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**essential** /ɪ'senʃ(ə)l/ adj ★★★

**1** completely necessary: *It is absolutely essential that all these issues are discussed.*  
♦ A good dictionary is **essential for learning English.**

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MACMILLAN  
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DICTIONARY

FOR LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

INCLUDES CD-ROM



This brochure contains the following pages from the *Macmillan Essential Dictionary*:

- a full contents list
- sample pages from the letter 'C'
- 2 pages of full colour illustrations
- Language Study sample pages

with additional pages on:

- how to use the dictionary
- a word puzzle to help you to explore the dictionary pages

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# How to use the MACMILLAN

The 3,500 most important words for intermediate learners to write and speak English are highlighted in red

'Menus' in longer entries help you to find the meaning you need – fast

Common grammar patterns for students to learn

Each meaning is numbered with the most common sense shown first

Simple, clear definitions are written using just over 2,000 of the most common words of the language

Phrases and phrasal verbs are given at the end of the entry

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

Special vocabulary and grammar notes for building vocabulary and avoiding common mistakes: word families, words that avoid giving offence, choosing the right word, words that should not be confused

## chandelier

the government spends its money  
**chandelier** /ˈʃændəlɪə/ noun [C] a light that hangs from a ceiling and has a lot of branches for holding lights or CANDLES

● **change**<sup>1</sup> /tʃeɪndʒ/ verb ★★★

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 become different | 5 get on different vehicle |
| 2 start sth new    | 6 exchange money           |
| 3 replace sth      | + PHRASES                  |
| 4 of clothes       | + PHRASAL VERBS            |

● **1** [V/T] to become different, or to make someone or something different: *After a few days the weather changed.* ♦ *The law was changed in 1989.* ♦ *The leaves are already starting to change colour* (=become a different colour): ● **change (sth) from sth to sth** *The town has changed from a small fishing village to a modern tourist centre.*

● **2** [V/T] to stop doing one thing and start doing something different: *Dave said he might be changing jobs.* ♦ **change (sth) to sth** *Consumers are increasingly changing to low-fat milk.*

● **3** [T] to replace something with a new or different thing: *Can you help me change a tyre?*

● **4** [V/T] to take off the clothes that you are wearing and put on different ones: *Hang on, I'll just go and change.* ♦ *I had a bath and changed my clothes.* ♦ *Have I got time to get changed before we go?* ♦ *You should change into some dry socks.*

● **5** [V/T] to leave one plane, train, bus etc to get on another: *We changed planes in Paris.*

● **6** [T] to exchange one type of money for another: *Can anyone change a ten-pound note?* ♦ *I need to change some dollars into pesos.*

● **PHRASES** **change hands** to be given or sold by one person to another  
**change your mind** to change a decision you have made or an opinion you have about something: *I've changed my mind about Steve.*

● **change the subject** to stop talking about one thing and start talking about another  
→ CHOP<sup>1</sup>

● **PHRASAL VERBS** **'change (sth) into sth** to stop being in one condition or form and start being in another, or to make something do this: *At what point does boiling water change into steam?*

● **change over** to stop doing or using one thing and start doing or using something else: *When did the UK change over to the metric system?*

### Other ways of saying change

- **adapt** to change something in order to make it suitable for a specific situation
- **adjust** to change something slightly so that it is exactly the way you want it
- **alter** a more formal word for 'change'
- **convert** to change something so that it can be used for a different purpose
- **modify** to make small changes to a machine or system in order to make it suitable for a different situation
- **transform** to change something completely so that it looks or works much better than before

# ESSENTIAL DICTIONARY

## Channel Tunnel

**change**<sup>2</sup> /tʃeɪndʒ/ noun ★★★

**1** [C/U] a situation or process in which something becomes different or is replaced, or the result of this process: *A number of changes have taken place since the 1960s.* ♦ *Older people sometimes find it hard to accept change.* ♦ *We made few changes to the team.* ♦ *a change in the law* ♦ *a change from military to civilian rule*

**2** [U] the money that someone gives back to you when you give more money than it costs to buy something: *Here's your change.*

**3** [U] coins rather than notes: *I'm sorry I haven't got any change.* ♦ *Have you got change for a five-pound note* (=notes or coins of lower value that you can exchange for it)?

**PHRASES** **a change of clothes/socks/underwear etc** another set of clothes, socks etc that you take with you so that you can wear them later

**a change of heart** an occasion when you change your opinion or plan  
**for a change** instead of what usually happens: *It's nice to hear some good news for a change.*

→ SEA CHANGE

### Words often used with change

Adjectives often used with **change** (noun, sense 1)

■ **dramatic, fundamental, major, radical** + change: used about big changes

**changeable** /tʃeɪndʒəb(ə)l/ adj tending to change suddenly and often

= UNPREDICTABLE

**changed** /tʃeɪndʒd/ adj different from before

≠ UNCHANGED

**changeover** /tʃeɪndʒəʊvə/ noun [C] a change from one method, system, or activity to another

**changing room** /'tʃeɪndʒɪŋ ru:m/ noun [C] **1** a room in which people change their clothes before and after they play a sport **2** *British* room in a shop in which people can try on clothes before they buy them = FITTING ROOM

**channel**<sup>1</sup> /'tʃæ(ə)l/ noun [C] ★★

**1** a television station and the programmes that it broadcasts: *What's on the other channel?*

**2** a way of communicating or expressing something: *It is important to keep channels of communication open.* ♦ *a channel for her creative energies*

**3** a narrow passage made in the ground so that water can go along it

**4** a narrow area of water that joins two seas

**channel**<sup>2</sup> /'tʃæ(ə)l/ **1** *verb* [T] **1** to use money or supplies for a particular purpose: *The company has channelled £1.2 million into developing new products.* **2** to use your energy, ability, feelings, or ideas for a particular purpose

**Channel, the** /'tʃæ(ə)l/ the narrow area of sea between England and France

**channeled** /'tʃæ(ə)ld/ an American past tense and past participle of **channel**

**channeling** /'tʃæ(ə)lɪŋ/ an American present participle of **channel**

**Channel Tunnel, the** a train tunnel under

The most useful words for intermediate learners are graded, based on a corpus of over 200 million words

Frequent collocations are shown in examples

Collocation boxes help learners to speak and write natural English

Thousands of synonyms and opposites

Comprehensive coverage of British and American English spellings, pronunciation and meaning

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

Up-to-date, learner-centred pronunciations

Stress patterns are shown where no separate pronunciation is given

**crackle** /kræk(ə)l/ verb [I] **1** to continually make short sounds like the sound of wood burning **2** to be full of something such as nervousness or excitement: *The atmosphere crackled with expectation.*

**crackling** /kræk(ə)lɪŋ/ noun [singular/U] the sound that something makes when it crackles

**crackpot** /krækpɒt/ adj *informal* slightly crazy — **crackpot** noun [C]

**cradle**<sup>1</sup> /kreɪd(ə)l/ noun [C] **1** a small bed for a baby that can swing from side to side **2** the part of a telephone where you put the RECEIVER **3** the place where something began = BIRTHPLACE: *a region that is regarded as the cradle of African culture*

**cradle**<sup>2</sup> /kreɪd(ə)l/ verb [T] to hold something gently in your hands or arms

**craft**<sup>1</sup> /krɑ:ft/ noun **1** [C] a traditional skill of making things by hand, or something such as furniture or jewellery that is made by hand: *traditional Egyptian arts and crafts* **2** [C] a boat or ship **3** [C/U] the skill needed for a particular profession

**craft**<sup>2</sup> /krɑ:ft/ verb [T] to make or produce something skilfully

**craftsman** /krɑ:ftsmən/ noun [C] a man who makes beautiful or practical objects

**craftsmanship** /krɑ:ftsmənʃɪp/ noun [U] the skill involved in making something beautiful or practical, or the beauty of something that has been made with skill

**craftswoman** /krɑ:ftswʊmən/ noun [C] a woman who makes beautiful or practical objects

**crafty** /krɑ:fti/ adj good at getting what you want, especially dishonestly — **craftily** adv

**crag** /kræg/ noun [C] a very steep rough part of a cliff or mountain

**craggy** /krægi/ adj **1** a craggy face looks strong and has deep lines in it = RUGGED **2** steep with a lot of rough rocks

**cram** /kræm/ verb **1** [T] to put people or things into a space that is too small: *The sacks of rice were crammed under a table.* ♦ *The hall was crammed with children.* **2** [I] *informal* to study hard in order to learn a lot in a short time

**cramp** /kræmp/ noun [C/U] sudden severe pain in a tired muscle that becomes very tight

**cramped** /kræmpt/ adj small and crowded: *cramped offices*

**cranberry** /krænb(ə)ri/ noun [C] a small sour red fruit: *a glass of cranberry juice*

**crane**<sup>1</sup> /krem/ noun [C] **1** a very tall machine that is used for moving heavy objects and for building tall buildings **2** a large water bird with long legs and a long neck

**crane**<sup>2</sup> /krem/ verb [VT] to stretch your neck out to try to see something

**cranium** /kreɪniəm/ noun [C] *medical* your SKULL

**crank**<sup>1</sup> /kræŋk/ noun [C] **1** *British informal* someone whose ideas or behaviour are very strange **2** a piece of equipment that turns to make something move or start

**crank**<sup>2</sup> /kræŋk/ PHRASAL VERB **crank sth up** *informal* to increase the level or amount of something

**crash**<sup>1</sup> /kræʃ/ verb ★

<b>1</b> hit sth noisily	<b>4</b> make sudden noise
<b>2</b> when vehicle hits sth	<b>5</b> of stock market
<b>3</b> when plane falls	<b>6</b> when computer fails

**1** [VT] to hit something hard and make a loud noise: *A ball came crashing through the window.* ♦ *The waves crashed against the rocks.*

**2** [VT] if a vehicle crashes, or if someone crashes it, it hits something: *Three people were killed when their car crashed into a tree.*

**3** [VT] if a plane crashes, or if someone crashes it, it falls from the sky

**4** [I] to make a sudden loud noise, as if something is being hit

**5** [I] if the STOCK MARKET crashes, its value falls suddenly

**6** [I] if a computer or a computer program crashes, it suddenly stops working

**crash**<sup>2</sup> /kræʃ/ noun [C] ★

**1** an accident that happens when a vehicle hits something: *He was seriously injured in a car crash.* ♦ *It was the worst train crash in thirty years.*

**2** a loud noise like the sound of things hitting each other and breaking

**3** a sudden fall in prices or in the value of the STOCK MARKET

**4** an occasion when a computer or a computer program suddenly stops working

**crash barrier** noun [C] *British* a low metal fence at the side of a road or along the middle of a motorway

**crash course** noun [C] a course of study in which you are taught a lot about a subject in a short time

**crash helmet** noun [C] a hard round hat that you wear to protect your head while driving a MOTORCYCLE OF RACING CAR — *picture* → HAT

**crash landing** noun [C] an occasion when an aircraft has to land in a sudden and dangerous way

**crass** /kræs/ adj offensive and not sensitive to other people's feelings — **crassly** adv

**crate** /kreɪt/ noun [C] a container for storing or moving things

**crater** /kreɪtə/ noun [C] **1** the round hole at the top of a VOLCANO **2** a large round hole in the ground that is caused by an explosion

**crave** /kreɪv/ verb [VT] to feel a very strong need that is hard to control: *As a child he craved attention.*

**craving** /kreɪvɪŋ/ noun [C] a very strong feeling of wanting something: *a craving for chocolate*

**crawl**<sup>1</sup> /kro:1/ verb [I]

<b>1</b> used about people	<b>4</b> used about time
<b>2</b> used about vehicles	<b>5</b> try to please sb
<b>3</b> used about insects	+ PHRASE

**1** to move along the ground on your hands and knees: *We crawled through the bushes.*

**2** to move forwards very slowly: *Traffic crawled along the main road.* **3** if an insect crawls, it moves forwards using its legs **4** if time crawls by, it seems to pass very slowly **5** to try extremely hard to please someone in a way that makes people not respect you

**PHRASE** **be crawling with 1** to be too full of people: *The town was crawling with police.*  
**2** to be full of unpleasant insects or animals



crawl

**crawl**<sup>2</sup> /kraʊl/ noun [singular] **1** a very slow speed **2** a style of swimming in which you move one arm over your head and then the other while you are kicking your legs

**crayon** /'kreɪn/ noun [C] a stick of coloured wax that is used for drawing

**craze** /kreɪz/ noun [C] something that suddenly becomes very popular for a short time

**crazed** /kreɪzd/ adj completely crazy and uncontrolled

**crazy** /'kreɪzi/ adj *informal* ★★ not at all sensible or practical: *It's crazy. Who would do a thing like that?* ♦ **be crazy to do sth** *She knew she would be completely crazy to refuse.*

**PHRASES** **crazy about sb** very much in love with someone

**crazy about sth** very enthusiastic about something

**drive sb crazy** to make someone very annoyed  
**go crazy 1** to become very angry about something **2** to become very bored and upset **3** to become very excited

**like crazy** to a very great degree = **MAD**: *The games are selling like crazy.*

—**crazily** adv

Words that may cause offence: **crazy**

Avoid using words like **crazy**, **mad**, and **insane** about people who have mental illnesses or mental health problems. Instead, use an expression such as **mentally ill**.

**creak** /kri:k/ verb [I] if something creaks, it makes a high noise when it moves, or when you put weight on it —**creak** noun [C], **creaky** adj

**cream**<sup>1</sup> /kri:m/ noun ★★

**1** [U] a thick yellowish-white liquid that is taken from the top of milk

**2** [C/U] a thick smooth substance that you put on your skin, for example when it is dry. Some medicines are in the form of a cream.

**3** [U] a yellowish-white colour

**PHRASE** **the cream of the crop** the best people or things of a particular type

—**creamy** adj

**cream**<sup>2</sup> /kri:m/ adj yellowish-white in colour  
**cream cheese** noun [U] a soft smooth white cheese that you spread on bread and similar foods

**crease**<sup>1</sup> /kri:s/ noun [C] **1** a line made on cloth or paper when it is folded or crushed **2** a line on someone's skin = **WRINKLE**

**crease**<sup>2</sup> /kri:s/ verb [I/T] to make lines on cloth or paper by folding or crushing it, or to become covered in these lines

**creased** /kri:st/ adj creased cloth or paper is marked with a crease

**create** /kri'eɪt/ verb [T] ★★★ to make something new exist or happen: *His comments have created a lot of confusion.* ♦ *How do I create a new file?* ♦ *In the last week, 170 new jobs have been created.* ♦ *He was only 22 when he created this masterpiece.*

**creation** /kri'eɪ(ə)n/ noun ★★

**1** [U] the act of creating something: *The government is to provide more money for job creation.* ♦ **the creation of new industries**

**2** [C] something that has been created using skill or imagination: *Have you seen my latest creation?*

**creative** /kri'eɪtɪv/ adj ★

**1** involving a lot of imagination and new ideas: *Painting is a creative process.* ♦ *the creative use of technology in everyday life*

**2** having a lot of imagination and new ideas: *The programme offers children the chance to be creative.*

—**creatively** adv

**creative writing** noun [U] the activity of writing stories and poems

**creativity** /kri'eɪtɪvəti/ noun [U] the ability to create new ideas or things using your imagination: *We want to encourage creativity in our employees.*

**creator** /kri'eɪtə/ noun **1** [C] someone who has created something **2** **The Creator** God

**creature** /kri:tʃə/ noun [C] ★★

**1** anything that lives except plants: *a small furry creature*

**2** an imaginary living thing that is strange or frightening: *The Gorgon was a mythical creature.*

**crèche** /kri:ʃ/ noun [C] *British* a place where babies and small children are looked after while their parents are busy

**credence** /kri:d(ə)ns/ noun **give/lend/add credence to sth** *formal* to make people think that something is likely to be true

**credentials** /kri'denʃ(ə)lz/ noun [plural]

**1** personal qualities, achievements, or experiences that make someone suitable for something: *His credentials as a football manager are impressive.* **2** documents that prove who you are, or that show your qualifications

**credibility** /kredə'bɪləti/ noun [U] qualities that someone or something has that make people believe them or trust them: *The government is losing credibility by its failure to act quickly.*

**credible** /kredə'b(ə)l/ adj **1** able to be believed or trusted: *credible evidence* **2** considered likely to happen or likely to be successful: *a credible opponent/candidate* —**credibly** adv

**credit**<sup>1</sup> /kredit/ noun ★★

**1** when you pay later

**2** praise for sth you did

**3** money you pay in

**4** money you can use

**5** at college/university

**6** list of who made film

+ **PHRASES**

**1** [U] an arrangement to receive money from a bank, or receive goods from a shop, and to pay for them later ≠ **DEBIT**: *I don't like*

*buying things on credit.* ♦ *Some suppliers will not offer credit to their customers.*

**2** [U] praise for something that you have done: *You deserve credit for all the help you gave us.* ♦ *He always takes the credit for my ideas.*

**3** [C] an amount of money that you add to an account

**4** [C] an amount of money that you have a right to use: *tax credits*

**5** [C] a part of a college or university course that you have completed successfully

**6** **the credits** [plural] a list at the beginning or end of a film or television programme that shows the people who were involved in making it

**PHRASES** **be a credit to sb** if you are a credit to someone, they should be proud of you  
**give sb credit for sth** to believe that someone is good at something, or that they have a particular good quality

**to sb's credit** used for saying that someone deserves praise: *Jane, to her credit, helped the woman without knowing the situation.*

**credit<sup>2</sup>** /'kredit/ verb [T] to add an amount of money to an account ≠ DEBIT: *The money will be credited to your account.*

**PHRASE** **credit sb with sth** to believe that someone has achieved something, or that they have particular good qualities

**creditable** /'kreditəb(ə)l/ adj good enough to deserve some praise or admiration

**credit card** noun [C] a small plastic card that you use to buy things now and pay for them later

**credit limit** noun [C] the maximum amount of money that a customer can borrow using a particular credit card

**creditor** /'kredɪtə/ noun [C] a person or company that is owed money by another person or company ≠ DEBTOR

**creed** /kri:d/ noun [C] *formal* a set of beliefs

**creek** /kri:k/ noun [C] **1** a long narrow area of sea that stretches into the land **2** *American* a narrow stream

**creep<sup>1</sup>** /kri:p/ (past tense and past participle **crept** /krep(t)/) verb [I] **1** to move slowly and quietly: *Sue crept up the stairs.* ♦ *The fog was creeping across the bay.* **2** to gradually happen or start: *A smile crept over her face.*

**PHRASAL VERB** **creep up on sb 1** to move towards someone quietly and slowly, so that they do not hear you **2** if something creeps up on you, it happens so gradually that you do not notice it

**creep<sup>2</sup>** /kri:p/ noun [C] *informal* an unpleasant person, especially someone who tries to impress people in authority

**PHRASE** **give sb the creeps** to make someone feel nervous or frightened

**creepy** /'kri:pi/ adj *informal* unpleasant in a way that makes you feel frightened

**cremate** /'kri:mert/ verb [T] to burn the body of a dead person — **cremation** /'kri:meɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [C/U]

**crematorium** /'kremə'tɔ:riəm/ noun [C] a building where the bodies of dead people are cremated

**crepe** /kreip/ noun **1** [U] a light type of rubber **2** [C] a light thin PANCAKE **3** [U] a soft thin cloth with small folds in its surface

**crepe paper** noun [U] thin paper that stretches easily and is often used for making decorations

**crept** the past tense and past participle of **creep<sup>1</sup>**

**crescendo** /'kres'fendəʊ/ noun [C] a gradual increase in sound in a piece of music

**crescent** /'krez(ə)nt/ noun [C] **1** a curved shape that is wide in the middle and pointed at the ends — *picture* → **ca 2** a curved street: used especially in street names

**cross** /kres/ noun [U] a small plant with round green leaves that have a strong flavour. The leaves are eaten raw in salads or used for decorating food.

**crest** /krest/ noun [C] **1** the top of a hill, mountain, or wave **2** a set of feathers on the top of the heads of some birds

**crestfallen** /'krest'fɔ:lən/ adj sad and disappointed

**crevasse** /'krevæs/ noun [C] a very deep crack in rock or ice

**crevice** /'krevɪs/ noun [C] a narrow crack in rock or in a wall

**crew** /kru:/ noun [C] ★★

**1** the people who work on a ship, aircraft etc: can be followed by a singular or plural verb: *All the passengers and crew on board the jet were killed.*

**2** the people on a military ship or aircraft who are not officers: can be followed by a singular or plural verb

**3** a group of people with a particular skill who work together: can be followed by a singular or plural verb: *a film crew* ♦ *an ambulance crew*

In British English, **crew** can be used with a singular or plural verb. You can say *The crew is very experienced.* OR *The crew are very experienced.*

**crewman** /'kru:mən/ (plural **crewmen** /'kru:mən/) noun [C] a man who is a member of the CREW of a ship, aircraft etc

**crew neck** noun [C] a SWEATER with a round neck

**crib** /kri:b/ noun [C] *American* a baby's cot

**crick** /kri:k/ noun [C] a sudden pain in your neck or back that you get when the muscles become stiff

**cricket** /'kri:kɪt/ noun **1** [U] a game in which teams get points by hitting a ball with a bat and running between two sets of sticks **2** [C] a brown insect that makes a loud noise at night

**cricketer** /'kri:kɪtə/ noun [C] someone who plays cricket

**cried** the past tense and past participle of **cry<sup>1</sup>**

**crime** /kraim/ noun ★★★

**1** [C] an illegal activity or action: *She was unaware that she had committed a crime.* ♦ *It took police eight years to solve the crime* (=find out who did it).

**2** [U] illegal activities in general: *new laws to help fight crime* ♦ *The crime rate* (=the number of crimes) *in the city has risen sharply.* ♦ *Rising crime* (=crime that is increasing) *is a key election issue.*

**3** [singular] something that is bad, wrong, or unfair: *It's not a crime to be curious.*

**crime wave** noun [C] a sudden increase in the

number of crimes in a particular area

**criminal**<sup>1</sup> /'krɪmɪn(ə)l/ noun [C] ★★ someone who has committed a crime: *The scheme is designed to help former criminals find jobs.*

**Words often used with criminal**

Adjectives often used with **criminal** (noun)

- **habitual, hardened, known, notorious +**

CRIMINAL: used about someone who has committed many crimes

**criminal**<sup>2</sup> /'krɪmɪn(ə)l/ adj ★★

**1** relating to illegal acts, or to the parts of the legal system that deal with crime:

*criminal behaviour* ♦ *a criminal investigation* (=one that is dealing with a crime) ♦ *the criminal justice system* ♦ *a criminal offence*

**2** bad, wrong, or unfair in a way that makes you angry: *That's a criminal waste of resources.*

**criminalize** /'krɪmɪnəlaɪz/ verb [T] to make an activity illegal by making a new law

**criminal law** noun [U] the system of laws that deals with crimes and the punishment of criminals

**criminally** /'krɪmɪnəli/ adv according to criminal law: *criminally insane*

**criminal record** noun [C] an official list of crimes that someone has committed

**crimson** /'krɪmz(ə)n/ adj dark purple-red in colour

**cringe** /krɪndʒ/ verb [I] **1** to move back slightly from something that is unpleasant or frightening **2** to feel embarrassed or ashamed about something

**crinkle** /'krɪŋk(ə)l/ verb [I/T] if skin or cloth crinkles, or if you crinkle it, a lot of small folds appear in it — **crinkled** /'krɪŋk(ə)ld/ adj, **crinkly** /'krɪŋkli/ adj

**cripple**<sup>1</sup> /'krɪp(ə)l/ verb [T] **1** to destroy something or damage it severely **2** to make someone physically disabled

**cripple**<sup>2</sup> /'krɪp(ə)l/ noun [C] *offensive* an offensive word for someone who is physically disabled

**crippling** /'krɪplɪŋ/ adj **1** causing severe damage or problems: *crippling taxes* **2** making someone physically disabled, or causing them to have severe health problems: *a crippling disease*

**crisis** /'kraɪsɪs/ (plural **crises** /'kraɪsɪz/) noun [C/U] ★★ an urgent and difficult or dangerous situation: *political crisis* ♦ *The nursing profession is in crisis.* ♦ *the current crisis in the farming industry*

**crisp**<sup>1</sup> /krɪsp/ adj **1** crisp food is firm in a pleasant way: *a crisp apple/carrot* **2** crisp cloth or paper is smooth, clean, and fresh: *crisp sheets* **3** crisp weather is pleasant because it is cold and dry: *crisp night air*

**crisp**<sup>2</sup> /krɪsp/ noun [C] *British* a thin flat round piece of potato that has been cooked in fat and is eaten cold

**crispy** /krɪspi/ adj food that is crispy is firm in a pleasant way

**criss-cross** /'krɪs,kros/ verb **1** [I/T] to form a pattern of straight lines that cross each other **2** [T] to go across a place and back again many times, taking a different path each time

**criteria** /kraɪ'tɪəriə/ (singular **criterion**

/kraɪ'tɪəriən/) noun [plural] ★ standards that are used for judging something or for making a decision about something: *Everyone whose qualifications meet our criteria will be considered.* ♦ *What criteria do you have for selecting patients for treatment?*

**critic** /'krɪtɪk/ noun [C] ★

**1** someone who does not like something and states their opinion about it: *a critic of the government's tax proposals*

**2** someone whose job is to give their opinions about things such as books, films, or plays

**critical** /'krɪtɪk(ə)l/ adj ★★

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> saying sth is wrong   | <b>4</b> considering carefully |
| <b>2</b> very important        | <b>5</b> according to critics  |
| <b>3</b> seriously ill/injured |                                |

**1** expressing your opinion when you think something is wrong or bad: *Her father was a very critical man.* ♦ *Warren was critical of the way she handled the affair.*

**2** an event, time, or issue that is critical is very important, often because it affects the future: *a critical moment* ♦ *Winning the award is critical to our success.*

**3** very seriously ill or injured: *Six of the patients were in a critical condition.*

**4** considering something carefully and deciding what is good or bad about it: *a critical look at modern life*

**5** according to the book, film, or theatre **CRITICS:** *The show has won much critical acclaim.*

**critically** /'krɪtɪkli/ adv **1** extremely and seriously: *critically ill* **2** carefully judging something: *We teach children to think critically.* **3** in a way that shows that you do not like something: *Nobody spoke critically of the government.* **4** if a book, film, or play is critically acclaimed, it is said to be good by people whose job is to give their opinion

**critical mass** noun [singular/U] the smallest number of people or things that are needed for something to happen

**criticize** /'krɪtɪsaɪz/ a British spelling of **criticise**

**criticism** /'krɪtɪsɪz(ə)m/ noun ★★

**1** [C/U] a comment or comments that show that you think something is wrong or bad: *a valid/fair criticism* ♦ *criticism of the team's performance* ♦ *The new plans drew fierce criticism from local people.*

**2** [U] the activity of giving your professional opinion about things such as new books, films, or plays

**Words often used with criticism**

Adjectives often used with **criticism** (sense 1)

- **fierce, outspoken, severe, strong +**

CRITICISM: showing that you think that something is very bad

**criticize** /'krɪtɪsaɪz/ verb [I/T] ★★ to say what you think is wrong or bad about something: *We were told not to criticize the policy publicly.* ♦ **criticize sb/sth for (doing) sth** *The new proposals have been criticized for not going far enough to change the system.*



SHAPES



circle



square



triangle



rectangle



diamond



star



crescent



heart



oval



parallelogram



trapezium



trapezoid



rhombus



pentagon



hexagon



octagon



sphere



cone



pyramid



cylinder

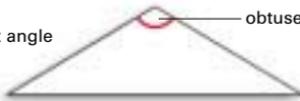


cube



acute angle

right angle



obtuse angle

circumference

radius

diameter

vertical

diagonal



horizontal



parallel

## TREES AND FLOWERS

oak



chestnut



sycamore



holly



willow



palm tree



redwood



fir



magnolia



pine



buttercup



daisy

dandelion



carnation



hyacinth



daffodil



geranium



lupin

poppy



iris



rose

lily



tulip



fuchsia



orchid



sunflower



chrysanthemum



## Word family: criticize

Words in the same family as criticize

- critic *n*
- criticism *n*
- critical *adj*
- uncritical *adj*
- critically *adv*

**critique** /kri:'ti:k/ *noun* [C] a careful written examination of a subject that includes the writer's opinions

**croak** /krəʊk/ *verb* **1** [VT] to speak or say something in a low rough voice **2** [I] when a FROG croaks, it makes a low loud rough sound **3** [I] *very informal* to die —**croak** *noun* [C]

**crochet** /'krəʊʃeɪ/ *verb* [VT] to make something with wool or cotton **THREAD** using a large needle with a hook on the end

**crockery** /'krɒkəri/ *noun* [U] plates, cups, bowls etc that you use for serving food

**crocodile** /'krɒkədaɪl/ *noun* [C] a large REPTILE with many sharp teeth that lives in water in hot countries —*picture* → C13

**crocus** /'krɒkəs/ *noun* [C] a small yellow, white, or purple flower that appears early in spring

**croissant** /'kwæsɒ̃/ *noun* [C] a type of light bread with a curved shape

**crony** /'krəʊni/ *noun* [C] *showing disapproval* a friend or supporter of someone who is powerful

**cronyism** /'krəʊni:z(ə)m/ *noun* [U] *showing disapproval* the practice of giving jobs and other advantages to friends

**crook** /krɒk/ *noun* [C] **1** *informal* someone who is dishonest or is a thief **2** the place where something bends inward: *the crook of your arm*

**crooked** /'krɒkɪd/ *adj* **1** not straight **2** *informal* dishonest = CORRUPT —**crookedly** *adv*

**croon** /kru:n/ *verb* [VT] to sing slowly in a soft voice —**crooner** *noun* [C]

**crop<sup>1</sup>** /krɒp/ *noun* ★

**1** [C] a plant that is grown for food: *They're all out planting the crops today.* ♦ *Japan bought large amounts of rice overseas because of a crop failure* (=the crops did not grow).

**2** [C] the amount of crops that are grown in a particular year: *a good crop of potatoes* ♦ *Last year we had a bumper crop of strawberries* (=a very large crop).

**3** [singular] several things that happen or exist at the same time: *this summer's crop of Hollywood films* ♦ *the current crop of young players*

**crop<sup>2</sup>** /krɒp/ *verb* [T] to make something shorter or smaller by cutting it

**PHRASAL VERB** **crop up** *informal* to appear or happen suddenly or unexpectedly = COME UP

**croquet** /'krəʊki/ *noun* [U] a game in which players hit balls through curved pieces of metal using long wooden hammers

**cross<sup>1</sup>** /krɒs/ *verb* ★★★

**1** [VT] to go from one side of something to the other: *She watched the children cross the road.* ♦ *It was dark when we crossed the French border.*

**2** [I] if things such as roads or lines cross, they go across each other = INTERSECT: *the point where the two paths cross*

**3** [T] to combine one type of animal or plant

with another to produce a genetic mix

**4** [T] if an expression crosses someone's face or lips, it appears there for a short time

**PHRASES** **cross your arms** to put one arm over the other in front of your body, so that each hand is on the opposite elbow

**cross your fingers** to put your middle finger over your first finger as a wish for good luck

**cross your legs** to sit with one leg placed over the other at the knee

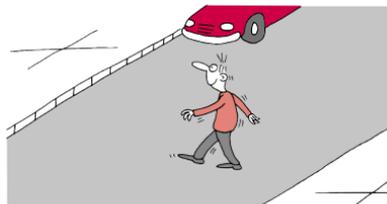
**cross the line** to go beyond accepted limits or standards of behaviour

**cross sb's mind** if something crosses your mind, you think of it, but not for very long:

*It suddenly crossed his mind that maybe Stephanie had been right.*

**PHRASAL VERBS** **cross sth off** to draw a line through something on a list to show that you have dealt with it

**cross sth out** to draw an X or a line through writing because it is wrong, or because you want to write something else



cross

**cross<sup>2</sup>** /krɒs/ *noun* ★★

**1** [C] *British* the symbol X, used for showing your choice on a written list, or for showing that an answer is wrong: *Put a cross next to the name of the person you are voting for.*

**2** [C] a shape or an object with one long straight upright part and another shorter one across it, used as a symbol of Christianity → CRUCIFIXION

**3** the Cross [singular] the structure on which Jesus Christ died according to the Bible

**4** [C] a mixture of two different types of animals, plants, or things: *Most of their music is a cross between jazz and rock.*

**cross<sup>3</sup>** /krɒs/ *adj* angry

**crossbar** /'krɒs,bɑː/ *noun* [C] **1** the bar that joins the two upright posts of a goal —*picture* → C15 **2** the metal bar between the seat and the front of a bicycle

**crossbow** /'krɒsbəʊ/ *noun* [C] a weapon used for firing short heavy pointed sticks

**cross-country** *adj* **1** going across the countryside, not using tracks or roads

**2** from one side of a country to the other —**cross-country** *adv*

**crossed cheque** /'krɒst 'tʃek/ *noun* [C] *British* a cheque that has two lines drawn across it to show that it can only be paid into the bank account of the person whose name is on it

**cross-examination** *noun* [C] an occasion when someone is asked a lot of questions by a lawyer during a trial —**cross-examine** *verb* [T]

**cross-eyed** /'krɒs 'aɪd/ *adj* someone who is cross-eyed has eyes that look towards each other slightly

**crossfire** /'krɒsfɑː/ noun [U] **1** bullets that come from two directions **2** arguments or violence that might affect people who are not directly involved

**crossing** /'krɒsɪŋ/ noun [C] **1** a place where you are allowed to cross something such as a road or border: *a pedestrian crossing* **2** a journey across a river or sea: *a transatlantic crossing*

**cross-legged** /'krɒs'leg(t)ɪd/ adj, adv in a sitting position on the floor, with your knees bent and your lower legs crossing each other —*picture* → POSTURE

**crossover** /'krɒsəʊvə/ noun [C] a change from one situation or style to another

**cross reference** noun [C] a note in a book that tells you to look at another page for more information

**crossroads** /'krɒs,rəʊdz/ (plural **crossroads**) noun [C] **1** a place where one road crosses another **2** a point in time when you have to make an important decision about what to do next

**cross section** noun **1** [C] a group that contains an example of most types of people or things: *a cross section of the city's population* **2** [C/U] the inside of an object that you can see by cutting through the middle of it, or a picture of this

**cross-trainer** noun [C] a piece of exercise equipment that you stand on and move your legs and arms backwards and forwards —*picture* → C16

**cross-training** noun [U] the activity of training in more than one sport —**cross-train** verb [I]

**crosswalk** /'krɒs,wɔːk/ noun [C] *American* a PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

**crossword puzzle** noun [C] a word game in which the answers to questions are written in rows of squares that cross each other

**crotch** /krɒtʃ/ noun [C] the area between your legs where they join your body, or the part of a piece of clothing that covers this area

**crotchety** /'krɒtʃəti/ adj *informal* easily annoyed

**crouch** /kraʊtʃ/ verb [I] **1** to move your body close to the ground by bending your knees and leaning forwards slightly: *She crouched down and spoke to the little boy.* —*picture* → POSTURE **2** to lean forwards with your head and shoulders bent: *Five or six men were crouched over the desk.*

**crouton** /'krʊ:tən/ noun [C] a small piece of bread that is served on soup and in salads

**crow**<sup>1</sup> /krəʊ/ noun [C] a large black bird that makes a loud sound

**crow**<sup>2</sup> /krəʊ/ verb [I] **1** if a cock (=male chicken) crows, it makes a loud high noise **2** to talk very proudly about something that you have done = BOAST

**crowbar** /'krəʊ,bɑː/ noun [C] a metal bar with a curved end, used for forcing things open

**crowd**<sup>1</sup> /kraʊd/ noun ★★★

**1** [C] a large number of people in the same place: *The boys disappeared into the crowd.* ♦ *Crowds of people began making their way to the station.*

**2** [C] the audience at an event: *He takes off his shirt and the crowd goes wild.*

**3** [singular] *informal* a group of friends: *I spent an evening out with the usual crowd.*

**crowd**<sup>2</sup> /kraʊd/ verb **1** [I] to move to a place at the same time as a lot of other people: *We crowded into the kitchen.* **2** [T] to fill a place: *Hundreds of people crowded the streets.*

**PHRASAL VERB** **crowd sth out** to become more successful than another group so that they can no longer compete

**crowded** /'kraʊdɪd/ adj ★ containing a lot of people or things: *a crowded street/train/restaurant* ♦ *Was the pool crowded?* ♦ *a crowded schedule*

**crow**<sup>1</sup> /kraʊn/ noun ★

<b>1</b> on king's/queen's head	<b>5</b> top part of head/hat
<b>2</b> position of winner	<b>6</b> top part of hill
<b>3</b> government	<b>7</b> unit of money
<b>4</b> cover for tooth	

**1** [C] a circular decoration that a king or queen wears on their head

**2** [C] the position of being the winner of an important sports competition: *France lost their World Cup crown.*

**3** **the Crown** [singular] *formal* the government of a country that has a king or queen: *a minister of the Crown*

**4** [C] a cover that is used to repair a tooth

**5** [C] the top part of your head or of a hat

**6** [C] the round top part of a hill

**7** [C] a unit of money used in some European countries

**crow**<sup>2</sup> /kraʊn/ verb [T] **1** to make someone a king or queen: *James III was crowned at Kelso Abbey.* **2** to give someone a title for winning an important sports competition: *Schumacher went on to be crowned world champion.* **3** to put a cover on a tooth in order to repair it **4** to be the greatest in a series of achievements: *Iuan Roberts crowned his performance by scoring a second goal.*

**crow**<sup>1</sup> noun [C] a court of law in England and Wales in which a judge and JURY deal with serious crimes

**crowning** /'kraʊnɪŋ/ adj better or greater than anything else: *The garden is the hotel's crowning glory.*

**crucial** /'kruːʃ(ə)l/ adj ★ extremely important: *Your involvement is crucial to the success of the project.* ♦ *The talks are considered crucial for ending the violence.* ♦ **it is crucial that** *It is crucial that all students develop these basic skills.* —**crucially** adv

**crucifix** /'kruːsɪfɪks/ noun [C] a model of Jesus Christ dying on a CROSS

**crucifixion** /'kruːsɪfɪk(ə)ʃən/ noun [C/U] a method of killing someone by crucifying them

**crucify** /'kruːsɪfaɪ/ verb [T] **1** to kill someone by fastening them to a CROSS with nails or rope **2** *informal* to criticize someone in a very cruel way

**crude**<sup>1</sup> /kruːd/ adj **1** done or made using very simple methods = BASIC: *a crude home-made bomb* **2** referring to sex in a way that offends people: *crude language*

**crude**<sup>2</sup> /kruːd/ or **crude oil** noun [U] oil that is still in its natural state

**cruel** /'kruːəl/ adj ★★

**1** causing pain to people or animals: *I can't bear to see people being cruel to animals.*

**2** making someone unhappy or upset:

*Closing the school would be a cruel blow to this community.*

—cruelly adv

**cruelty** /'kru:ɒlti/ noun [C/U] cruel behaviour: *cruelty to children/animals* ♦ *the cruelties he witnessed during the war*

**crui<sup>1</sup>** /kru:z/ noun [C] a journey on a ship for pleasure, often visiting a series of places

**crui<sup>2</sup>** /kru:z/ verb [I] **1** to travel at a steady speed in a car or plane **2** to sail in a ship for pleasure **3** to achieve success easily in a race, game, or competition: *Liverpool cruised to victory this afternoon.*

**crui<sup>3</sup> missile** noun [C] a missile that is controlled by a computer and can travel very long distances

**cruiser** /'kru:zə/ noun [C] **1** a fast military ship **2** a large boat with a motor that is used for sailing in for pleasure

**crumb** /'krʌm/ noun [C] **1** a very small piece that falls off a dry food such as bread or cake **2** a very small amount of something

**crumble** /'krʌmb(ə)l/ verb [I/VT] **1** to break into very small pieces, or to make something do this: *The soft earth crumbled under his feet.* **2** [I] to stop existing or being effective: *My determination crumbled as soon as I saw her.*

**crumple** /'krʌmp(ə)l/ verb [I/VT] **1** to crush something so that it forms untidy folds, or to be crushed in this way: *I quickly crumpled up the letter and put it in my pocket.* **2** [I] to fall to the ground suddenly, with your body, legs, and arms bent, because you are injured, ill, or upset

**PHRASAL VERB** **crumple (sth) up** same as **crumple 1**

**crunch<sup>1</sup>** /'krʌntʃ/ verb [I/VT] **1** to bite hard food, causing it to make a loud noise **2** [I] to make a noise like something being crushed

**crunch<sup>2</sup>** /'krʌntʃ/ noun [singular] the noise that something makes when you crunch it

**PHRASE** **if it comes to the crunch** *informal* if something important or difficult happens

**crunchy** /'krʌntʃi/ adj crunchy foods make a loud noise when you bite them

**crusade** /'kru:seɪd/ noun [C] an effort over a long time to achieve something that you strongly believe is right = CAMPAIGN

—**crusader** /'kru:seɪdə/ noun [C]

**crush<sup>1</sup>** /'krʌʃ/ verb [T] **1** to press something so hard that you damage it or break it into small pieces —*picture* → **c2** **2** to injure or kill someone by pressing on them very hard **3** to completely defeat an opponent

**crush<sup>2</sup>** /'krʌʃ/ noun [I] [singular] a crowd of people in an area that is too small for them **2** [C] *informal* a strong feeling of love for someone

**crushing** /'krʌʃɪŋ/ adj **1** complete and achieved very easily: *a crushing defeat/victory* **2** very severe: *It's a crushing blow for the president's foreign policy.*

**crust** /'krʌst/ noun [C/U] **1** the hard brown edges of a piece of bread, or the outer part of a pie **2** a hard layer on the surface of something

**crusty** /'krʌsti/ adj covered with a hard CRUST

**crutch** /'krʌtʃ/ noun **1** [C] a stick that fits under your arm and that helps you to walk when your leg or foot is injured **2** [singular] *showing*

*disapproval* something that you depend on for support or help

**crux** /'krʌks/ noun **the crux (of sth)** the most important aspect of something

**cry<sup>1</sup>** /'kraɪ/ noun (past tense and past participle **cried** /'kraɪd/) verb [I/VT] ★★★

**1** to have tears coming from your eyes because you are sad or hurt: *I'm sorry – please don't cry.* ♦ *She was crying for her mother.* ♦ *I'm not going to waste time crying over him.*

**2** to shout something: *'That's not what I meant,' Polly cried.* ♦ *Ted could hear a woman crying for help.*

**PHRASAL VERBS** **cry out 1** to make a loud noise because you are in pain or because you are afraid or shocked: *The girl cried out in alarm.* **2** same as **cry<sup>1</sup>** **2**: *'Be careful!'* *Miss Lee cried out.*

**cry out for sth** to need something a lot in a way that is obvious: *This room is crying out for some new furniture.*

**cry<sup>2</sup>** /'kraɪ/ noun [I] [C] a loud expression of emotion: *a cry of pain* **2** [C] something that someone shouts: *There was a cry of 'Fire!'* **3** [C] the noise that an animal or bird makes **4** [singular] a period of time when you have tears coming from your eyes because you are sad or hurt: *She had a good cry.*

**PHRASE** **be a far cry from** *informal* to be very different from someone or something

**crypt** /'kript/ noun [C] a room where dead people are buried, usually under a church

**cryptic** /'kriptɪk/ adj expressing something in a mysterious or indirect way

**crystal** /'krɪst(ə)l/ noun [I] [C] a regular shape with many sides that is formed when a substance becomes solid: *ice/salt/sugar crystals* **2** [U] very good quality glass **3** [C/U] a clear rock that looks like glass

**crystal ball** noun [C] a glass ball that some people believe can show the future

**crystal clear** adj **1** completely transparent and very bright **2** extremely obvious or easy to understand

**crystallize** /'krɪstəlaɪz/ verb [I/VT] **1** to change into CRYSTALS, or to make something change into CRYSTALS **2** to become definite or easily understood, or to make something definite or easily understood

**cub** /'kʌb/ noun [C] **1** a young bear, lion, or other wild animal **2** **Cub** *British* a member of the Cubs

**cube<sup>1</sup>** /'kju:b/ noun [C] **1** an object like a box with six square sides that are all the same size —*picture* → **c8** **2** **the cube of sth** *technical* the result of multiplying a number by itself twice: *The cube of 2 is 8.*

**cube<sup>2</sup>** /'kju:b/ verb [T] **1** *technical* to multiply a number by itself twice **2** to cut something into cubes = DICE

**cubic** /'kju:bɪk/ adj cubic units are used for measuring VOLUME (=the amount of space in an object)

**cubicle** /'kju:bɪk(ə)l/ noun [C] a small enclosed area in a room

**Cubs, the** /'kʌbz/ noun [plural] *British* the division of the scouts for younger boys

**cuckoo** /'kʊku:/ noun [C] a bird that leaves its eggs in other birds' NESTS and makes a call that sounds like its name

**cucumber** /'kjuːkʌmbə/ noun [CU] a long, dark green vegetable that is usually eaten raw in salads —*picture* → C11

**cuddle**<sup>1</sup> /'kʌd(ə)l/ verb [VT] to put your arms round someone and hold them close to show that you like or love them

**PHRASAL VERB** **cuddle up** to sit or lie with your body against someone else's because you want to feel warm or loved

**cuddle**<sup>2</sup> /'kʌd(ə)l/ noun [C] an act of cuddling someone

**cuddly** /'kʌd(ə)li/ adj soft and pleasant to cuddle

**cue** /kjuː/ noun [C] **1** an event, action, or statement that shows someone what they should do: *Greg's arrival seemed to be the cue for everyone to get up and start dancing.*

**2** something that an actor does or says as a signal to another actor to do or say something **3** a long thin stick that you use for hitting the ball in games such as SNOOKER

**PHRASES** (right) on cue often humorous at exactly the right moment, or exactly when you expect

**take your cue from sb** to behave in the same way as someone else

**cuff**<sup>1</sup> /kʌf/ noun [C] the part of a sleeve that fits around your wrist → OFF-THE-CUFF

**cuff**<sup>2</sup> /kʌf/ verb [T] **1** informal to HANDCUFF someone **2** British to hit someone with your open hand

**cuisine** /kwɪ'ziːn/ noun [CU] a particular style of cooking: *Thai/Italian cuisine*

**cul-de-sac** /'kʌl də sæk/ noun [C] a short street that is closed at one end

**culinary** /'kʌlmɪ(ə)ri/ adj relating to food and how to cook it

**cull**<sup>1</sup> /kʌl/ verb [T] **1** to collect something such as information from different places **2** to kill animals in order to stop the population from becoming too large

**cull**<sup>2</sup> /kʌl/ noun [C] an act of culling animals

**culminate** /'kʌlmɪneɪt/ **PHRASAL VERB**

**culminate in sth** to have or lead to an important result: *A series of financial disasters culminated in the collapse of the country's largest bank.*

**culmination** /'kʌlmɪneɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [singular] the final result of a process or situation

**culpable** /'kʌlpəb(ə)l/ adj formal responsible for doing something bad or illegal

**culprit** /'kʌlprɪt/ noun [C] **1** someone who is responsible for doing something bad or illegal **2** the cause of something bad that happens

**cult**<sup>1</sup> /kʌlt/ noun [C] **1** a religious group with beliefs that most people consider strange or dangerous **2** extreme admiration for someone or something: *the cult of beauty*

**cult**<sup>2</sup> /kʌlt/ adj very popular with a particular group of people: *a cult figure/hero/film*

**cultivate** /'kʌltɪveɪt/ verb [T] **1** to prepare land for growing crops or plants **2** to grow crops or plants: *Rice is cultivated throughout the coastal regions.* **3** to develop something: *He's trying to cultivate a more caring image.*

—**cultivation** /'kʌltɪveɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [U]

**cultivated** /'kʌltɪveɪtɪd/ adj **1** a cultivated person is well educated and knows how to behave politely **2** cultivated land is used for growing crops or plants **3** cultivated plants

are developed from wild plants and grown on farms or in gardens

**cultural** /'kʌlt(ə)rəl/ adj ★★

**1** relating to the culture of a particular group, country, or society: *cultural diversity* ♦ *the cultural traditions of our society*

**2** relating to music, literature, and other arts: *The country enjoys a rich cultural life.* ♦ *During the summer New York offers a variety of cultural events.*

—**culturally** adv

**culture** /'kʌltʃə/ noun ★★

**1** [U] activities involving music, literature, and other arts: *If you're looking for culture, then Paris is the place for you.* ♦ *Britain's literary culture*

**2** [CU] a set of ideas, beliefs, and ways of behaving: *societies that share the same language and culture* ♦ *The two firms have very different corporate cultures.* ♦ *Some organizations encourage a culture of secrecy.*

**3** [C] a society that has its own set of ideas, beliefs, and ways of behaving: *people from different cultures* ♦ *ancient cultures*

**4** [CU] science a group of bacteria or cells that have been grown in a scientific experiment, or the process by which they are grown

**cultured** /'kʌltʃəd/ adj well educated and polite = REFINED

**cumbersome** /'kʌmbəs(ə)m/ adj

**1** complicated, slow, and difficult to use

**2** large, heavy, and difficult to move or carry

**cumulative** /'kjuːmjʊlətɪv/ adj developing or increasing gradually as a result of more and more additions: *We studied the cumulative effect of long periods of stress on the body.*

**cunning**<sup>1</sup> /'kʌnɪŋ/ adj good at tricking or cheating people —**cunningly** adv

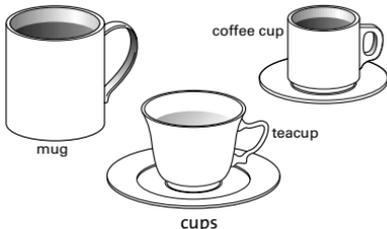
**cunning**<sup>2</sup> /'kʌnɪŋ/ noun [U] the use of clever methods for tricking or cheating people

**cup**<sup>1</sup> /kʌp/ noun [C] ★★★

**1** a small round container for a drink, usually with a handle: *She filled my cup with hot tea.*

**2** the drink contained in a cup: *I've already had two cups.* ♦ *Would you like a cup of coffee?*

**3** a large round metal container with two handles given as a prize to the winner of a competition, or the competition for which this prize is given: *the winners of the World Cup*



**cup**<sup>2</sup> /kʌp/ verb [T] to hold something in your hands, with your hands in a curved shape

**cupboard** /'kʌbəd/ noun [C] ★ a piece of furniture that is used for storing things,

with shelves inside and one or two doors at the front: *a kitchen cupboard* ♦ *the cupboard door* → SKELETON —picture → C2

**cupful** /'kʌpful/ noun [C] the amount of something that a cup contains

**curable** /'kjʊərəb(ə)l/ adj possible to cure  
≠ INCURABLE

**curate** /'kjʊərət/ noun [C] an Anglican priest who helps a more senior priest

**curator** /'kjʊ'reɪtə/ noun [C] someone whose job is to look after the objects in a museum

**curb**<sup>1</sup> /kɜ:b/ verb [T] to control or limit something that is harmful or may cause problems: *efforts to curb inflation*

**curb**<sup>2</sup> /kɜ:b/ noun [C] **1** a rule or control that stops or limits something **2** *American* a KERB at the edge of a road

**curd** /kɜ:d/ noun [C/U] the solid substance that forms in milk when it becomes sour

**curdle** /'kɜ:d(ə)l/ verb [U/T] if milk or another liquid curdles, or if something makes it curdle, lumps begin to form in it

**cure**<sup>1</sup> /kjʊə/ noun [C] ★

**1** a medicine or treatment that makes someone who is ill become healthy: *Doctors say there are several possible cures.* ♦ *There's no cure for the disease.*

**2** a solution to a problem: *It's the only possible cure for high unemployment.*

**cure**<sup>2</sup> /kjʊə/ verb [T] **1** to stop someone from being affected by an illness: *Only an operation will cure her.* ♦ *The disease is easy to prevent but almost impossible to cure.* **2** to solve a problem **3** to preserve meat, fish, or other foods by drying them, or by using smoke or salt

**curfew** /'kɜ:fju:/ noun [C] a period of time during which people must not go outside according to an order from the government

**curiosity** /'kjʊəri'ɒsəti/ noun **1** [U] a strong feeling of wanting to find out about something **2** [C] something that is unusual and interesting

**curious** /'kjʊəriəs/ adj ★

**1** wanting to find out about something: *People were curious to know why the accident happened.* ♦ *Children are curious about animals and how they live.*

**2** unusual and interesting: *He felt a curious mixture of happiness and fear.* ♦ *It is curious that you've never mentioned this before.*

—curiously /'kjʊəriəsli/ adv

**curl**<sup>1</sup> /kɜ:l/ verb **1** [U/T] to form a curved or round shape, or to give something this shape: *As she talked, she curled a strand of hair on one finger.* **2** [I] to move in a curving or twisting way: *Smoke curled from tall chimneys.* **3** [I] to curve upwards or downwards at the edges: *The pages had begun to yellow and curl.*

**PHRASAL VERB** **curl up** to sit or lie in a comfortable position, with your legs bent and close to your body

**curl**<sup>2</sup> /kɜ:l/ noun [C] **1** a section of hair that forms a curved shape **2** something long and thin that has a curved shape: *a curl of smoke*

**curler** /'kɜ:lə/ noun [C] a plastic or metal tube that you wrap your hair round in order to curl it = ROLLER

**curly** /'kɜ:li/ adj forming curves: *curly hair*

**currant** /'kʌrənt/ noun [C] **1** a small dark dried

fruit that is often used in cakes **2** a small round fruit that may be red, black, or white

**currency** /'kʌrənsi/ noun ★★★

**1** [C/U] the money that is used in a particular country: *Russian currency*

**2** [U] the state of being accepted or used by many people: *The idea of withdrawing from the war has gained wide currency.*

**current**<sup>1</sup> /'kʌrənt/ adj ★★★

**1** happening or existing now: *Production is likely to remain at current levels.* ♦ *There are several reasons for the current political situation.*

**2** believed or used by many people now: *current thinking on prison reform* ♦ *current methods of funding research*

**3** correct or legal now: *Is this your current address?* ♦ *a current licence*

**current**<sup>2</sup> /'kʌrənt/ noun **1** [C] a strong movement of water or air in one direction

**2** [C/U] a flow of electricity

**current account** noun [C] *British* a bank account that you can take money out of whenever you want

**current af fairs** noun [plural] political, social, and economic events that are happening now

**currently** /'kʌrəntli/ adv ★★★ at the present time: *Davis is currently appearing in a play at the National Theatre.* ♦ *the largest memory chips currently available*

**curriculum** /kə'rikjʊləm/ noun [C] ★★ the subjects that students study at a particular school or college: *the science curriculum* ♦ *curriculum planning/development*

**curriculum vitae** /kə'rikjʊləm 'vɪtaɪ/ noun [C] *British* a CV

**curry** /'kʌri/ noun [C/U] an Indian food consisting of meat, fish, or vegetables cooked in a sauce with a hot flavour

**curse**<sup>1</sup> /kɜ:s/ verb **1** [I] to use offensive or impolite language: *She looked at her watch, cursed, and ran for a taxi.* **2** [T] to say or think offensive or impolite words about someone or something: *She cursed herself for being such a fool.* **3** [T] to use magic powers to make bad things happen to someone

**curse**<sup>2</sup> /kɜ:s/ noun [C] **1** an offensive or impolite word or phrase **2** the words that are used for causing bad luck **3** an unpleasant situation or influence

**cursor** /'kɜ:sə/ noun [singular] a small flashing line on a computer screen that you move to mark the point where you are going to type or do something

**cursory** /'kɜ:səri/ adj *formal* quick and not thorough = SUPERFICIAL: *a cursory examination/search*

**curt** /kɜ:t/ adj using few words in a way that shows that you are impatient or angry = BRUSQUE —**curtly** adv

**curtail** /'kɜ:'teɪl/ verb [T] *formal* to reduce or limit something

**curtain** /'kɜ:t(ə)n/ noun ★★★

**1** [C] a long piece of cloth that hangs down to cover a window: *She closed the curtains.* ♦ *Open the curtains and let some light in.*

**2** [C] a large piece of cloth that hangs in front of the stage in a theatre, or that divides one part of a room from another:

## WORD FORMATION

## Word families

Look at this group of words and decide what they have in common:

<i>ability</i>	<i>disability</i>
<i>disabled</i>	<i>enable</i>
<i>inability</i>	<i>unable</i>

All of the above words are formed from – and are related to – the adjective **able**. So we can call **able** the ‘base word’ from which all these other words are developed. Can you guess which word is the base word for this next group?

<i>destroyer</i>	<i>destructive</i>
<i>destruction</i>	<i>indestructible</i>

All these words are formed from the base word **destroy**. We call these groups of related words ‘word families’. Like members of real families, the words that make up a word family share some of the same features: they all share some of the letters of the base word, and their meanings are related too.

## ACTIVITY

Look at the following groups of words and try to decide in each case what the base word is. The answers are on page LS19. Then try to guess the meaning of each word. Check in the dictionary to see if you are right.

<i>discomfort</i>	<i>uncomfortable</i>
<i>comfortable</i>	<i>comforting</i>
<i>decision</i>	<i>decisive</i>
<i>undecided</i>	<i>indecisive</i>
<i>indecision</i>	
<i>impure</i>	<i>purify</i>
<i>purist</i>	<i>impurity</i>

## How are words formed?

Many English words are formed from combinations of other words, or from combinations of words and prefixes or suffixes. So if you know what each of the parts means, you will often be able to guess the meaning of a new word.

## What are prefixes and suffixes?

A *prefix* is added to the *beginning* of a word to make another word. A prefix can be either a short word, or a group of letters that is not a word. An example of the first type is **self**.

**Self-** means ‘yourself’ or ‘itself’, so if you are **self-employed**, you work for yourself, and if something **self-destructs**, it destroys itself. An example of the second type is **non-**, which means ‘not’. So a **non-violent** protest is a protest that does not involve violence.

A *suffix* is added to the *end* of a word to make another word. A suffix can be either a short word, or a group of letters that is not a word. An example of the first type is **-rich**, which is added to nouns to make adjectives for describing something that ‘contains a lot’ of something. So **oil-rich** rocks are full of oil, and **vitamin-rich** foods contain a lot of vitamins. An example of the second type is **-ish**, which means ‘slightly’ or ‘rather’. So **greenish** water looks slightly green.

## ACTIVITY

Look at the words in **bold** in the following sentences and see if you can guess what they mean. After you have guessed, you can check the meanings in the dictionary. All the prefixes and suffixes used in these sentences (and shown here in red) have their own entries in the dictionary.

*The software is **overpriced** and doesn't offer anything more than its rivals.*

*Local residents are calling for the police to crack down on **antisocial** behaviour by troublemakers, some of whom are as young as ten.*

***E-commerce** now accounts for 84 per cent of the company's sales.*

*The machines are very **user-friendly** and they tell you how hard you are working and how many calories you have used up.*

## Language Study LS21

*The new district health boards will be required to act in an efficient and businesslike way.*

- **ACTIVITY** See if you can make some more words using these prefixes and suffixes. Check in the dictionary to see if your words are there.

### Compounds

Using prefixes and suffixes is not the only way to form new words. Many English words are *compounds*. Compounds are formed by combining two or three words. Sometimes these combinations remain as two or three separate words and sometimes they combine to form one new word. For example, the word **troublemakers** in the second example above has been formed by combining the two nouns **trouble** and **maker**. This has created a new word meaning 'someone who makes (=causes) trouble'.

Most compounds are treated as separate entries in this dictionary, so that you can see immediately that they have a meaning of their own that is different from the meanings of the words from which they are formed. Sometimes these meanings are easy to guess. For example, a **bus stop** is a place where buses stop to pick up passengers, and a **bookshop** is a place where you buy books. However, a **soap opera** does not contain any singing and has nothing to do with soap: it is a television or radio show that is broadcast several times a week, and tells the story of the lives of a group of ordinary people.

### Other ways of forming words

Some new words are formed by combining part of one word with part of another. For example, **brunch** is a meal you eat in the late morning that combines **breakfast** and **lunch**, and **edutainment** is something such as a video, television programme, or software program that combines **education** and **entertainment**.

- **ACTIVITY** Can you guess which words have combined to form the following computer terms: **emoticon**, **netiquette**, **netizen**, **technophobe**?

And can you guess their meanings from the words that have combined to form them? The answers are at the bottom of this page.

Other new words are formed from the first letters of the words in a compound or phrase. Examples of this are **CD-ROM** (compact disc read-only memory), **FAQs** (frequently-asked questions), and **IT** (information technology). These new words are called *acronyms*.

- **ACTIVITY** Think about how new words are formed in your own language. Are they formed mainly by using *prefixes* and *suffixes*, by combining words to form *compounds*, by means of *acronyms*, or in other ways?

**Spelling note:** Words that are formed from combinations of other words, whether these are compounds or words formed from prefixes or suffixes, are often written in several different ways. You may see them written as separate words, or with hyphens, or as single words. For example: **hard hat**, **hard-hat**, or **hardhat**. Although one form is often more frequent than others, you shouldn't worry too much about which is correct. If you want to be sure, write the word using the form that you find in this dictionary.

### ANSWERS

The base words are *comfort, decide, pure*  
*emoticon: emoti + on (= a symbol such*  
*as :- or :) that you type in an email or text*  
*message to show how you are feeling)*  
*netiquette: Internet + etiquette (= the polite*  
*way of expressing yourself when*  
*communicating with people on the Internet)*  
*netizen: Internet + citizen (= someone who*  
*spends a lot of time using the Internet)*  
*technophobe: technophob + -phobe*  
*(= someone who does not like to use new*  
*technology, especially computers)*