The unions have allied themselves with the opposition.* (NOTE: **allies** – **allying** – **allied**)

**almost** /'ɔ:lməʊst/ *adverb* nearly ○ *London is almost as far from here as Paris.* ○ *She's almost as tall as I am.* ○ *She'll eat almost anything.* ○ *Hurry up, it's almost time for the train to leave.*

**alone** /ə'ləʊn/ *adjective* 1. with no one else ○ *She lives alone with her cats.* ○ *He was all alone in the shop.* 2. only ○ *She alone knew the importance of the message.* ■ **adverb** without other people ○ *We don't let the children go out alone after dark.* ○ *I don't like travelling alone.* ◇ **leave alone** 1. not to disturb someone ○ *Leave your sister alone, she's trying to read.* 2. to stop touching or playing with something ○ *Leave the cat alone, it doesn't like being stroked.* ○ *Leave those keys alone, the noise is annoying me.* ◇ **to go it alone** to do something, especially a business activity, without help from anyone

**along** /ə'lɒŋ/ *preposition* 1. by the side of ○ *He has planted fruit trees along both sides of the garden path.* ○ *The river runs along one side of the castle.* 2. in a straight forward direction ○ *She ran along the pavement.* ○ *Walk along the street until you come to the post office.* ○ *I was just driving along when I caught sight of my brother.* 3. to a place ○ *John came along after about five minutes.* ○ *Is it ok if I bring a friend along?*

**aloud** /ə'laʊd/ *adverb* in a voice which can be easily heard

**alphabet** /'ælfəbet/ *noun* a series of letters in a specific order, e.g. A, B, C, etc ○ *G comes before H in the alphabet.* ○ *If you're going to Greece on holiday, you ought to learn the Greek alphabet.*

**alphabetical** /,ælfə'betɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* relating to the alphabet □ **in alphabetical order** in order of the first letter of each word ○ *The words in the dictionary are in alphabetical order.* ○ *Sort out the address cards into alphabetical order of the people's names.*

**already** /ɔ:l'redi/ *adverb* before now or before the time mentioned ○ *I've already done my shopping.* ○ *It was already past ten o'clock when he arrived.*

**also** /'ɔ:lsəʊ/ *adverb* in addition to something or someone else that has been mentioned ○ *He's a keen cyclist and his sister also likes to cycle when she can.* ○ *She sings well and can also play the violin.* (NOTE: **also** is usually placed before the main verb or after a modal or auxiliary verb.)

**alter** /'ɔ:ltə/ *verb* to become different, or make something different, especially in small ways or in parts only ○ *They wanted to alter the terms of the contract after they had signed it.* ○ *The shape of his face had altered slightly.*

**alteration** /,ɔ:ltə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of becoming different or of making something different **2.** something that has been, or needs, changing ○ *She made some alterations in the design.*

**alternate**<sup>1</sup> /ɔ:l'tɜ:nət/ *adjective* every other one ○ *We see each other on alternate Sundays.*

**alternate**<sup>2</sup> /'ɔ:ltəneɪt/ *verb* to keep changing from one particular position or state to another

**alternative** /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv/ *adjective* **1.** in place of something else ○ *If the plane is full, we will put you on an alternative flight.* ○ *Do you have an alternative solution?* **2.** following a different way from usual ■ *noun* something which you do instead of something else ○ *Now that she's ill, do we have any alternative to calling the holiday off?*

**although** /ɔ:l'dəʊ/ *conjunction* in spite of the fact that ○ *Although it was freezing, she didn't put a coat on.* ○ *I've never been into that shop although I've often walked past it.*

**altogether** /,ɔ:ltə'geðə/ *adverb* taking everything together ○ *The food was £10 and the drinks £5, so that makes £15 altogether.* ○ *The staff of the three shops come to 200 altogether.*

**always** /'ɔ:lweɪz/ *adverb* **1.** every time ○ *She is always late for work.* ○ *Why does it always rain when we want to go for a walk?* **2.** all the time ○ *It's always*

*hot in tropical countries.* **3.** frequently, especially when someone finds it annoying ○ *She's always asking me to lend her money.*

**am** /əm, æm/ *1st person present singular of be*

**a.m.** /,ɛɪ 'em/ *adverb* before midday ○ *I have to catch the 7 a.m. train to work every day.* ○ *Telephone calls made before 6 a.m. are charged at the cheap rate.* (NOTE: **a.m.** is usually used to show the exact hour and the word **o'clock** is left out)

**amazement** /ə'meɪzmənt/ *noun* great surprise ○ *To his amazement he won first prize.*

**amazing** /ə'meɪzɪŋ/ *adjective* **1.** very surprising ○ *It was amazing that she never suspected anything.* **2.** extremely interesting and unusual ○ *It was an amazing experience, sailing so far from land at night.*

**ambition** /æm'bɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a wish to do something special ○ *His great ambition is to ride on an elephant.*

**ambulance** /'æmbjuləns/ *noun* a van which carries sick or injured people to hospital ○ *When she fell down the stairs, her husband called an ambulance.*

**American** /ə'merɪkən/ *adjective* relating to America or to the United States

**among** /ə'mʌŋ/, **amongst** /ə'mʌŋst/ *preposition* **1.** surrounded by or in the middle of ○ *He was standing among a crowd of tourists.* **2.** between a number of people in a group ○ *Let's share the cake among us.* **3.** in addition to other people or things ○ *Jack was there, among others.*

**amount** /ə'maʊnt/ *noun* a quantity of something such as money ○ *The amount in my bank account has reached £1000.* ○ *We spent a large amount of time just waiting.* □ **a certain amount** some but not a lot ○ *Painting the house will take a certain amount of time.*

**amount to** *phrasal verb* **1.** to make a total of ○ *My year's savings amount to less than £1000.* **2.** to be similar or equal to something ○ *I think what he said amounts to a refusal to take part.* **3.** □ **to amount to the same thing** to mean the

same, to be the same ○ *Whether he took cash or free holidays, it all amounts to the same thing.* ○ *The remaining problems don't amount to much.*

**amuse** /ə'mju:z/ **verb** **1.** to make someone laugh ○ *This story will amuse you.* □ **to amuse yourself** to play or get pleasure from what you are doing ○ *The children amused themselves quietly while their parents talked.* **2.** to make the time pass pleasantly for someone ○ *How can we amuse the children on the journey?*

**amusement** /ə'mju:zmənt/ **noun** **1.** a feeling of pleasure caused by something that is funny **2.** □ **to someone's amusement** making someone feel pleasure in a funny situation ○ *Much to her amusement, the band played 'Happy Birthday to you!'* **3.** a way of passing the time pleasantly ○ *They had planned several visits for the guest's amusement.*

**amusing** /ə'mju:ziŋ/ **adjective** funny

**an** /ən, æn/ ▶ **a**

**analysis** /ə'næləsɪs/ **noun** a close examination of the parts or elements of something ○ *job analysis* ○ *to make an analysis of the sales or a sales analysis* ○ *to carry out an analysis of the market potential* (NOTE: The plural is **analyses** /ə'nælɪsɪ:z/.)

**ancient** /'eɪnfənt/ **adjective** very old, or belonging to a time long ago ○ *He was riding an ancient bicycle.*

**and** /ən, ənd, ænd/ **conjunction** used to join two words or phrases ○ *All my uncles and aunts live in the country.* ○ *The children were running about and singing.* ○ *Come and sit down next to me.* (NOTE: **and** is used to say numbers after 100: 'seven hundred and two (702)') ◇ **and so on, and so forth, and so on and so forth** with other similar things ○ *He talked about plants, flowers, vegetables, and so on.*

**anger** /'æŋɡə/ **noun** a feeling of being very annoyed ○ *He managed to control his anger.* ○ *She couldn't hide the anger she felt.*

**angle** /'æŋɡəl/ **noun** a corner where two lines meet ○ *She planted the tree in the angle of the two walls.* ◇ **at an angle**

not straight ○ *The shop front is at an angle to the road.*

**angrily** /'æŋɡrɪli/ **adverb** in an angry way ○ *He shouted angrily when the children climbed over the fence.*

**angry** /'æŋɡri/ **adjective** upset and annoyed, and sometimes wanting to harm someone ○ *The shopkeeper is angry with the children because they broke his window.* ○ *He gets angry if the post is late.* ○ *I am angry that the government is doing nothing to prevent crime.* ○ *When the cashier still hadn't arrived at midday the boss got even angrier.* (NOTE: **angrier** – **angriest**)

**animal** /'ænɪm(ə)l/ **noun** a living thing that moves independently ○ *I love having animals as pets.* (NOTE: **animal** may include humans in scientific contexts.)

**ankle** /'æŋkəl/ **noun** the part of the body where your leg joins your foot

**anniversary** /,æni'vɜ:z(ə)ri/ **noun** the same date as an important event that happened in the past

**announce** /ə'naʊns/ **verb** to say something officially or in public ○ *He announced his resignation.* ○ *She announced that she would be standing for parliament.*

**announcement** /ə'naʊnsmənt/ **noun** a statement made in public ○ *The managing director made an announcement to the staff.* ○ *There were several announcements concerning flight changes.*

**annoy** /ə'noɪ/ **verb** to make someone feel slightly angry or impatient ○ *Their rude behaviour really annoyed us.*

**annoyance** /ə'noɪəns/ **noun** a feeling of being slightly annoyed ○ *There was a tone of annoyance in her voice.*

**annoyed** /ə'noɪd/ **adjective** slightly angry or impatient ○ *He was annoyed with his neighbour who had cut down one of his trees.* ○ *I was annoyed to find someone had stolen my mobile phone.*

**annoying** /ə'noɪɪŋ/ **adjective** making you angry or impatient ○ *I find it very annoying that the post doesn't come before 10 o'clock.* ○ *How annoying! I forgot to buy the milk.* ○ *The baby has an annoying cough which won't go away.*

**annual** /'ænjuəl/ *adjective* happening once a year ○ *The village fair is an annual event.* ○ *I get annual interest of 6% on my savings account.*

**another** /ə'nʌðə/ *adjective, pronoun* **1.** one more ○ *I'd like another cake, please.* ○ *Would you like another?* **2.** a different one ○ *He's bought another car.* ○ *She tried on one dress after another, but couldn't find anything she liked.* ♢ **each other**

**answer** /'ɑ:nsə/ *noun* **1.** something that you say or write when someone has asked you a question ○ *The answer to your question is yes.* ○ *I knocked on the door but there was no answer.* □ **in answer to** as a reply to ○ *I am writing in answer to your letter of October 6th.* **2.** the act of picking up a telephone that is ringing ○ *I phoned his office but there was no answer.* ■ *verb* **1.** to speak or write words to someone who has spoken to you or asked you a question ○ *He never answers my letters.* ○ *When he asked us if we had enjoyed the meal we all answered 'yes'.* **2.** □ **to answer the phone** to speak and listen to a telephone caller ○ *His mother usually answers the phone.* □ **to answer the door** to open the door to someone who knocks or rings the bell ○ *No-one answered the door though I knocked twice.*

**ant** /ænt/ *noun* a small insect that lives in large groups

**antibiotic** /,æntɪbaɪ'ɒtɪk/ *noun* a substance which kills harmful organisms such as bacteria

**antique** /æn'ti:k/ *noun* an old and valuable object ○ *He collects antiques.* ■ *adjective* old and valuable ○ *an antique Chinese vase*

**antiseptic** /,æntɪ'septɪk/ *noun* a substance which prevents infection ■ *adjective* preventing infection ○ *an antiseptic dressing*

**antonym** /'æntənɪm/ *noun* a word which means the opposite of another word

**anxiety** /æŋ'zaɪəti/ *noun* **1.** nervous worry about something ○ *Her anxiety about her job prospects began to affect her health.* **2.** the state of being keen to

do something ○ *In his anxiety to get away quickly, he forgot to lock the door.*

**anxious** /'æŋksəs/ *adjective* **1.** nervous and very worried about something ○ *She's anxious about the baby.* **2.** keen to do something ○ *The shopkeeper is always anxious to please his customers.*

**anxiously** /'æŋksəsli/ *adverb* in a nervous, worried way ○ *They are waiting anxiously for the results of the exam.*

**any** /'eni/ *adjective, pronoun* **1.** it doesn't matter which ○ *I'm free any day next week except Tuesday.* **2.** (usually in questions or negatives) a small quantity ○ *Have you got any money left?* ○ *Is there any food for me?* ○ *Would you like any more to eat?* ○ *Will any of your friends be there?* **3.** □ **not...any** none ○ *I don't like any of the paintings in the exhibition.* ○ *There isn't any food left – they've eaten it all.* ○ *Can you lend me some money?* – *sorry, I haven't got any.*

**anybody** /'eniɒdɪ/ *pronoun* same as **anyone**

**anymore** /,eni'mɔ:/, **any more** *adverb* □ **not ... anymore** no longer ○ *We don't go there anymore.*

**anyone** /'eniwʌn/ *pronoun* any person at all ○ *Anyone can learn to ride a bike.* □ **anyone else** any other person ○ *Is there anyone else who can't see the screen?*

**anything** /'eniθɪŋ/ *pronoun* **1.** it doesn't matter what ○ *You can eat anything you want.* ○ *Our dog will bite anything that moves.* **2.** (in questions or negatives) something ○ *Did you do anything interesting at the weekend?* ○ *Did you hear anything make a noise during the night?* ○ *Has anything happened to their plans for a long holiday?* ○ *Do you want anything more to drink?*

**anyway** /'eniweɪ/ *adverb* despite something else ○ *I'm not supposed to drink during the daytime, but I'll have a beer anyway.* ○ *I think it's time to leave – anyway, the last bus is at 11.40.*

**anywhere** /'eniweə/ *adverb* **1.** it does not matter where ○ *Put the chair anywhere.* **2.** (in questions or negatives) somewhere ○ *I can't see your wallet anywhere.* ○ *Did you go anywhere at the*

*weekend? ○ Is there anywhere where I can sit down?*

**apart** /ə'pɑ:t/ *adverb* **1.** separated ○ *The two villages are about six miles apart.* **2.** in separate pieces ○ *He took the watch apart.* ◇ **apart from** except for ○ *Do you have any special interests apart from your work?* ○ *I'm feeling fine, apart from a slight cold.*

**apartment** /ə'pɑ:t'mənt/ *noun* a separate set of rooms for living in ○ *She shares an apartment with a friend.*

**ape** /eɪp/ *noun* a large monkey

**apologise** /ə'pɒlədʒaɪz/, **apologize** *verb* to say you are sorry ○ *He shouted at her and then apologised.* ○ *She apologised for being late.*

**apology** /ə'pɒlədʒi/ *noun* an act of indicating that you are sorry (NOTE: The plural is **apologies**.) ■ *plural noun* **apologies** a statement indicating that you are sorry, especially if you cannot attend a meeting ○ *My apologies for being so late.* ○ *Please give the chairman my apologies.*

**apostrophe** /ə'pɒstrəfi/ *noun* a printing sign ('), either showing that a letter has been left out, e.g. weren't, or after a noun to show possession, e.g. Ben's coat or the girls' coats

**apparatus** /ə'pærɪtəs/ *noun* scientific or medical equipment

**apparent** /ə'pærənt/ *adjective* **1.** easy to see or accept as true ○ *It was apparent to everyone that she was annoyed.* **2.** possibly different from what something seems to be ○ *There is an apparent mistake in the accounts.*

**apparently** /ə'pærəntli/ *adverb* according to what you have seen or heard ○ *Apparently she took the last train home and then disappeared.* ○ *He didn't come to work today – apparently he's got a cold.*

**appeal** /ə'pi:l/ *noun* **1.** an act of asking for help ○ *The police have made an appeal for witnesses.* ○ *The hospital is launching an appeal to raise £50,000.* **2.** an attractive quality ○ *the strong appeal of Greece as a holiday destination* ■ *verb* **1.** □ **to appeal for something** to ask for something ○ *They appealed for*

*money to continue their work.* **2.** □ **to appeal against a verdict** to make a legal request for a court to look again at a decision ○ *He has appealed against the sentence.* **3.** □ **to appeal to someone** to attract someone ○ *These CDs appeal to the teenage market.* ○ *The idea of working in Australia for six months appealed to her.*

**appealing** /ə'pi:lɪŋ/ *adjective* **1.** attractive ○ *The design has proved appealing to our older customers.* **2.** wanting help or support ○ *The child gave her an appealing look as she got up to leave.* (NOTE: only used before a noun)

**appear** /ə'pɪə/ *verb* **1.** to start to be seen ○ *A ship appeared through the fog.* **2.** to seem ○ *There appears to be a mistake.* ○ *He appears to have forgotten the time.* ○ *She appeared rather cross.* **3.** to play a part in a film or play or take part in a TV programme ○ *She appears regularly on TV.* **4.** to come to a law court ○ *He appeared in court, charged with murder.*

**appearance** /ə'pɪərəns/ *noun* **1.** the way that someone or something looks ○ *You could tell from his appearance that he had been sleeping rough.* **2.** the fact of being present somewhere, especially unexpectedly ○ *The appearance of a teacher caused them to fall silent.* □ **to put in an appearance** to go somewhere where other people are for a short time **3.** the beginning of something new ○ *the rapid appearance of mobile phone shops all over the country* ○ *They were worried by the sudden appearance of a red rash.* **4.** an occasion when someone is performing in a film or play or on TV ○ *This is her second appearance in a film.*

**appetite** /'æpɪtaɪt/ *noun* a need or wish to eat ○ *Going for a long walk has given me an appetite.* ○ *He's not feeling well and has lost his appetite.*

**applause** /ə'plɔ:z/ *noun* the act of clapping your hands together several times to show that you liked a performance

**apple** /'æp(ə)l/ *noun* a common fruit that is hard, round and sweet, and grows on a tree ○ *Don't eat apples that are not ripe – they'll make you ill.*

**appliance** /ə'plaɪəns/ *noun* a machine such as a washing machine or cooker used in the home

**applicant** /'æplɪkənt/ *noun* a person who applies for something ○ *job applicants* ○ *Applicants for licences must fill in this form.*

**application** /,æplɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* 1. the process of putting something on something else ○ *Several applications of the cream will be necessary.* 2. the process or act of applying for a job ○ *He wrote a letter of application.* ○ *We've received dozens of applications for the job of barman.*

**application form** /æplɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n fɔ:ɪn/ *noun* a form which has to be filled in to apply for something

**apply** /ə'plaɪ/ *verb* 1. □ **to apply for a job** to ask for a job ○ *She applied for a job in the supermarket.* ○ *He's applying for a job as a teacher.* 2. to put something on ○ *Wait until the first coat of paint is dry before you apply the second.* 3. □ **to apply to** to affect or to be relevant to ○ *This rule only applies to people coming from outside the EU.* (NOTE: **applies – applying – applied**)

**appoint** /ə'pɔɪnt/ *verb* to give someone a job ○ *He was appointed (as) manager or to the post of manager.* ○ *We want to appoint someone to manage our sales department.* (NOTE: You appoint a person to a job.)

**appointment** /ə'pɔɪntmənt/ *noun* 1. an agreed time for a meeting ○ *I want to make an appointment to see the doctor.* ○ *She was late for her appointment.* □ **on her appointment as manager** when she was made a manager 2. the process of being given a job 3. a job ○ *We are going to make three new appointments.*

**appreciate** /ə'pri:ʃi,eɪt/ *verb* to recognise the value of something ○ *Shoppers always appreciate a bargain.* ○ *Customers don't appreciate having to wait to be served.*

**apprentice** /ə'prentɪs/ *noun* a young person who works as an assistant to a skilled person in order to learn from them ○ *He's started work as a plumber's apprentice.*

**approach** /ə'prəʊtʃ/ *noun* 1. the fact of coming nearer ○ *With the approach of winter we need to get the central heating checked.* 2. a way which leads to something ○ *The approaches to the city were crowded with coaches.* 3. a way of dealing with a situation ○ *His approach to the question was different from hers.* ■ *verb* to come near ○ *The plane was approaching the airport when the lights went out.*

**appropriate** /ə'prəʊpriət/ *adjective* suitable for a particular situation ○ *That skirt is not really appropriate for gardening.* ○ *We leave it to you to take appropriate action.*

**approval** /ə'pru:v(ə)l/ *noun* the act of agreeing ○ *The committee gave their approval to the scheme.* ○ *Does the choice of colour have your approval or meet with your approval?*

**approve** /ə'pru:v/ *verb* 1. to agree to something officially ○ *The committee approved the scheme.* 2. □ **to approve of something** to think something is good ○ *He doesn't approve of loud music.*

**approximately** /ə'prɒksɪmətli/ *adverb* not exactly ○ *It takes approximately 35 minutes to get to the city centre from here.*

**April** /'eɪprəl/ *noun* the fourth month of the year, the month after March and before May ○ *Her birthday is in April.* ○ *We went on holiday last April.* (NOTE: **April 5th** or **April 5**: say 'the fifth of April' or 'April the fifth' or in US English 'April fifth'.)

**aptitude** /'æptɪ,tju:d/ *noun* a natural ability that can be developed further

**arch** /ɑ:tʃ/ *noun* a round structure forming a roof or entrance ■ *verb* to make something round like an arch ○ *The cat arched her back and started spitting.*

**architect** /'ɑ:kɪtekt/ *noun* a person who designs buildings

**architecture** /'ɑ:kɪtektʃəl/ *noun* the design of buildings

**are** /ə, ɑ:/ 1st person plural present of **be**. 2nd person singular present of **be**. 2nd person plural present of **be**. 3rd person plural present of **be**

**area** /'eəriə/ *noun* **1.** a space ○ *The whole area round the town hall is going to be rebuilt.* ○ *We always sit in the 'no smoking' area.* **2.** a measurement of the space taken up by something, calculated by multiplying the length by the width ○ *The area of the room is four square metres.* ○ *We are looking for a shop with a sales area of about 100 square metres.* **3.** a part of a town or country ○ *Our house is near the commercial area of the town.* ○ *The factory is in a very good area for getting to the motorways and airports.* □ **the London area** the part of England around London ○ *Houses in the London area are more expensive than elsewhere in the country.*

**argue** /'ɑ:gju:/ *verb* to discuss without agreeing, often in a noisy or angry way ○ *They argued over the prices.* ○ *She argued with the waiter about the bill.* ○ *I could hear them arguing in the next room.* (NOTE: You argue **with** someone **about** or **over** something.)

**argument** /'ɑ:gjumənt/ *noun* a situation in which people discuss something without agreeing ○ *Nobody would back her up in her argument with the boss.* □ **to get into an argument with someone** to start to argue with someone ○ *He got into an argument with the taxi driver.*

**arise** /ə'raɪz/ *verb* to start to appear ○ *The problem arose in the planning department.* (NOTE: **arises** – **arising** – **arose** /ə'rəʊz/ – **arisen** /ə'rɪzən/)

**arithmetic** /ə'rɪθmətɪk/ *noun* calculations with numbers, especially as a subject studied at school

**arm** /ɑ:m/ *noun* **1.** the part of the body which goes from the shoulder to the hand ○ *He held the parcel under his arm.* ○ *She tripped over the pavement and broke her arm.* **2.** the part of a chair which you can rest your arms on ○ *He put his coffee cup on the arm of his chair.* ■ *verb* to give weapons to ○ *The police were armed with guns.* ◇ **arm in arm** with arms linked together ○ *They walked down the street arm in arm.*

**armchair** /'ɑ:mtʃeə/ *noun* a chair with arms

**armed** /ɑ:md/ *adjective* **1.** provided with weapons ○ *Most British policemen are*

*not armed.* ○ *Armed guards surrounded the house.* **2.** involving weapons ○ *the armed struggle between the two groups* **3.** ready for use as a weapon ○ *The device is already armed.* ◇ **armed with** provided with ○ *Armed with picnic baskets, towels and cameras, we set off for the beach.*

**armed forces** /,ɑ:md 'fɔ:sɪz/, **armed services** /,ɑ:md 'sɜ:vɪsɪz/ *plural noun* the army, navy and air force of a country

**army** /'ɑ:mi/ *noun* all the soldiers of a country, trained for fighting on land ○ *He left school at 16 and joined the army.* ○ *An army spokesman held a news conference.* (NOTE: The plural is **armies**.)

**aroma** /ə'rəʊmə/ *noun* a pleasant smell of something you can eat or drink ○ *the aroma of freshly baked bread*

**arose** /ə'rəʊz/ *past tense of arise*

**around** /ə'raʊnd/ *preposition* **1.** going all round something ○ *She had a gold chain around her neck.* ○ *The flood water was all around the village.* **2.** close to or in a place or area ○ *Is there a bus stop around here?* **3.** in various places ○ *We have lots of computers around the office.* **4.** not exactly ○ *It will cost around £200.* ○ *Around sixty people came to the meeting.* ■ *adverb* **1.** in various places ○ *Papers were lying around all over the floor.* ○ *The restaurants were all full, so we walked around for some time.* **2.** in a position that is fairly near ○ *We try not to talk about it when she's around.* ○ *It's the only swimming pool for miles around.* **3.** in existence ○ *She's one of the best eye surgeons around.* ○ *The new coins have been around for some weeks now.*

**arrange** /ə'reɪndʒ/ *verb* **1.** to put in order ○ *The chairs are arranged in rows.* ○ *The books are arranged in alphabetical order.* ○ *The ground floor is arranged as an open-plan area with a little kitchen at the side.* **2.** to make a plan for something ○ *Let's arrange to meet somewhere before we go to the theatre.* ○ *The tour has been arranged by the travel agent.* ○ *She arranged for a taxi to meet him at the airport.* ○ *I've arranged with my mother that she will feed the cat while we're away.* (NOTE:



You arrange **for** someone to do something; you arrange **for** something to be done; or you arrange **to** do something. Note also **arranges – arranging – arranged.**)

**arrangement** /ə'reɪndʒmənt/ *noun* **1.** the process of putting things in order ○ *the arrangement of the pictures in a book* **2.** the process of making plans for an event ○ *All the arrangements for the wedding were left to the bride's mother.*

**arrest** /ə'rest/ *verb* (of the police) to catch and hold someone who has broken the law ○ *The police arrested two men and took them to the police station.* ○ *He ended up getting arrested as he tried to leave the country.* ○ *She was arrested for stealing.* ■ *noun* the act of holding someone for breaking the law ○ *The police made several arrests at the demonstration.* □ **under arrest** held by the police ○ *After the fight, three people were under arrest.*

**arrival** /ə'raɪv(ə)/ *noun* **1.** the act of reaching a place ○ *We announce the arrival of flight AB 987 from Tangiers.* ○ *We apologise for the late arrival of the 14.25 express from Edinburgh.* ○ *The time of arrival is 5 p.m.* □ **on arrival** when you arrive ○ *On arrival at the hotel, members of the party will be allocated rooms.* **2.** a person who has arrived ○ *He's a new arrival on our staff.* ■ **plural noun arrivals** the part of an airport that deals with passengers who are arriving

**arrive** /ə'raɪv/ *verb* to reach a place ○ *They arrived at the hotel tired out.* ○ *The train from Paris arrives in London at 5 p.m.* (NOTE: You arrive **in** a town or **in** a country but **at** a place. Note also: **arrives – arriving – arrived.**)

**arrogant** /'ærəɡənt/ *adjective* very proud in an unpleasant way ○ *He's such an arrogant young man.* ○ *What an arrogant way to treat customers!*

**arrow** /'ærəʊ/ *noun* **1.** a weapon made of a piece of wood with a sharp point **2.** a printed sign &#10137; which points to something

**art** /ɑ:t/ *noun* **1.** the practice of creating objects, e.g. by painting, drawing or sculpture ○ *She is taking art lessons.* ○ *When you're in Washington, don't miss*

*the Museum of Modern Art.* **2.** the objects that are created in this way

**artery** /'ɑ:təri/ *noun* a tube carrying blood from the heart around the body. Compare **vein** (NOTE: The plural is **arteries.**)

**article** /'ɑ:tɪk(ə)/ *noun* **1.** a report in a newspaper ○ *Did you read the article on skiing in yesterday's paper?* **2.** an object or thing ○ *Several articles of clothing were found near the road.* **3.** a word used before a noun to show whether you are referring to a particular or general example of something. The definite article is 'the' and the indefinite article is 'a' or 'an'.

**artificial** /,ɑ:tɪ'fɪʃ(ə)/ *adjective* not natural ○ *She was wearing artificial pearls.*

**artificially** /,ɑ:tɪ'fɪʃ(ə)li/ *adverb* in a way that is not natural

**artist** /'ɑ:tɪst/ *noun* a person who is skilled in making works of art such as paintings ○ *She collects paintings by 19th-century artists.*

**as** /əz, æz/ *conjunction* **1.** because ○ *As you can't drive, you'll have to go by bus.* ○ *As it's cold, you should wear an overcoat.* **2.** at the same time that something else happens ○ *As he was getting into the bath, the telephone rang.* ○ *The little girl ran into the road as the car was turning the corner.* **3.** in the same way ○ *Leave everything as it is.* ■ *preposition* **1.** in a particular job ○ *She had a job as a bus driver.* **2.** because of being a particular type of person ○ *As a doctor, he has to know the symptoms of all the common diseases.* **3.** in a particular way ○ *She was dressed as a nurse.* ○ *They treated him as a friend of the family.* ◇ **as from** from a particular time ○ *as from next Friday* ◇ **as if, as though** in the same way as ◇ **as...as** used in comparisons ○ *She is nearly as tall as I am.* ○ *I can't run as fast as you.* ◇ **as well** in addition to something or someone else that has been mentioned ○ *She came to have tea and brought her sister as well.* ○ *We visited the castle and swam in the pool as well.* ◇ **as well as** in addition to or together with ○ *He has a cottage in the country as well as a flat in town.* ○

*As well as being a maths teacher, he is a part-time policeman.*

**ascend** /ə'send/ **verb** to go up ○ *The balloon rapidly ascended to 3000m.*

**ash** /æʃ/ **noun** **1.** a grey dust left after something has burnt (NOTE: no plural in this sense) **2.** a type of tree that grows in the northern part of Europe

**ashamed** /ə'ʃeɪmd/ **adjective** embarrassed and sorry for something that you have done or not done

**aside** /ə'saɪd/ **adverb** to one side ○ *He took me aside and whispered in my ear.*  
◇ **aside from** except for ○ *Aside from a minor infection, his health had been remarkably good.* ○ *I've got to read these three articles, and that's aside from all my regular work.*

**ask** /ɑːsk/ **verb** **1.** to put a question to get information ○ *She asked a policeman the way to the hospital.* ○ *Joe went to the station to ask about cheap tickets.* ○ *Ask the assistant how much the shoes cost.* **2.** to put a question to get someone to do something ○ *Ask your father to teach you how to drive.* ○ *Can I ask you not to make so much noise?* **3.** to invite someone to an event or to do something ○ *We asked them to our party.* ○ *She asked me to go skiing with her.*

**ask for** **phrasal verb** to say that you want something ○ *Someone came into the shop and asked for the manager.*

**ask out** **phrasal verb** to ask someone to go out with you, e.g. to a restaurant or to the cinema ○ *Bill wants to ask my sister out.*

**asleep** /ə'sliːp/ **adjective** sleeping ○ *He was asleep and didn't hear the fire alarm.* ○ *They were lying asleep on the ground.* □ **to fall asleep** to begin to sleep

**aspect** /'æspekt/ **noun** **1.** a way of considering something such as a situation or a problem ○ *There are several aspects of the problem to be considered before I can decide.* **2.** the direction in which a building or piece of ground faces

**aspirin** /'æsprɪn/ **noun** **1.** a common drug, used in the treatment of minor illnesses to reduce pain **2.** a pill that contains aspirin

**assassinate** /ə'sæsmɪnɪt/ **verb** to kill a famous person, especially for political reasons ○ *Do you remember the day when the President was assassinated?*

**assemble** /ə'semb(ə)l/ **verb** **1.** (especially of people) to come together in a place, or to be brought together by someone ○ *We'll assemble outside the hotel by the coach at 9 a.m.* ○ *They assembled a panel of experts to renew the project.* **2.** (especially of people) to come together in a place, or to be brought together by someone, especially formally or in an ordered way ○ *We'll assemble outside the hotel at 9 a.m.* ○ *They assembled a panel of experts to renew the project.*

**assembly** /ə'sembli/ **noun** **1.** a meeting **2.** the process of putting the pieces of something together to make it complete

**assess** /ə'ses/ **verb** **1.** to consider something or someone in order to make a judgment or decision about it ○ *It's hard to assess how difficult it will be to make the necessary changes.* **2.** to consider someone's achievement or progress in order to decide if it is satisfactory ○ *Students are regularly assessed by their teachers and feedback.* **3.** to calculate an amount to be paid ○ *The cost of the new building is assessed at £1 million.*

**assignment** /ə'saɪnmənt/ **noun** a piece of work that has to be done in a specific time ○ *My literature assignment has to be finished by Wednesday.* ○ *He was given the assignment of reporting on the war.*

**assist** /ə'sɪst/ **verb** to help someone ○ *He assists me with my income tax forms.* ○ *I will be assisted in my work by Jackie Smith.* (NOTE: You assist someone in doing something or **with** something.)

**assistance** /ə'sɪst(ə)ns/ **noun** help ○ *He asked if he could be of any assistance.* ○ *She will need assistance with her luggage.* ○ *He was trying to change the wheel when a truck driver offered his assistance.*

**assistant** /ə'sɪst(ə)nt/ **noun** a person who helps someone as part of their job ○ *His assistant makes all his appointments.*

**associate**<sup>1</sup> /ə'səʊsiət/ *verb* to connect different people or things in your mind  
 ○ *I always associate that book with the wonderful holiday when I first read it.* □  
**to be associated with** to be connected with or involved in something

**associate**<sup>2</sup> /ə'səʊsiət/ *noun* a person who works in the same business as someone else

**association** /ə'səʊsi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** an official group of people or a group of companies in the same trade ○ *an association offering support to victims of street violence* ○ *the Association of British Travel Agents* **2.** a connection formed in the mind between things ○ *For some people, a black cat has an association with luck.* ○ *Manchester has strong family associations for him.* **3.** □ **in association with** together with ○ *The guidebook is published in association with the local tourist board.* ○ *This programme is brought to you in association with British Airways.* ◇ **in association with** together with ○ *The guidebook is published in association with the local tourist board.* ○ *This programme is brought to you in association with British Airways.*

**assume** /ə'sju:m/ *verb* **1.** to imagine or believe that something is true ○ *Let's assume that he is innocent.* ○ *I assume you have enough money to pay for the meal?* **2.** to take on something such as a job or responsibility ○ *When she was twenty-one, she assumed complete control of the family business.* ○ *He has assumed responsibility for fire safety.*

**asthma** /'æsmə/ *noun* a medical condition in which someone suffers breathing difficulties, often because a particular substance has a bad effect on his or her body

**astonish** /ə'stɒnɪʃ/ *verb* to surprise someone very much ○ *His success in maths astonished his teacher – he never came to any of her classes.*

**astonished** /ə'stɒnɪʃt/ *adjective* very surprised ○ *We were astonished to learn that the head teacher had left.*

**astounding** /ə'stɒnɪŋ/ *adjective* very surprising ○ *They spent an aston-*

*ishing amount of money buying Christmas presents.*

**at** /ət, æt/ *preposition* **1.** used for showing time ○ *We'll meet at eleven o'clock.* ○ *You must put your lights on when you drive at night.* ○ *At the weekend, we went to see my mother.* ○ *We went to Paris at Easter.* **2.** used for showing place ○ *Meet us at the post office.* ○ *She's got a job at the supermarket.* ○ *He's not at home, he's at work.* **3.** used for showing speed ○ *The train was travelling at 200 kilometres an hour.* **4.** showing direction ○ *She threw her slipper at the TV.* **5.** showing cause ○ *She laughed at my old coat.* (NOTE: **at** is often used after verbs, e.g. **to look at, to point at.**)

**ate** /et, ɛt/ *past tense of eat*

**athlete** /'æθli:t/ *noun* a person who takes part in sports especially those such as running

**athletic** /æθ'letɪk/ *adjective* referring to athletics

**athletics** /æθ'letɪks/ *noun* organised sports such as running which are competitions between individuals (NOTE: no plural)

**atlas** /'ætɪləs/ *noun* a book of maps (NOTE: The plural is **atlases.**)

**atmosphere** /'ætməsfɪə/ *noun* the air around the Earth ○ *The atmosphere surrounds the Earth to a height of several hundred kilometres.* ■ the air in a particular place ○ *The room had a hot stuffy atmosphere.* ■ *noun* a general feeling ○ *The atmosphere in the office was tense.* ○ *I like the friendly atmosphere at our college.*

**atom** /'ætəm/ *noun* the smallest part of a chemical element that can exist independently

**atomic** /ə'tɒmɪk/ *adjective* relating to the energy produced if an atom is split apart

**attach** /ə'tætʃ/ *verb* to fasten something to something else ○ *The gate is attached to the post.* ○ *I am attaching a copy of my previous letter.*

**attached** /ə'tætʃt/ *adjective* having a strong liking for someone or something ○ *She's very attached to her old dog.*

**attack** /ə'tæk/ *noun* **1.** the act of trying to hurt someone or something ○ *They made an attack on the town.* □ **under attack** in the situation of being attacked ○ *The town is under attack from rebel guerrillas.* **2.** a criticism ○ *He launched an attack on the government.* **3.** a sudden return of a particular illness ○ *She had an attack of malaria.* ■ **verb** to try to hurt someone or to hit someone ○ *Three men attacked her as she walked home.* ○ *The old lady was attacked by muggers.*

**attacker** /ə'tækə/ *noun* a person who attacks someone or something ○ *Can you describe your attacker?*

**attempt** /ə'tempt/ *noun* to try to do something, especially something difficult ○ *She attempted to lift the box onto the table.* □ **an attempt on someone's life** the action of trying to kill someone ■ **verb** to try to do something, especially something difficult ○ *I'll attempt another trip to collect the books when my car has been repaired.* ○ *She attempted to lift the box onto the table.*

**attend** /ə'tend/ *verb* **1.** to be present at an event ○ *Twenty-five people attended the wedding.* ○ *They organised a meeting, but only one or two people attended.* **2.** to listen carefully ○ *Students should attend carefully to the teacher's instructions.*

**attendant** /ə'tendənt/ *noun* a person on duty in a public place such as a museum

**attention** /ə'tenʃən/ *noun* **1.** the act of concentrating on what you are doing ○ *Don't distract the driver's attention.* ○ *Please give the talk on safety procedures your full attention.* □ **to pay attention to** to concentrate on something and think about it carefully ○ *Pay attention to the instructions in the leaflet.* □ **Don't pay any attention to something** you can ignore something ○ *Don't pay any attention to what she says – she's making it up.* **2.** special care, help or extra work ○ *The garden is large and needs a lot of attention.* ○ *The children were quiet and shy but responded well to the special attention they were given.* □ **medical attention** treatment by doctors and nurses ○ *That cut needs urgent med-*

*ical attention.* **3.** the position of a soldier, standing straight, with heels together and looking straight ahead ○ *The guards stood to attention at the entrance of the palace.* ◇ **for the attention of** words written on a letter to show that it is intended for a particular person to deal with it ◇ **to attract (someone's) attention** to make someone notice someone or something ○ *The new play has attracted a lot of press attention or attention in the press.*

**attitude** /'ætɪtju:d/ *noun* **1.** a way of thinking ○ *What is the government's attitude to the problem?* **2.** the position of your body, e.g. standing or sitting ○ *His portrait shows him in a thoughtful attitude.*

**attract** /ə'trækt/ *verb* to make someone want to come to a place or want to become involved in something such as a business ○ *The shops are lowering their prices to attract more customers.* ○ *The exhibition attracted hundreds of visitors.* ○ *We must see if we can attract more candidates for the job.*

**attraction** /ə'trækʃən/ *noun* **1.** a reason for liking someone or something ○ *The flat's main attraction is its closeness to the centre of town.* **2.** something which attracts people ○ *The Tower of London is a great tourist attraction.*

**attractive** /ə'træktɪv/ *adjective* **1.** pleasant to look at ○ *They found the mountain scenery very attractive.* ○ *She's an attractive woman.* **2.** having features which people like ○ *There are some attractive bargains in the sale.* ○ *The rival firm made him a very attractive offer.*

**audience** /'ɔ:diəns/ *noun* the people watching a performance, e.g. at a theatre or cinema or on television, or listening to a radio programme ○ *Members of the audience cheered.* (NOTE: Takes a singular or plural verb.)

**August** /'ɔ:gəst/ *noun* the eighth month of the year, the month after July and before September ○ *My birthday is in August.* ○ *I left my job last August.* ○ *The letter is dated 15 August.* (NOTE: **August 15th** or **August 15**: say 'August

the fifteenth' or 'the fifteenth of August' or in US English 'August fifteenth'.)

**aunt** /ɑ:nt/ *noun* the sister of your mother or father, or the wife of an uncle ○ *She lives next door to my aunt.* ○ *Say goodbye to Aunt Anne.*

**author** /'ɔ:θə/ *noun* a writer ○ *She is the author of a popular series of children's books.*

**authority** /ɔ:'θɒrɪti/ *noun* **1.** power to do something ○ *He has no authority to act on our behalf.* (NOTE: no plural) **2.** an organisation that has control over something ○ *The education authority pays teachers' salaries.* (NOTE: The plural is **authorities**.)

**automatic** /ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ *adjective* **1.** working by itself ○ *There is an automatic device which cuts off the electric current.* **2.** done without thinking about it very much ○ *She gave the receptionist an automatic smile as she passed.* **3.** based on an agreement or existing situation ○ *an automatic fine for parking*

**automatically** /ɔ:tə'mætɪkli/ *adverb* **1.** by a machine, without people having to do anything **2.** without thinking about it very much ○ *I signed the bill automatically.* ■ as a result of an agreement or existing situation ○ *The company automatically retires people at 60.*

**automobile** /'ɔ:təməbi:l/ *noun* especially US a car

**autumn** /'ɔ:təm/ *noun* the season of the year between summer and winter ○ *In autumn, the leaves turn brown.* ○ *We went on a walking holiday last autumn.* ○ *I'll be starting my new job in the autumn term.*

**auxiliary** /ɔ:g'zɪliəri/ *noun* a person who helps other workers (NOTE: The plural is **auxiliaries**.)

**available** /ə'veɪləb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be obtained ○ *The tablets are available from most chemists.*

**avenue** /'ævənju:/ *noun* a wide street in a town, often with trees along the side

**average** /'æv(ə)rɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** the standard that is usual or typical ○ *The journey time today was much slower than the bus company's average.* **2.** a total calculated by adding several quantities to-

gether and dividing by the number of different quantities added ○ *the average for the last three months* or *the last three months' average* ○ *The temperature has been above the average for the time of year.* ■ **adjective** **1.** ordinary or typical ○ *It was an average working day at the office.* ○ *Their daughter is of above average intelligence.* □ **above or below average** more or less than is usual or typical **2.** not very good ○ *Their results were only average.* **3.** calculated by dividing the total by the number of quantities ○ *His average speed was 30 miles per hour.* ■ **verb** to be as an average ○ *Price increases have averaged 10% per annum.*

**avoid** /ə'vɔɪd/ *verb* **1.** to keep away from someone or something ○ *Travel early to avoid the traffic jams.* ○ *Aircraft fly high to avoid storms.* **2.** to try not to do something ○ *He's always trying to avoid taking a decision.* (NOTE: You avoid something or avoid **doing** something.) **3.** to try to prevent something from happening ○ *I want to avoid discussing details at this stage.* ○ *How can we avoid a row?*

**awake** /ə'weɪk/ *adjective* not asleep ○ *It's 2 o'clock and I'm still awake.* ■ **verb** **1.** to wake someone up ○ *He was awoken by the sound of the telephone.* (NOTE: **awake** in this meaning only occurs in the passive.) **2.** to wake up ○ *He awoke when he heard them knocking on the door.* ○ *They awoke to find a fox in their tent.* (NOTE: **awakes** – **awaking** – **awoke** /ə'wəʊk/ – **has awoken**)

**award** /ə'wɔ:ɪd/ *noun* something such as a prize or a gift of money that is given to someone ○ *a design award* ○ *He received an award of £1000.* ○ *The school has been nominated for a technology award.* ■ **verb** to give someone something such as a prize, a degree or diploma, money or a contract to do work ○ *He was awarded first prize.* ○ *She was awarded £10,000 in damages.*

**aware** /ə'weə/ *adjective* knowing something ○ *I'm not aware of any problem.* ○ *Is he aware that we have to decide quickly?* □ **not that I am aware of** not as far as I know ○ *Has there ever been*

*an accident here before? – Not that I am aware of.*

**away** /ə'weɪ/ *adverb* **1.** at a particular distance or time ○ *The nearest shop is three kilometres away.* **2.** not here, somewhere else ○ *The managing director is away on business.* ○ *My assistant is away today.* **3.** (in sports) at your opponents' sports ground ○ *Our team is playing away next Saturday.* **4.** (as emphasis, after verbs) without stopping ○ *The birds were singing away in the garden.*

**awful** /'ɔ:f(ə)l/ *adjective* very bad or unpleasant ○ *She felt awful about missing the party.* ○ *He's got an awful cold.* ○ *Turn off the television – that programme's awful!*

**awfully** /'ɔ:f(ə)li/ *adverb* very (informal)  
○ *It's awfully difficult to contact her.*

**awkward** /'ɔ:kwəd/ *adjective* **1.** embarrassing or difficult to deal with ○ *awkward questions* **2.** difficult to use or deal with because of shape, size or position ○ *The handle's a very awkward shape.* **3.** not convenient ○ *Next Thursday is awkward for me – what about Friday?*

**awoke** /ə'wəʊk/ past tense of **awake**

**awoken** /ə'wəʊkən/ past participle of **awake**

**axe** /æks/ *noun* a tool with a heavy sharp metal head, used for cutting through something ■ *verb* to get rid of something or someone

# B

**b** /bi:/, **B** *noun* the second letter of the alphabet, between A and C

**baby** /'beɪbi/ *noun* **1.** a very young child  
○ *Most babies start to walk when they are about a year old.* ○ *I've known him since he was a baby.* **2.** a very young animal ○ *a baby rabbit* (NOTE: The plural is **babies**. If you do not know if a baby is a boy or a girl, you can refer to it as **it**: *The baby was sucking its thumb.*)

**back** /bæk/ *noun* **1.** the part of the body which is behind you, between the neck and top of the legs ○ *She went to sleep lying on her back.* ○ *He carried his son on his back.* ○ *Don't lift that heavy box, you may hurt your back.* **2.** the opposite part to the front of something ○ *He wrote his address on the back of the envelope.* ○ *She sat in the back of the bus and went to sleep.* ○ *The dining room is at the back of the house.* ■ **adjective** **1.** on the opposite side to the front ○ *He knocked at the back door of the house.* ○ *The back tyre of my bicycle is flat.* **2.** (of money) owed from an earlier date ○ *back pay* ■ **adverb** **1.** towards the back of something ○ *She looked back and waved at me as she left.* **2.** in the past ○ *back in the 1950s* **3.** in the state that something was previously ○ *Put the telephone back on the table.* ○ *She watched him drive away and then went back into the house.* ○ *She gave me back the money she had borrowed.* ○ *I'll phone you when I am back in the office.* (NOTE: **Back** is often used after verbs: **to give back, to go back, to pay back**, etc.) ■ **verb** **1.** to go backwards, or make something go backwards ○ *He backed or backed his car out of the garage.* **2.** to encourage and support a person, organisation, opinion or activity, sometimes by giving money ○ *Her colleagues were willing to back the proposal.* ◇ **to put someone's back up** to annoy someone

**back up** *phrasal verb* **1.** to help or support someone ○ *Nobody would back her up when she complained about the service.* ○ *Will you back me up in the vote?* **2.** to make a car go backwards ○ *Can you back up, please – I want to get out of the parking space.*

**background** /'bækgraʊnd/ *noun* **1.** the part of a picture or view which is behind all the other things that can be seen ○ *The photograph is of a house with mountains in the background.* ○ *His white shirt stands out against the dark background.* Compare **foreground** □ **in the background** while other more obvious or important things are happening **2.** the experiences, including education and family life, which someone has had ○ *He comes from a working class background.* ○ *Her background is in the restaurant business.* **3.** information about a situation ○ *What is the background to the complaint?*

**backward** /'bækwəd/ *adverb* US same as **backwards**

**backwards** /'bækwədz/ *adverb* from the front towards the back ○ *Don't step backwards.* ○ *'Tab' is 'bat' spelt backwards.* □ **backwards and forwards** in one direction, then in the opposite direction ○ *The policeman was walking backwards and forwards in front of the bank.*

**bacon** /'beɪkən/ *noun* meat from a pig which has been treated with salt or smoke, usually cut into thin pieces

**bacteria** /bæk'tɪəriə/ *plural noun* very small living things, some of which can cause disease (NOTE: The singular is **bacterium**.)

**bacterial** /bæk'tɪəriəl/ *adjective* caused by bacteria ○ *a bacterial infection*

**bad** /bəd/ *adjective* **1.** causing problems, or likely to cause problems ○ *Eating too much fat is bad for your health.* ○ *We*

were shocked at their bad behaviour. **2.** of poor quality or skill ○ *He's a bad driver.* ○ *She's good at singing but bad at playing the piano.* **3.** unpleasant ○ *He's got a bad cold.* ○ *She's in a bad temper.* ○ *I've got some bad news for you.* ○ *The weather was bad when we were on holiday in August.* **4.** serious ○ *He had a bad accident on the motorway.* (NOTE: **worse** /wɜːs/ – **worst** /wɜːst/)

**badge** /bædʒ/ *noun* a small sign attached to someone's clothes to show something such as who someone is or what company they belong to

**badly** /'bædli/ *adverb* **1.** not well or successfully ○ *She did badly in her driving test.* **2.** seriously ○ *He was badly injured in the motorway accident.* **3.** very much ○ *His hair badly needs cutting.* (NOTE: **badly** – **worse** /wɜːs/ – **worst** /wɜːst/)

**bag** /bæg/ *noun* **1.** a soft container made of plastic, cloth or paper and used for carrying things ○ *a bag of sweets* ○ *He put the apples in a paper bag.* **2.** same as **handbag** ○ *My keys are in my bag.* **3.** a suitcase or other container used for clothes and other possessions when travelling ○ *Have you packed your bags yet?*

**baggage** /'bæɡɪdʒ/ *noun* cases and bags which you take with you when travelling

**bake** /beɪk/ *verb* to cook food such as bread or cakes in an oven ○ *Mum's baking a cake for my birthday.* ○ *Bake the pizza for 35 minutes.*

**baker** /'beɪkə/ *noun* a person whose job is to make bread and cakes □ **the baker's** a shop that sells bread and cakes ○ *Can you go to the baker's and get a loaf of brown bread?*

**balance** /'bæləns/ *noun* **1.** the quality of staying steady ○ *The cat needs a good sense of balance to walk along the top of a fence.* □ **to keep your balance** not to fall over □ **to lose your balance** to fall down ○ *As he was crossing the river on the tightrope he lost his balance and fell.* **2.** an amount of money remaining in an account ○ *I have a balance of £25 in my bank account.* **3.** an amount of money still to be paid from a larger sum owed ○ *You can pay £100 now and the*

*balance in three instalments.* ○ *The balance outstanding is now £5000.* ■ **verb** **1.** to stay or stand in position without falling ○ *The cat balanced on the top of the fence.* **2.** to make something stay in position without falling ○ *The waiter balanced a pile of dirty plates on his arm.*

**balcony** /'bælkəni/ *noun* **1.** a small flat area that sticks out from an upper level of a building protected by a low wall or by posts ○ *The flat has a balcony overlooking the harbour.* ○ *Breakfast is served on the balcony.* **2.** the upper rows of seats in a theatre or cinema ○ *We booked seats at the front of the balcony.* (NOTE: The plural is **balconies**.)

**bald** /bɔːld/ *adjective* having no hair where there used to be hair, especially on the head ○ *His grandfather is quite bald.* ○ *He is beginning to go bald.*

**ball** /bɔːl/ *noun* **1.** a round object used in playing games, for throwing, kicking or hitting ○ *They played in the garden with an old tennis ball.* ○ *He kicked the ball into the goal.* **2.** any round object ○ *a ball of wool* ○ *He crumpled the paper up into a ball.* **3.** a formal dance ○ *We've got tickets for the summer ball.* ◇ **to start the ball rolling** to start something happening ○ *I'll start the ball rolling by introducing the visitors, then you can introduce yourselves.* ◇ **to play ball** to work well with someone to achieve something ○ *I asked them for a little more time but they won't play ball.* ◇ **to have a ball** to enjoy yourself a lot ○ *You can see from the photos we were having a ball.*

**ballet** /'bæleɪ/ *noun* **1.** a type of dance, given as a public entertainment, where dancers perform a story to music **2.** a performance of this type of dance ○ *We went to the ballet last night.*

**balloon** /bə'lʊn/ *noun* **1.** a large ball which is blown up with air or gas **2.** a very large balloon which rises as the air inside it is heated, sometimes with a container attached for people to travel in ■ **verb** to increase quickly in size or amount

**ban** /bæn/ *noun* an official statement which says that people must not do



something ○ *There is a ban on smoking in cinemas.* ■ **verb** to say officially that people must not do something ○ *She was banned from driving for three years.* (NOTE: **bans** – **banning** – **banned**)

**banana** /bəˈnɑːnə/ **noun** a long yellow, slightly curved fruit which grows in hot countries

**band** /bænd/ **noun** **1.** a group of people who play music together ○ *The soldiers marched down the street, following the band.* ○ *My brother's in a rock band.* **2.** a group of people who do something together ○ *Bands of drunken football fans were wandering around the streets.* **3.** a narrow piece of something ○ *Her hair was tied back with a red band.* **4.** a long thin mark of a particular colour ○ *a black tee-shirt with a broad band of yellow across the front* **5.** a range of things taken together ○ *He's in the top salary band.* ○ *We're looking for something in the £10 – £15 price band.*

**bandage** /ˈbændɪdʒ/ **noun** a cloth for putting around an injured part of the body ○ *The nurse put a bandage round his knee.* ○ *His head was covered in bandages.*

**bang** /bæŋ/ **noun** a sudden noise like that made by a gun ○ *The car started with a series of loud bangs.* ○ *There was a bang and the tyre went flat.* ■ **verb** to hit something hard, so as to make a loud noise ○ *He banged (on) the table with his hand.* ○ *Can't you stop the door banging?*

**bank** /bæŋk/ **noun** **1.** a business which holds money for people, and lends them money ○ *I must go to the bank to get some money.* ○ *She took all her money out of the bank to buy a car.* ○ *How much money do you have in the bank?* **2.** land along the side of a river ○ *He sat on the river bank all day, trying to catch fish.* ○ *There is a path along the bank of the canal.* **3.** a long pile of earth, sand, snow or other substance ○ *The road was blocked by banks of snow blown by the wind.* ■ **verb** to store money in a bank ○ *I banked the cheque as soon as it arrived.* ○ *Have you banked the money yet?*

**bank account** /ˈbæŋk əˌkaʊnt/ **noun** an arrangement which you make with a bank to keep your money safely until you want it □ **to open a bank account** to start keeping money in a bank ○ *He opened a bank account when he started his first job.*

**bank holiday** /ˈbæŋk ˈhɒlɪdeɪ/ **noun** a public holiday when most people do not go to work and the banks are closed

**bar** /bɑː/ **noun** a long piece of something hard ○ *The yard was full of planks and metal bars.* ■ a solid piece of a substance such as chocolate or soap ■ **noun** a place where you can buy and drink alcohol ○ *Let's meet in the bar before dinner.* ■ **preposition** except ○ *All of the suppliers replied bar one.* ○ *All bar two of the players in the team are British.* ■ **verb** **1.** to block something ○ *The road was barred by the police.* ○ *The path is barred to cyclists.* **2.** □ **to bar someone from doing something** to prevent someone officially from doing something ○ *He was barred from playing football for three months.* (NOTE: **bars** – **barring** – **barred**)

**barbecue** /ˈbɑːbɪkjʊː/ **noun** **1.** a metal grill for cooking food on out of doors ○ *Light the barbecue at least half an hour before you start cooking.* **2.** food cooked on a barbecue ○ *Here is a recipe for chicken barbecue.* **3.** a meal or party where food is cooked out of doors ○ *We had a barbecue for twenty guests.* ○ *They were invited to a barbecue.* ■ **verb** to cook something on a barbecue ○ *Barbecued spare ribs are on the menu.* ○ *She was barbecuing sausages for lunch when it started to rain.*

**bare** /beə/ **adjective** **1.** not covered by clothes or shoes ○ *He walked on the beach in his bare feet.* ○ *I can't sit in the sun with my arms bare.* **2.** without any kind of cover ○ *They slept on the bare floorboards.* ○ *They saw the bare bones of dead animals in the desert.* **3.** without leaves ○ *bare branches* **4.** with just what is really needed and nothing extra ○ *We only took the bare essentials when we went travelling.* ○ *She thought £100 was the bare minimum she would accept.* (NOTE: Do not confuse with **bear**.)

**barely** /'beəli/ *adverb* almost not ○ *She barely had enough money to pay for her ticket.* ○ *He barely had time to get dressed before the police arrived.* ○ *The noise is barely tolerable.*

**bargain** /'bɑ:gɪn/ *noun* **1.** something bought more cheaply than usual ○ *The car was a real bargain at £500.* **2.** an agreement between two people or groups of people □ **into the bargain** as well as other things ○ *The plane was late and they lost my suitcase into the bargain.* ■ *verb* to discuss the terms of an agreement or sale ◇ **more than or not what you bargained for** different, usually worse, than you had expected

**bargain on** *phrasal verb* to expect something ○ *I hadn't bargained on it being so wet.* ○ *She's bargaining on someone dropping out so that she can take their place.*

**bark** /bɑ:k/ *noun* **1.** the hard outer layer of a tree **2.** the loud sound a dog makes ○ *The dog gave a bark as we came into the house.*

**barn** /bɑ:n/ *noun* a large farm building for storing produce or for keeping animals or machinery

**barrel** /'bærəl/ *noun* **1.** a container with curved sides for storing liquid ○ *a barrel of beer* ○ *a wine barrel* **2.** the tube of a gun out of which a bullet is fired

**barrier** /'bæriə/ *noun* **1.** a bar or fence which blocks a passage ○ *He lifted the barrier and we drove across the border.* **2.** an action or problem that makes it difficult for something to happen

**base** /beɪs/ *noun* **1.** the bottom part of something ○ *The table lamp has a flat base.* **2.** a place where you work from ○ *He lives in London but uses Paris as his base when travelling in France.* **3.** something from which something else develops or is produced ○ *The report will provide a good base from which to develop ideas.* ■ *verb* to use something or somewhere as a base ○ *The company is based in Paris.* ○ *The theory is based on research done in Russia.* □ **to be based at or in** to have a particular place as your main home or place of work ○ *She's based at head office or in Edinburgh.* □ **to base something on some-**

**thing else** to use something as a model for something else ○ *The book is based on her mother's life.* ○ *His theory was based on years of observations.*

**baseball** /'beɪsbɔ:l/ *noun* **1.** an American game for two teams of nine players, in which a player hits a ball with a long, narrow bat and players from the other team try to catch it **2.** the hard ball used in playing baseball

**-based** /beɪst/ *suffix* **1.** produced or developed from ○ *a milk-based dessert* **2.** living or working at a particular place ○ *a London-based company*

**basement** /'beɪsmənt/ *noun* a floor in a building below ground level

**basic** /'beɪsɪk/ *adjective* very simple, or at the first level ○ *Being able to swim is a basic requirement if you are going canoeing.* ○ *Knowledge of basic Spanish will be enough for the job.*

**basically** /'beɪsɪkli/ *adverb* considering only the most important information and not the details ○ *Basically, he's fed up with his job.*

**basin** /'beɪs(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** same as **wash-basin** **2.** a large or small bowl, especially one for holding or mixing food items

**basis** /'beɪsɪs/ *noun* **1.** the general facts on which something is based ○ *What is the basis for these proposals?* □ **on the basis of** based on ○ *The calculations are done on the basis of an exchange rate of 1.6 dollars to the pound.* **2.** the general terms of an agreement ○ *She is working for us on a temporary basis.* ○ *Many of the helpers at the hospice work on a voluntary basis.* (NOTE: The plural is **bases** /'beɪsɪz/.)

**basket** /'bɑ:skɪt/ *noun* a container made of thin pieces of wood, wire or fibre woven together

**basketball** /'bɑ:skɪtbɔ:l/ *noun* a game played by two teams of five players who try to throw the ball through an open net hung high up at each end of the playing area

**bass** /beɪs/ *noun* **1.** a male singer with a low-pitched voice **2.** a guitar with a low-pitched sound ■ *adjective* relating to a low-pitched voice or music ○ *He has a pleasant bass voice.* Compare **tenor**

**bat** /bæt/ *noun* **1.** a piece of wood used for hitting a ball ○ *a baseball bat* ○ *a cricket bat* **2.** a small animal with skin flaps like wings that flies at night and hangs upside down when resting

**bath** /bɑːθ/ *noun* **1.** a large container in which you can sit and wash your whole body ○ *There's a washbasin and a bath in the bathroom.* (NOTE: The plural is **baths** /bɑːθs/) **2.** □ **to have a bath** to wash your whole body in a bath ■ **verb** to wash yourself or someone else in a bath ○ *She's bathing the baby.* ○ *Do you prefer to bath or shower?* (NOTE: Do not confuse with **bathe**. Note also: **baths** – **bathing** /'bɑːθɪŋ/ – **bathed** /bɑːθt/.)

**bathe** /beɪð/ *verb* **1.** to go into water to swim or wash ○ *Thousands of people come to bathe in the Ganges.* **2.** to wash a cut or damaged part of the body carefully ○ *A nurse bathed the wound on his arm.* **3.** *US* to have a bath ○ *I just have enough time to bathe before my dinner guests arrive.* (NOTE: Do not confuse with **bath**. Note also: **bathes** /beɪðz/ – **bathing** /'beɪðɪŋ/ – **bathed** /beɪðd/.)

**bathroom** /'bɑːθruːm/ *noun* **1.** a room in a house with a bath, a washbasin and usually a toilet ○ *The house has two bathrooms.* **2.** *US* a room containing a toilet ○ *Where's the bathroom?* ○ *Can I use your bathroom, please?*

**battery** /'bæt(ə)ri/ *noun* an object that fits into a piece of electrical equipment to provide it with electric energy ○ *My calculator needs a new battery.* ○ *The battery has given out so I can't use my radio.* ○ *My mobile phone has a rechargeable battery.*

**battle** /'bæt(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** an occasion when large groups of soldiers fight each other using powerful weapons ○ *Many soldiers died in the first battle of the war.* ○ *Wellington won the Battle of Waterloo.* **2.** an attempt to prevent something unpleasant and difficult to deal with ○ *the government's constant battle against crime* ○ *He lost his battle against cancer.* ■ **verb** □ **to battle against** to try to prevent something unpleasant and difficult to deal with ○ *She had to battle against the other members of the board to get the project approved.*

○ *His last years were spent battling against cancer.*

**bay** /beɪ/ *noun* **1.** an area along a coast where the land curves inwards ○ *a sheltered bay* **2.** a marked or enclosed area used for a particular purpose ○ *a bay marked 'Reserved Parking'*

**be** /bɪ, biː/ *verb* **1.** used for describing a person or thing ○ *Our house is older than yours.* ○ *She is bigger than her brother.* ○ *Lemons are yellow.* ○ *The soup is hot.* ○ *Put on your coat – it is cold outside.* ○ *I'm cold after standing waiting for the bus.* ○ *Are you tired after your long walk?* **2.** used for showing age or time ○ *He's twenty years old.* ○ *She will be two next month.* ○ *It is nearly ten o'clock.* ○ *It is time to get up.* ○ *September is the beginning of autumn.* **3.** used for showing price ○ *Onions are 80p a kilo.* ○ *The cakes are 50p each.* ○ *My car was worth £10,000 when it was new.* **4.** used for showing someone's job ○ *His father is a bus driver.* ○ *She wants to be a teacher.* **5.** used for showing things such as size, weight, height, ○ *He's 1.70m tall.* ○ *The room is three metres square.* ○ *Our house is ten miles from the nearest station.* **6.** to add up to ○ *Two and two are four.* **7.** used for showing that someone or something exists or is in a particular place ○ *There was a crowd of people waiting for the shop to open.* ○ *There were only two people left on the bus.* ○ *Where are we?* ○ *There's your hat!* (NOTE: **I am; you are; he/she/it is; we/you/they are; being; I/he/she/it was; we/you/they were; has been; negative: is not usually isn't; are not usually aren't; was not usually wasn't; were not usually weren't.**)

**beach** /biːtʃ/ *noun* an area of sand or small stones by the edge of the sea

**beak** /biːk/ *noun* the hard part of a bird's mouth

**beam** /biːm/ *noun* **1.** a long block of wood or metal which supports a structure, especially a roof ○ *You can see the old beams in the ceiling.* **2.** a ray of light ○ *The beam from the car's headlights shone into the barn.* ○ *Beams of sunlight came through the coloured glass.*

■ **verb** to give a big happy smile ○ *The little girl beamed at him.*

**bean** /bi:n/ **noun** a seed or the long thin pod of various different plants, that is cooked and eaten

**bear** /beə/ **noun** a large wild animal covered with fur ■ **verb** **1.** to carry or support something ○ *The letter bore a London postmark.* ○ *Will this branch bear my weight?* **2.** to accept something bad or unpleasant in a calm way ○ *She bore the bad news bravely.* (NOTE: **bears – bearing – bore** /bɔ:/ – **has borne** /bɔ:n/) □ **be unable to bear someone or something** to strongly dislike someone or something ○ *I can't bear the smell of cooking fish.*

**beard** /biəd/ **noun** the hair growing on a man's chin and cheeks ○ *a long white beard*

**beat** /bi:t/ **noun** a regular pattern of sound ○ *The patient's heart has a regular beat.* ○ *They danced to the beat of the drums.* ■ **verb** **1.** to make a regular sound ○ *His heart was still beating when the ambulance arrived.* ○ *Her heart beat faster as she went into the interview.* **2.** to hit something or someone hard ○ *He was beaten by a gang of youths.* **3.** to win a game against another player or team ○ *They beat their rivals into second place.* ○ *Our football team beat France 2 – 0.* ○ *They beat us by 10 goals to 2.* ○ *We beat the Australians at cricket last year.* (NOTE: **beats – beating – beat – has beaten**)

**beautiful** /'bju:tɪf(ə)l/ **adjective** **1.** physically very attractive ○ *We have three beautiful daughters.* **2.** pleasant or enjoyable ○ *What beautiful weather for a walk.*

**beautifully** /'bju:tɪf(ə)li/ **adverb** in a very pleasing way

**beauty** /'bju:ti/ **noun** **1.** the quality of being beautiful ○ *an object of great beauty* ○ *the beauty of the tall trees against the background of the blue lake* **2.** a beautiful woman or a beautiful thing ○ *At 18 she was a real beauty.* ○ *Look at these apples, they're real beauties.*

**became** /bɪ'keɪm/ **past tense of become**

**because** /bi'kɔ:z/ **conjunction** for the reason that follows ○ *I was late because I missed the train.* ○ *The dog's wet because he's been in the river.* □ **because of** as a result of ○ *The plane was delayed because of bad weather.*

**become** /bɪ'kʌm/ **verb** **1.** to change to something different ○ *The sky became dark and the wind became stronger.* ○ *They became good friends.* ○ *As she got older she became rather deaf.* ○ *It soon became obvious that he didn't understand a word of what I was saying.* **2.** to start to work as ○ *He wants to become a doctor.* (NOTE: **becomes – becoming – became – has become**)

**bed** /bed/ **noun** **1.** a piece of furniture for sleeping on ○ *Lie down on my bed if you're tired.* **2.** a piece of ground for particular plants to grow in ○ *a strawberry bed* ○ *a rose bed* **3.** the ground at the bottom of water ○ *a river bed*

**bedroom** /'bedru:m/ **noun** a room where you sleep ○ *My bedroom is on the first floor.* ○ *The hotel has twenty-five bedrooms.* ○ *Shut your bedroom door if you want to be quiet.*

**bee** /bi:/ **noun** an insect which makes honey, and can sting you

**beef** /bi:f/ **noun** meat from a cow ○ *roast beef* ○ *beef stew*

**been** /bi:n/ **past participle of be**

**beer** /biə/ **noun** **1.** an alcoholic drink made from grain and water ○ *Can I have a glass of beer?* (NOTE: no plural) **2.** a glass or bottle of beer ○ *Three beers, please.*

**beetle** /'bi:t(ə)l/ **noun** an insect with hard covers that protects its folded wings

**before** /bɪ'fɔ:/ **preposition** earlier than ○ *They should have arrived before now.* ○ *You must be home before 9 o'clock.* ○ *G comes before H in the alphabet.* ■ **conjunction** earlier than ○ *The police got there before I did.* ○ *Think carefully before you start to answer the exam questions.* ○ *Wash your hands before you have your dinner.* ○ *Before you sit down, can you switch on the light?* ■ **adverb**

earlier ○ *I didn't see him last week, but I had met him before.* ○ *Why didn't you tell me before?*

**beg** /beg/ **verb** **1.** to ask for things like money or food ○ *She sat begging on the steps of the station.* ○ *Children were begging for food.* **2.** to ask someone in an emotional way to do something or give something ○ *His mother begged him not to go.* ○ *He begged for more time to find the money.* (NOTE: **begs** – **begging** – **begged**)

**begin** /bɪ'ɡɪn/ **verb** to start doing something ○ *The children began to cry.* ○ *She has begun to knit a red pullover for her father.* ○ *The house is beginning to warm up.* ○ *His surname begins with an S.* ○ *The meeting is due to begin at ten o'clock sharp.* (NOTE: **begins** – **beginning** – **began** – **has begun**) □ **to begin again** to start a second time ○ *She played a wrong note and had to begin again.*

**beginner** /bɪ'ɡɪnə/ **noun** a person who is starting to learn something or do something ○ *The course is for absolute beginners.* ○ *I can't paint very well – I'm just a beginner.*

**beginning** /bɪ'ɡɪnɪŋ/ **noun** the first part ○ *The beginning of the film is rather boring.*

**begin** /bɪ'ɡɪn/ **past participle of begin**

**behalf** /bɪ'hɑ:f/ **noun** □ **on behalf of someone, on someone's behalf** acting for someone ○ *She is speaking on behalf of the trade association.* ○ *He was chosen to speak on the workers' behalf.*

**behave** /bɪ'heɪv/ **verb** to act in a certain way with someone ○ *He behaved very pleasantly towards his staff.* ○ *She was behaving in a funny way.*

**behaviour** /bɪ'heɪvjə/ **noun** a way of doing things ○ *His behaviour was quite natural.* ○ *Local people complained about the behaviour of the football fans.*

**behind** /bɪ'hɑɪnd/ **preposition** **1.** at the back of ○ *They hid behind the door.* ○ *I dropped my pen behind the sofa.* ○ *He was second, only three metres behind the winner.* **2.** responsible for ○ *The police believe they know who is behind the bombing campaign.* **3.** supporting ○ *All*

*his colleagues were behind his decision.* ○ *We're behind you!* ■ **adverb** **1.** at the back ○ *He was first, and the rest of the runners were a long way behind.* **2.** later than you should be ○ *I am behind with my correspondence.* ○ *The company has fallen behind schedule with its deliveries.*

**being** /'bi:ɪŋ/ **noun** **1.** a person **2.** a living thing, especially one that is not easily recognised **3.** a spiritual or magical force ○ *He dreamt he was being supported by supernatural beings.* **4.** a state of existing □ **to come into being** to start to exist ○ *The association came into being in 1946.*

**belief** /bɪ'li:f/ **noun** a strong feeling that something is true ○ *his firm belief in the power of law* ○ *her strong belief in God*

**believe** /bɪ'li:v/ **verb** **1.** to be sure that something is true, although you can't prove it ○ *People used to believe that the earth was flat.* ○ *Don't believe anything he tells you.* **2.** used when you are not absolutely sure of something ○ *I don't believe we've met.* ○ *I believe I have been here before.*

**bell** /bel/ **noun** **1.** a metal object shaped like a cup which makes a ringing noise when hit by a piece of metal inside it ○ *They rang the church bells at the wedding.* **2.** any object designed to make a ringing noise, especially one that uses electricity ○ *The alarm bell rings if you touch the door.* ○ *The postman rang the door bell.* ○ *You ought to have a bell on your bicycle.* ◇ **to ring a bell or any bells** to sound familiar or remind you of something ○ *Does the name Forsyth ring a bell?*

**belly** /'beli/ **noun** the stomach and intestines (*informal*) (NOTE: The plural is **bellies**.)

**belong** /bɪ'lɒŋ/ **verb** **1.** to be kept in the usual or expected place ○ *That book belongs on the top shelf.* **2.** to be happy to be somewhere or with a group of people ○ *Within a week in my new job I felt I belonged.* **3.** □ **to belong to someone** to be the property of someone ○ *Does the car really belong to you?* **4.** □ **to belong to an organisation** to be a member of an organisation ○ *They still belong to the*

tennis club. **5.** □ **to belong with** to be a part of or connected to something else ○ *These knives belong with the set in the kitchen.*

**below** /bɪ'ləʊ/ *adverb* lower down ○ *Standing on the bridge we looked at the river below.* ○ *These toys are for children of two years and below.* ■ **preposition** lower down than ○ *The temperature was below freezing.* ○ *In Singapore, the temperature never goes below 25°C.* ○ *Do not write anything below this line.* ○ *These tablets should not be given to children below the age of twelve.* ○ *Can you see below the surface of the water?*

**belt** /belt/ *noun* a strap which goes round your waist to hold up a skirt or trousers ○ *She wore a skirt with a bright red belt.*

**bench** /bentʃ/ *noun* a long seat for several people ○ *We sat down on one of the park benches.*

**bend** /bend/ *noun* a curve in something such as a road or a pipe ○ *Don't drive too fast, there's a sudden bend in the road.* ○ *The pipe under the sink has an awkward bend in it.* ■ **verb** **1.** to move your shoulders and head into a lower position ○ *He bent to pick up the little girl.* ○ *You can reach it if you bend to the left.* **2.** to have the shape of a curve ○ *The road bends suddenly after the bridge.* (NOTE: **bends – bending – bent** /bent/)

**bend down** *phrasal verb* to move to a lower position, so that your head is lower than your waist ○ *He bent down to pick up the little girl.*

**bend over** *phrasal verb* to move to a different or a lower position ○ *You can read it if you bend over to the left.* ○ *Bend over till you can touch your toes.* ◇ **to bend over backwards for someone or to do something** to do everything you can to help someone ○ *Their friends bent over backwards for or to support the family after the accident.*

**beneath** /bɪ'ni:θ/ *preposition* under ○ *There are dangerous rocks beneath the surface of the lake.* ○ *The river flows very fast beneath the bridge.* ■ **adverb** underneath (formal) ○ *They stood on the*

*bridge and watched the river flowing beneath.*

**beneficial** /,benɪ'fɪʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* having a helpful effect

**benefit** /'benɪfɪt/ *noun* an advantage ○ *What benefit would I get from joining the club?* ■ **verb** **1.** to be useful to someone ○ *The book will benefit anyone who is planning to do some house repairs.* **2.** □ **to benefit from or by something** to get an advantage from something ○ *Tourists will benefit from improved transport links.* ○ *Older people can benefit from free bus passes.* (NOTE: **benefits – benefitting – benefitted**)

**bent** /bent/ *adjective* curved or twisted ○ *These nails are so bent we can't use them.*

**berry** /'beri/ *noun* a small round fruit with several small seeds inside (NOTE: The plural is **berries**. Do not confuse with **bury**.)

**beside** /bɪ'saɪd/ *preposition* at the side of someone or something ○ *Come and sit down beside me.* ○ *The office is just beside the railway station.* ◇ **it's beside the point** it's got nothing to do with the main subject ○ *Whether or not the coat matches your hat is beside the point – it's simply too big for you.*

**besides** /bɪ'saɪdz/ *preposition* as well as ○ *They have two other cars besides the big Ford.* ○ *Besides managing the shop, he also teaches in the evening.* □ **besides being or doing something** in addition to being or doing something ■ **adverb** used for adding another stronger reason for something ○ *I don't want to go for a picnic – besides, it's starting to rain.*

**best** /best/ *adjective* better than anything else ○ *She's my best friend.* ○ *He put on his best suit to go to the interview.* ○ *What is the best way of getting to London from here?* ■ **noun** the thing which is better than anything else ○ *The picture shows her at her best.* ■ **adverb** in the most effective or successful way ○ *The engine works best when it's warm.* ○ *Oranges grow best in hot countries.* ○ *Which of you knows London best?* ◇ **all the best** best wishes for the future ◇ **as best you can** in the best way you can,

even though this may not be perfect ◇ **to do your best** to do as well as you can ◇ **to make the best of something** to take any advantage you can from something ◇ **to make the best of a bad job** to accept a bad situation cheerfully ◇ **to the best of someone's ability** as well as possible ○ *I'll help you to the best of my ability.* ◇ **to the best of my knowledge** as far as I know ◇ **best regards, best wishes** a greeting sent to someone ○ *Give my best wishes to your father.*

**bet** /bet/ *noun* a sum of money which is risked by trying to say which horse will come first in a race or which side will win a competition ○ *He placed a bet on his friend's horse but lost when the horse came last.* ○ *I've got a bet on Brazil to win the next World Cup.* ■ **verb** to risk money by saying which horse you think will come first in a race or which team will win a competition ○ *He bet me £10 the Prime Minister would lose the election.* ○ *She bet £30 on the horses.* (NOTE: **bets – betting – bet**) ◇ **I bet (you) (that) or I'll bet (you) (that)** I'm sure that ○ *I bet you she's going to be late*

**better** /'betə/ *adjective* **1.** good when compared to something else ○ *The weather is better today than it was yesterday.* ○ *His latest book is better than the first one he wrote.* ○ *She's better at maths than English.* ○ *Brown bread is better for you than white.* ○ *We will shop around to see if we can get a better price.* **2.** healthy again ○ *I had a cold last week but I'm better now.* ○ *I hope your sister will be better soon.* ■ **adverb** more successfully than something else ○ *She sings better than her sister.* ○ *My old knife cuts better than the new one.* □ **to think better of something** to decide that something is not a good idea ○ *He was going to drive to London, but thought better of it when he heard the traffic report on the news.* ◇ **for the better** in a way which makes a situation less unpleasant or difficult ○ *Her attitude has changed for the better since we reviewed her responsibilities.* ◇ **had better or would be better** it would be sensible to ○ *She'd better go to bed if*

*she's got flu.* ○ *It would be better if you phoned your father now.*

**between** /br'twi:n/ *preposition* **1.** with people or things on both sides ○ *There's only a thin wall between his office and mine, so I hear everything he says.* ○ *Don't sit between him and his girlfriend.* **2.** connecting two places ○ *The bus goes between Oxford and London.* **3.** in the period after one time and before another ○ *I'm in a meeting between 10 o'clock and 12.* ○ *Can you come to see me between now and next Monday?* **4.** within a range between two amounts or numbers ○ *The parcel weighs between four and five kilos.* ○ *Cherries cost between £2 and £3 per kilo.* **5.** used for comparing two or more things ○ *Sometimes it's not easy to see a difference between blue and green.* ○ *She could choose between courses in German, Chinese or Russian.* **6.** among ◇ **between you and me** speaking privately ◇ **in between** with things on both sides ○ *There's only a thin wall between his bedroom and mine, so I hear everything he says on the phone.*

**beware** /br'weə/ *verb* to be careful about something that might be dangerous or cause a problem ○ *Beware of cheap imitations.* ○ *You need to beware of being persuaded to spend more than you can afford.*

**beyond** /br'jɒnd/ *preposition* **1.** further away than ○ *The post office is beyond the bank.* **2.** outside the usual range of something ○ *The delivery date is beyond our control.* ○ *I can't accept new orders beyond the end of next year.* □ **beyond someone's means** too expensive for someone to buy ○ *I'd love to buy a sports car, but I think it would be beyond my means.* **3.** later than ○ *The party went on beyond midnight.*

**Bible** /'baɪb(ə)/ *noun* **1.** the holy book of the Christian religion **2.** an important and useful reference book ○ *She keeps an old French recipe book in the kitchen – it's her bible.*

**bicycle** /'baɪsɪk(ə)/ *noun* a vehicle with two wheels which you ride by pushing on the pedals ○ *He goes to school by bicycle every day.* ○ *She's going to do the*