Movement

C. WORDS THAT DESCRIBE MOVEMENT

1. Fast
Simon loves fast cars. • She’s a really fast runner
- I’m not as fast as Sam, but I’m faster than the others.
- The cheetah is the fastest mammal on earth.
- A fast journey • The fastest time was 4 minutes 23 seconds.

1.1 Going fast or doing things fast
quick able to move quickly: He’s surprisingly quick for such a big man. • There wasn’t much I could do. He was quicker and he won hands down. • She’s quicker than I am, but she isn’t as strong. • It was my second quickest time ever.

Note: Quick is also used to talk about something such as a look, a smile, or a question that is over in a very short time: Can I just ask a quick question? • Let’s take a quick break and then carry on with the agenda.

brisk moving or acting quickly and energetically: We went out for a brisk walk yesterday.

hurried done quickly because you do not have much time: We made a hurried decision to continue the journey.

rapid happening, acting, or moving quickly: especially about change and development: There’s been a rapid growth in the use of the Internet. • Mergers involving big banks have been occurring at a rapid rate during the last five years.

Note: Rapid is used mainly in written English.

Collocation
Nouns frequently used with rapid
- advance, change, decline, development, expansion, growth, increase, pace, progress, rate, rise, spread

swift moving quickly: Muriel leaped to her feet and took two swift paces to the door. • He turned, and the swift movement made her jump.

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

1.2 Being able to move fast
speedy capable of moving very fast: Public transport has to be speedy, and it has to be safe. • United scored first when their speedy striker found the net after 15 minutes.

nippy able to move fast and easily: • a nippy little sports car • He is never going to be exactly nippy, but he is not slow.

Note: Nippy is informal and is used mainly in British English.

1.3 Adverbs and phrases that mean ‘moving fast’
fast quickly: We drove as fast as we could to the hospital. • She can’t run very fast. • Concorde flew faster than the speed of sound.

quickly at a fast speed: She walked quickly along the drive. • The river flows more quickly here.

briskly in a fast and energetic manner: He set off briskly but soon slowed down.

rapidly without delay, or in a very short time: Changes to the program were rapidly made.

swiftly quickly: She started up the engine and drove swiftly away. • He walked swiftly along the corridor and down the stairs.

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speedily at a fast speed: A car came speedily towards the house.

at high or top speed very fast, or as fast as possible: Richard drove us home at high speed. • The skaters move across the ice at top speed.

like a flash or quick as a flash or in a flash very quickly: She was at his side in a flash.

like lightning or at lightning speed very quickly: These guys move around at lightning speed.

flick • Stitch moved like lightning and caught her as she fell.

1.4 Verbs that mean ‘to move fast’
See also Run.
dart to make a sudden quick movement somewhere: Small boats darted like dragonflies across the lake.

fly to move fast through the air: Pieces of glass and concrete were flying in all directions. • A bullet flew past his head.

Note: Fly is also used metaphorically of people, meaning ‘to move quickly’: She flew past me on her bike. • Skiers were flying down the slopes.

hurry to do something or move somewhere, quickly, especially when you are late or when you must do something and you do not have much time: We must hurry or we’ll be late. • They hurried into the room, talking loudly as they did so.

rush to hurry in order to get somewhere very quickly: The door burst open and Jo rushed in.

speed to move quickly, especially in a vehicle: an endless stream of traffic speeding towards the city. • I heard a car speed away. • The train sped along in the dark.

Note: Speed is used mainly in written English. Speed also means ‘to drive faster than the fastest speed that is legally allowed’: Drivers who are caught speeding risk a heavy fine.

zoom to move very fast, especially in a car or other road vehicle: He came zooming down the street on his motorcycle. • We lay awake listening the cars zooming past.

1.5 Verbs and phrases that mean ‘to move faster’
speed up to start to move faster: Drivers speed up as they leave the village. • She speeded up until she was almost running.

accelerate if a vehicle or a driver accelerates, the vehicle starts to move faster: Suddenly the van accelerated. • He accelerated up a dark steep hill.

put on speed or put on a spurt to suddenly move faster: They put on speed until they caught up with him. • He put on a bit of a spurt and overtook me.

gain speed or gather speed or pick up speed if a vehicle gains, gathers, or picks up speed, its speed gradually increases: The train gathered speed as it left the station.

2. Slow
My sister is so slow, I can’t bear walking with her. • Most large lorries are slow and difficult to drive. • a long slow walk to the top of the hill • He was the slowest runner in the class.

leisurely slow and relaxed, especially when you are doing something that you enjoy and you don’t want to hurry: I took a long leisurely walk along the beach. • He turned over and did a leisurely backstroke back up the pool.