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essential /ɪˈsen(t)əl/ adj ★★★
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- sample pages from the letter ‘C’
- 2 pages of full color 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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The 3,500 most important words for intermediate learners to write and speak English are highlighted in red.

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Frequent collocations are shown in examples.

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

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

---

cloth

cloth1  /kloʊθ/ verb [T] If blood or another liquid clots, it becomes thick and stops flowing.
cloth2  /kloʊθ/ noun [C] A lump consisting of thick blood or another liquid.

cloth /ˈkloʊθ/ noun ˈkloʊθ
1 [C/U] Material used for making things such as clothes and curtains: linen/cotton cloth.
2 [C] A piece of cloth that is used for a particular purpose such as cleaning or covering a table.

clothe /kləʊθ/ verb [T] To provide someone with clothes.
clothed /ˈkloʊθed/ adj dressed in a particular way.
clothes /kləʊθz/ noun [plural] ˈkloʊθiz
1 Dress is a less common word and refers to special clothes that are typical of a particular country or time: men in national dress.
2 A dress is a single piece of clothing worn by a woman.

Clothes – a general word meaning “things that you wear.” It is always plural: His clothes were dirty. If you want to talk about “one thing that you wear” use a piece/an item of clothing.

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Simple, clear definitions are written using just over 2,000 of the most common words of the language.
- **clown** /klou̯n/ or **clown around** verb [T] to do funny or annoying things

- **club** /ˈklʌb/ noun

  1. an organization for people who take part in a particular activity, or the building that they use: a sailing club  
     Why don’t you join a chess club?

  2. a team of sports players and the staff who work with them: the Waterville baseball club

  3. a place where you go in the evening to dance and drink: the nightclub

- **clubhouse** /ˈklʌbhaʊs/ noun  

- **club soda** noun  

- **cluck** /klʌk/ verb [I] if a chicken clucks, it makes its usual short low sound  

- **clue** /kluː/ noun  

  1. an object or fact that helps someone to solve a crime or mystery: detectives were brought in to help search for clues.

  2. a piece of information that helps you to understand something: his face gave her no clue to what he was thinking.

  3. a word or phrase provided to help you to guess the answer in a crossword puzzle: not have a clue informal to not know or understand something: “what’s wrong with him?” “I don’t have a clue.”

- **clueless** /ˈkljuːlɪs/ adj informal someone who is clueless knows nothing or is stupid

- **clump** /klʌmp/ noun  

- **clumsy** /ˈklʌmsi/ adj  

  1. a clumsy person often has accidents because they are not careful  

  2. showing a lack of skill in judging people or situations  

- **clump** /ˈklʌmp/ verb [T] to form a small close group  

- **clutch** /klʌtʃ/ noun  

  1. a piece of equipment in a vehicle that you press with your foot when you change gear:

  2. power or control over someone: they left the country to escape the clutches of the secret police.
cramp /kraamp/ noun 1 [c] a sudden severe pain in a tired muscle that becomes very tight 2 cramps [plural] American pains that a woman sometimes gets during her period

cramped /kraempt/ adj small and crowded: cramped offices

cran-ber-ry /krænberi/ noun [c] a small sour red fruit: a glass of cranberry juice

crane 1 /kren/ 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 2 /kren/ verb [i/t] to stretch your neck out to try to see something

crani-um /kræniəm/ noun [c] medical your skull

crank 1 /kraŋk/ noun [c] a piece of equipment that turns to make something move or start

PHRASAL VERBS

• crank out informal to produce things in large numbers without caring about quality: He cranked out one hit song after another.

• crank sth up informal to increase the level or amount of something

cranky /kraŋki/ adj American informal easily annoyed = irritable

craps /ˈkræps/ noun [u] a game of dice in which you risk money

crash 1 /kraʃ/ verb ★

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

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

3 [i/t] 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 a computer or a computer program crashes, it suddenly stops working

6 [i] if the stock market crashes, its value falls suddenly

crash 2 /kraʃ/ noun [c] ★

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

2 an occasion when a computer or a computer program suddenly stops working

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

4 a sudden fall in prices or in the value of the stock market

• 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 or race car

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

Words that may cause offense: crazy

Avoid using words like crazy, and insane about people who have mental illnesses or mental health problems. Instead, use an expression such as mentally ill.
creak /krik/ verb [I/T] 1 a thick smooth substance that you can put on your skin, for example when it is dry. Some medicines are in the form of a cream. 2 a yellow-white color. 3 a thick yellow-white liquid that is taken from the top of milk.

crease /kris/ noun [C] 1 a line made on cloth or paper when it is folded or crushed. 2 a line on someone's skin. 3 marked with a crease.

creame /krim/ noun [C] a thick smooth substance that you can spread on bread and similar foods.

cream cheese [U] a soft smooth white cheese that you spread on bread.

crea-tion /kri:ʃən/ noun [C] 1 the act of creating something: The government is to provide more money for job creation. 2 the creation of new industries.

crea-tive /kri:ˈtiv/ adjective 1 involving a lot of imagination and new ideas: Painting is a creative process. 2 having a lot of imagination and new ideas: The program offers children the chance to be creative.

creative writing [U] the activity of writing stories and poems.

crea-tivity /kri:ˈtivətɪ/ noun [U] the ability to create new ideas or things using your imagination: We want to encourage creativity in our employees.

creature /ˈkriːtʃər/ 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.

cre-fen /ˈkrɪdəns/ noun give/lend/add credence to sth formal to make people think that something is likely to be true.

cre-den-tials /ˈkrɪdənʃəlz/ noun [plural] 1 personal qualities, achievements, or experiences that make someone appropriate for something: His credentials as a football coach are impressive.

 così-bi-l-i-ty /ˈkrɛdɪˌbɪli.ti/ 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.

cred-i-ble /ˈkrɛdɪb(ə)l/ adjective able to be believed or trusted: credible evidence.

cred-i-ble /ˈkrɛdɪb(ə)l/ adjective 1 considered likely to happen or likely to be successful: a credible opponent/candidate.

cred-it /ˈkrɛdɪt/ noun 1 [U] an arrangement to receive money from a bank, or receive goods from a store, and to pay for them later. 2 money you pay in 2 money you can use. 3 praise for sth you did. 4 at college/university.

cred-i-ted /ˈkrɛdɪtɪd/ verb [T] to lend an amount of money to an account.


cred-i-tor /ˈkrɛdɪtər/ noun [C] a person or company that is owed money by another person or company.

cred-ed /ˈkrɛdɪd/ verb [T/LZ] to be in a difficult situation.

creep-1 /ˈkrɪp/ (past tense and past participle crept /ˈkrɛpt/) 1 to move slowly and quietly:

creep-2 /ˈkrɪp/ adjective yellow-white in color.

cream cheese [U] a soft smooth white cheese that you spread on bread.

crea-te /kriˈeɪt/ verb [T] to make something new exist or happen: His comments have created a lot of confusion.

cred-i-tor /ˈkrɛdɪtər/ noun [C] someone who has created something.

cred-i-tor /ˈkrɛdɪtər/ noun [C] a person or company.

creed /ˈkrɛd/ noun [C/formal] a set of beliefs.

creek /krɪk/ noun [C] a narrow stream.

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

credit limit [C] the maximum amount of money that a card owner can borrow using a particular credit card.

creep-3 /ˈkrɪp/ (past tense and past participle crept) informal to be in a difficult situation.

creep-4 /ˈkrɪp/ (past tense and past participle crept) informal to be in a difficult situation.
C

creep /krip/ noun [C] informal an unpleasant person

phrase give sb the creeps to make someone feel nervous or frightened

creep-y /‘krispi/ adj informal unpleasant in a way that makes you feel frightened

cre-mate /‘kritmeit, ‘kritmeit/ verb [T] to burn the body of a dead person — cre-ma-tion

crematory /‘kremətɔriəm/ noun [C] a building where the bodies of dead people are cremated

crepe /kreip/ noun 1 [C] a light thin pancake 2 [u] a light type of rubber 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

cre-sen-do /kre’sɛnəʊs/ noun [C] a gradual increase in sound in a piece of music

cre-sent /kre’zent/ noun [C] a curved shape that is wide in the middle and pointed at the ends — picture ➔ crescent moon

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

crestfallen /‘krestfələn/ adj sad and disenchanted

crèvé /krəv/ noun [C] a very deep crack in rock or ice

crèvé-ice /krevis/ noun [C] a narrow crack in rock or in a wall

crew /kru/ noun ★★

1 [C] the people who work on a ship, aircraft, etc.: All the passengers and crew on board the jet were killed. 2 [C] the people on a military ship or aircraft who are not officers 3 [C] a group of people with a particular skill who work together: a movie crew or an ambulance crew

crewman /kru’mən/ (plural crewmen /‘kru:mən/) noun [C] a man who is a member of the crew of a ship, aircraft, etc.

crewneck /kru:nɛk/ noun [C] a sweater with a round neck — picture ➔ neck line

crib /krɪb/ noun [C] American a bed for a baby with tall bars at the sides

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

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

cried the past tense and past participle of cry

crime /kraim/ noun ★★★

1 [C] an illegal activity or action: She was unaware that she had committed a crime. 2 [u] illegal activities in general: new laws to help fight crime 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 noun [C] ★★ someone who has committed a crime: The program is designed to help former criminals find jobs.

Words often used with criminal

Adjectives often used with criminal

habitual, hardened, known, notorious +

criminal: used about someone who has committed many crimes

criminal noun [C] ★★★

1 relating to illegal acts, or to parts of the legal system that deal with crime: criminal behavior or a criminal investigation (=one that is dealing with a crime) or the criminal justice system or a criminal offense 2 bad, wrong, or unfair in a way that makes you angry: That’s a criminal waste of resources.

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

criminal record noun [C] adv according to criminal law: criminally insane

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

crimp /krɪmp/ verb [T] 1 to make small folds or wave shapes in something 2 American informal to prevent something from increasing or developing

crimson /krɪms(ə)n/ adj dark purple-red in color

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

crin-kle /‘krɪŋk(ə)l/ verb [V] if skin or cloth crinkles, or if you crinkle it, a lot of small folds appear in it — crin-kled /‘krɪŋk(ə)ld/ adj. crin-kly /‘krɪŋkli/ adj

crump /krupt/ verb [T] 1 to make someone physically disabled 2 to destroy something or damage it severely

cripple /kripl/ noun [C] offensive an offensive word for someone who is physically disabled

crump /krupt/ noun [C] adj causing severe damage or problems: crippling taxes 2 making someone physically disabled, or causing them to have severe health problems: a crippling disease

crisis /’krɪsɪs/ plural crises /’krɪsɪz/ noun [C/U] ★★ an urgent and difficult or dangerous situation: political crisis or the current crisis in the farming industry
crisp
crisp adj food is firm in a pleasant way: a crisp apple/carrot 2 crisp weather is pleasant because it is cold and dry: crisp night air 3 crisp cloth or paper is smooth, clean, and fresh: crisp sheets

crisp2 /krɪsp/ noun [C] British a potato chip

crispy /ˈkrɪspi/ adj food that is crispy is firm in a pleasant way

criss-cross /ˈkrɪskrəs/ verb [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

crit-ter-i-a /ˈkrɪtərɪə/ (singular crit-ter-i-on /ˈkrɪtərɪən/) 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 /ˈkrɪtɪk/ noun [C] ★ 1 someone whose job is to give their opinions about things such as books, movies, or plays 2 someone who does not like something and states their opinion about it: a critic of the government's tax proposals

criticize /ˈkrɪtɪsaɪz/ 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.

<table>
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<td>Adjectives often used with criticism (sense 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>fierce, outspoken, severe, strong + criticism: showing that you think that something is very bad</td>
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<table>
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<th>Word family: criticize</th>
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<td>critic n</td>
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cri-tique /ˈkrɪtɪk/ noun [C] a careful written examination of a subject that includes the writer’s opinions —critique verb [T]

crit-ter /ˈkrɪtər/ noun [C] American informal a creature

croak /ˈkrʊək/ verb [I] when a frog croaks, it makes a low loud rough sound 2 [I/T] to speak or say something in a low rough voice 3 [I] very informal to die —croak noun [C]

cro-chet /ˈkrʊəʃeɪt/ verb [I/T] to make something with yarn using a large needle with a hook on the end

croc-o-dile /ˈkrɒkədail/ noun [C] a large reptile with many sharp teeth that lives in water in hot countries —picture → c13

cro-cus /ˈkrɒkas/ noun [C] a small yellow, white, or purple flower that appears early in spring

crois-sant /krwaˈsɛ̃/ noun [C] a type of light bread with a curved shape

cro-ny /ˈkrɒni/ noun [C] showing disapproval a friend or supporter of someone who is powerful

cro-ny-ism /ˌkrɒnɪˈɪzəm/ noun [U] showing disapproval the practice of giving jobs and other advantages to friends

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

crook-ed /ˈkrʊkəd/ adj 1 not straight 2 informal dishonest —corrupt —crook-ed-ly adv

croon /ˈkrʊn/ verb [I/T] to sing slowly in a soft voice —croon-er noun [C]

crop1 /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 movies ♦ the current crop of young players

crop2 /krɒp/ verb [T] to make something shorter or smaller by cutting it

cro-p up informal to appear or happen suddenly or unexpectedly —come up
SHAPES

- circle
- square
- triangle
- rectangle
- diamond
- star
- crescent
- heart
- oval
- parallelogram
- trapezoid
- trapezium
- rhombus
- pentagon
- hexagon
- octagon
- sphere
- cone
- pyramid
- cylinder
- cube

- acute angle
- right angle
- obtuse angle
- vertical
- diagonal
- horizontal
- parallel
- circumference
- diameter
- radius
by a lawyer during a trial — **cross-examine** verb [T]

**cross-eyed** /ˈkrɒsˌɪd/ adj someone who is cross-eyed has eyes that look toward each other slightly

**cross-fire** /ˈkrɒsfɜːr/ noun [U] 1 bullets that come from two directions 2 arguments or violence that might affect people who are not directly involved

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

**cross-legged** /ˈkrɒs ˈlɛɡd/ adj, adv in a sitting position on the floor, with your knees bent and your lower legs crossing each other — **picture** → **POSTURE**

**cross-over** /ˈkrɒsəʊvər/ 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

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

**cross-trainer** noun [C] a piece of exercise equipment that you stand on and move your legs and arms backward and forward — **picture** → **c16**

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

**cross-walk** /ˈkrɒsˌwɔk/ noun [C] a painted path that people use for crossing a street

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

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

**crotch-ety** /ˈkrʌtʃəti/ adj informal easily annoyed

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

**crow-ton** /ˈkrʌtən/ noun [C] a large black bird that makes a loud sound

**crow** /ˈkruː/ noun [C] a large piece of bread that is served on soup and in salads

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

**cross** /krɒs/ verb ★★

1 [V/T] 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, they go across each other

**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 behavior

- **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
crowd1 /ˈkraʊd/ 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.

crowd2 /ˈkraʊd/ 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 s.th. out to become more successful than another group so that they can no longer compete

crowd-ed /ˈkraʊdɪd/ adj ★★ containing a lot of people or things: a crowded street/train/ restaurant

Was the pool crowded?

a crowded schedule

crown1 /ˈkraʊn/ noun [C]

1 on king’s/queen’s head
2 position of winner
3 top part of head/hat
4 cover for tooth
5 a unit of money

1 a circular decoration that a king or queen wears on their head
2 the position of being the winner of an important sports competition: France lost their World Cup crown.
3 the top part of your head or of a hat
4 a cover that is used to repair a tooth
5 a unit of money used in some European countries

crown2 /ˈkraʊn/ 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

crowning /ˈkraʊnɪŋ/ adj better or greater than anything else:
- The garden is the hotel’s crowning glory.

crucial /ˈkrjuə(ɔ)/ 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

cru-ci-fix /ˈkrjuːsɪfɪks/ noun [C] a model of Jesus Christ dying on a cross

cru-ci-fix-ion /ˈkrjuːsɪfɪkʃən/ noun [C/U] a method of killing someone by crucifying them

cru-ci-fy /ˈkrjuːsɪfər/ 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

cru-de /ˈkrjuːd/ adj 1 done or made using very simple methods:

a crude home-made bomb

2 referring to sex in a way that offends people:

crude language

cru-de2 /ˈkrjuːd/ or crude oil noun [U] oil that is still in its natural state

cru-el /ˈkrjuːl/ adj ★★

1 causing pain to people or animals: I can’t stand 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

cru-el-ty /ˈkrjuːlti/ noun [C/U] cruel behavior:

- cruelty to children/animals

- the cruelties he witnessed during the war

Cruise1 /ˈkruːz/ noun [C] a trip on a ship for pleasure, often visiting a series of places

2 /ˈkruːz/ verb [I] to travel at a steady speed in a car or airplane

1 to sail in a ship for pleasure

2 to achieve success easily in a race, game, or competition:

The Rams cruised to victory this afternoon.

cruise missile noun [C] a missile that is controlled by a computer and can travel very long distances

Cruis-er /ˈkruːzər/ noun [C] 1 a fast military ship

2 a large boat with a motor that is used for sailing in for pleasure

American informal a police car

crumb /ˈkrʌm/ 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

crum-ble /ˈkrʌmb(ə)l/ verb [I/T] 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.

crum-ple /ˈkrʌmp(ə)/ verb [I/T] to crush something so that it forms messy folds, or to be crushed in this way:

I quickly crumpled up the letter and put it in my pocket.

2 [I/T] to fall to the ground suddenly, with your body, legs, and arms bent, because you are injured, sick, or upset

PHRASAL VERB crumple (s.th.) up same as crumple

1

crunch1 /ˈkrʌntʃ/ verb [I/T] to bite hard food, causing it to make a loud noise

2 [I] to make a noise like something being crushed

crunch2 /ˈkrʌntʃ/ noun [singular] the noise that something makes when you crunch it

—informal a situation that is very difficult because you do not have enough of something, especially time or money:

a credit/budget crunch

crunch-y /ˈkrʌntʃi/ adj crunchy foods make a loud noise when you bite them

crushed /ˈkrʌstʃd/ noun [C] an effort over a long time to achieve something that you strongly believe is right:

—crush-sader /ˈkrʌstʃədər/ noun [C]

Crush1 /ˈkrʌʃ/ verb [T] 1 to press something so hard that you damage it or break it into small pieces

—picture ➔ CZ 2 to injure or kill someone by pressing on them very hard

3 to completely defeat an opponent

Crush2 /ˈkrʌʃ/ noun [C] informal a strong feeling of love for someone

2 [singular] a crowd of people in an area that is too small for them

crushing /ˈkrʌʃɪŋ/ adj 1 complete and achieved very easily:

a crushing defeat

victory very severe:

It’s a crushing blow for the president’s foreign policy.

Crust /ˈkrʌst/ 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

Crust-y /ˈkrʌsti/ adj covered with a hard crust

Crutch /ˈkrʌtʃ/ noun [C] a stick that fits under your arm and that helps you to walk when
crux /kraks/ noun the crux (of sth) the most important aspect of something

cry 1 /kra/ (past tense and past participle cried) verb [T] 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. ◆ Don't 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.

cry (sth) out same as cry 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 2 /kra/ noun [C] 1 a loud expression of emotion: a cry of pain 2 something that someone shouts: There was a cry of "Fire!" 3 the noise that an animal or bird makes

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

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

cryptic /kræptik/ adj expressing something in a mysterious or indirect way

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cryptic /kræptik/ adj expressing something in a mysterious or indirect way

cryptic /kræptik/ adj expressing something in a mysterious or indirect way
cup

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

cul-tur-al /kəltʃərəl/ 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: During the summer New York offers a variety of cultural events. • The country enjoys a rich cultural life.
—cul-tur-al-ly adv

cul-ture /'kəltʃər/ noun ★★★
1 [U] activities involving music, literature, and other arts: If you’re looking for culture, then Paris is the place for you. • Mexico’s literary culture
2 [C/U] science a group of bacteria or cells that have been grown in a scientific experiment, or the process by which they are grown
3 [C/U] 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.
4 [C] a society that has its own set of ideas, beliefs, and ways of behaving: people from different cultures • ancient cultures

cul-tured /'kəltʃərd/ adj well educated and polite • refined

cum-ber-some /'kʌmbərsəm/ adj
1 complicated, slow, and difficult to use
2 large, heavy, and difficult to move or carry

cu-mu-lat-ive /'kjuːmjuːlətɪv, 'kjuːmjuːlətv/ 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.

cun-ning1 /'kʌnɪŋ/ adj good at tricking or cheating people • cunningly adv

cun-ning2 /'kʌnɪŋ/ noun [U] the use of clever methods for tricking or cheating people

cup1 /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 the amount that a cup contains, used in the U.S. as a unit for measuring quantities of food when you are cooking: Mix one cup of sugar with three cups of flour.
4 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

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

curl2 /kɜːrl/ noun [C] a section of hair that forms a curved shape 2 something long and thin that has a curved shape: a curl of smoke
C

The audience cheered wildly as the curtain rose.

1 [singular/u] a large amount of a substance that is too thick to see through: A dark curtain of cloud hung over the valley.

curt- or curt-sey /kɔrtsi/ noun [C] a formal greeting in which a woman bends her knees with one leg behind the other

—curt-sey verb [T] 1 to form a curve, or to make something form a curve

curved /kaʊrvd/ adj forming a curve

cush-ion /ˈkɒʃn/ noun [C] 1 a bag cloth filled with something soft, used for making a seat more comfortable 2 something that gives protection against the effects of something bad

cush-ion2 /ˈkɒʃn/ verb [T] to protect a person or thing from the harmful effects of something

cuss /kəs/ verb [UT] informal to swear

cus-tard /ˈkʌstərd/ noun [C/U] a soft firm sweet food made from milk, eggs, and sugar

cus-to-di-al sen-tence /ˈkʌstədɪəl senˈtɛns/ noun [C] 1 American someone whose job is to clean a building and to fix things that are broken 2 someone who is responsible for something valuable

cus-to-dy /ˈkʌstədi/ noun [U] 1 the protection or care of someone or something, especially given by a court: The father was given custody of the children. 2 a situation in which someone is kept in prison: One of the men is still in custody.

cus-tom /ˈkʌstəm/ noun [C/U] something that people do that is traditional or usual: local customs and traditions ➔ HABIT ➔ CUSTOMS

cus-tom-ary /ˈkʌstəməri/ adj usual

cus-tomar-i-ly /ˈkʌstəmerəli/ adv

cus-tom-built adj designed and built for one particular person

cus-tom-er /ˈkʌstəmər/ noun [C] 1 a person or company that buys goods or services: Supermarkets use a variety of tactics to attract customers. 2 customer services/relations/support + Discounts are available for our regular customers. 2 informal a particular type of person: a cool customer + a tricky/awkward/tough customer

cus-tom-ize /ˈkʌstəmaɪz/ verb [T] to change the way that something looks or works so that it is exactly what you want or need

cus-toms /ˈkʌstəms/ noun [plural] 1 the place at a port, airport, or border where officials check that people are not bringing anything into a country illegally 2 a government department that collects taxes on goods that people bring into a country

cut1 /kæt/ (past tense and past participle cut) verb

1 use knife/sharp tool
2 injure part of body ➔ PHRASES
3 reduce sth ➔ PHRASAL VERBS
4 remove parts of sth

1 [CU] 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.

cur-rent /ˈkʌrənt/ adj

1 happening or existing now: Production is likely to remain at current levels. 2 There are several reasons for the current political situation.
3 correct or legal now: Is this your current address? 4 a current license

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

cur-rent2 /ˈkʌrənt/ noun [C] 1 a strong movement of water or air in one direction 2 a flow of electricity

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

cur-rent-ly /ˈkʌrəntli/ adv at the present time: Davis is currently appearing in a Broadway play. 2 the largest memory chips currently available

cur-ric-u-lum /ˈkærɪkjuːləm/ noun [C] the subjects that students study at a particular school or college: the science curriculum ➔ curriculum planning/development

cur-ry /ˈkærri/ noun [C/U] an Indian food consisting of meat, fish, or vegetables cooked in a sauce with a hot flavor

curse1 /kɜːrs/ verb

1 to use offensive or impolite language: She looked at her watch, cursed, and ran for a taxi. 2 to say or think offensive or impolite words about someone or something: She cursed herself for being such a fool.

3 to use magic powers to make bad things happen to someone

curse2 /kɜːrs/ noun [C] 1 an offensive or impolite word or phrase 2 the words that are used for causing bad luck

1 an unpleasant situation or influence

cur-sor /ˈkɜːsər/ 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

cur-sory /ˈkɜːsərri/ adj formal quick and not thorough =SUPERFICIAL: a cursory examination/search

curt /kɜːrt/ adj using few words in a way that shows that you are impatient or angry =BRUSQUE —curs-ly adv

cur-tail /ˈkɜːtɛl/ verb [T] formal to reduce or limit something

cur-tain /ˈkɜːtn/ noun

1 [C] a long piece of cloth that hangs down to cover a window: She closed the curtains.
2 [C] a large piece of cloth that hangs in front of the stage in a theater, 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:

ability  disability
disabled  enable
inability  unable

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

destroyer  destructive
destruction  indestructible

All these words are formed from the root 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 root word, and their meanings are related too.

**ACTIVITY**

Look at the following groups of words and try to decide in each case what the root 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.

discomfort  uncomfortable  comforting

decision  decisive  indecisive

impure  purist  purity

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 **nonviolent** 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** behavior by troublemakers, some of whom are as young as ten.

**E-commerce** now accounts for 84 percent 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.
Thenewdistricthealthboardswillberequiredtoactinanefficientandbusinesslikeway.

**ACTIVITY**
Seeifyoucanmakesomemorewordsusingtheseprefixesandsuffixes.
Checkinthedictionarytoseefityourwordsarethere.

**Compounds**
Usingprefixesandsuffixesisnottheonlywaytoformnewwords.ManyEnglishwordsare*compounds.*
Compoundsareformedbycombiningtwoorthreewords.Sometimesthesecombinationsremainastwoorthreeseperatewordsandsometimestheycombine toformonenewword. Forexample,theword*troublemakers*inthesecondexampleabovehasbeenformedbycombiningthetwonouns*trouble*and*maker.*Thishascreated
a new word meaning “someone who makes (=causes) trouble.”

Most compounds are treated as separate entries in this dictionary, sotothatyoucanseeimmediatelythatthey have a meaning of their own that is dif-ferent from the meanings of the words from which they are formed. Sometimesthese meanings are easy
toguess. Forexample, a *bus stop* is a place where buses stop to pick up
passengers, and a *bookstore* 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 program, 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**

- *emoticon:* emotion + icon (= a symbol such as :-) or :-( that you type in an e-mail or text message to show you are feeling)
- *netiquette:* Internet + etiquette (= the rules of polite behavior and good manners used when communicating over the Internet)
- *netizen:* Internet + citizen (= someone who spends a lot of time using the Internet)
- *technophobe:* technology + -phobe (= someone who does not like to use new technology, especially computers)

The root words are: decide, pure, screw, team, wave, write.