WORD LIST FOR LEVELS
B2–C2
This publication has made use of the English Vocabulary Profile. This resource is based on extensive research using the Cambridge Learner Corpus and is part of the English Profile programme, which aims to provide evidence about language use that helps to produce better language teaching materials. See http://www.englishprofile.org/ for more information.

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http://www.toe.gr/
Abbreviations

I
Culturally Sensitive Word

+ two objects
A verb that has two objects.

C
Countable noun: a noun that has both singular and plural forms.

C usually no plural or U
Countable noun which usually has no plural or uncountable noun.

I
Intransitive verb: a verb that has no object.

T
Transitive verb: a verb that has an object.

U
Uncountable noun: noun with no plural form. Cannot be used with 'a', 'an', or 'one'.

UK
British English

US
American English

abbreviation
A short form of a word or phrase.

adjective
A word that describes a noun or pronoun.
adverb
A word that describes or gives more information about a verb, adjective or other adverb.

approving
Used in a positive way, to show that you have a good opinion of someone or something.

auxiliary verb
The verbs 'be', 'have' and 'do' when combined with other verbs to make different forms.

before noun
An adjective that always comes before a noun.

conjunction
A word used to join parts of a phrase or sentence.

determiner
Word used before noun or adj to show which person or thing is being referred to.

disapproving
Used in a negative way, to show that you have a bad opinion of someone or something.

exclamation
A word or phrase that you say loudly or suddenly to express strong feelings.

formal
Used in serious writing, or for communicating with people in a serious or polite way.

Informal
Used in relaxed situations, for example with friends and family. Used more in speech.

literary
Used in books and poems, and not in ordinary conversation.
**modal verb**
Verb such as can, might, must. With another verb, shows an idea such as possibility.

**noun**
A word that refers to a person, place, idea, event or thing.

**often passive**
In a passive verb/sentence, the subject does not do the action but is affected by it.

**often plural**
Refers to more than one person or thing.

**phrasal verb**
Verb with an adverb or preposition, with meaning different from meaning of its parts.

**plural**
Refers to more than one person or thing.

**preposition**
Word used before noun, pronoun or –ing form of verb to show place, direction, etc.

**pronoun**
A word used instead of a noun, which has usually already been talked about.

**specialized**
Used in connection with a particular area of work or study.

**symbol**
A sign, shape or object used to represent something else.

**verb**
A word that describes an action, condition or experience.

**written abbreviation**
A short form of a word or phrase only used in writing
**abandon** /əˈbæn.dən/

Word family:
Verbs: abandon
Adjectives: abandoned

**VERB [t]

LEAVE
[B2] to leave someone or something somewhere, sometimes not returning to get them

Dictionary examples:
They were forced to abandon the car.
As a baby, he'd been abandoned by his mother.
We were sinking fast, and the captain gave the order to abandon ship.

Learner example:
I lived with my mother and brother but my father was never there. I knew that he had abandoned us for another woman.

STOP DOING
[C1] to stop doing something before it is finished, or to stop following a plan, idea, etc.

Dictionary example:
The match was abandoned because of rain.

Learner example:
How would you feel if you establish[ed] a long–time plan for your career and then you ha[d] to abandon it?

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**abandoned** /əˈbæn.dənd/

Word family:
Verbs: abandon
Adjectives: abandoned
ADJECTIVE

EMPTY
[B2] left empty or not working

Dictionary example:
an abandoned factory/village

Learner example:
Arriving [at] an altitude of 2000m, people can visit the abandoned salt-mines.

LEFT SOMEWHERE
[B2] having been left somewhere, intentionally

Dictionary example:
An abandoned baby was found in a box on the hospital steps.

Learner example:
Please, just have a look [at] your wife Margaret and her eyes will tell you that she is this abandoned princess of your childhood fairy-tale.

able /ˈeɪ.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: ability, disability, inability
Verbs: enable
Adjectives: able, disabled, unable

ADJECTIVE

CLEVER
[C2] clever or good at doing something

Dictionary example:
She's a very able student.

Learner example:
They contend that this will lead to better grades, better results in key stage test[s], and a more able work force.

abnormal /æbˈnɔːməl/

Word family:
Nouns: norm, normality
Adjectives: normal, abnormal
Adverbs: normally
ADJECTIVE
[C1] different from what is normal or usual, in a way which is strange or dangerous

Dictionary examples:
abnormal behaviour/weather
They found abnormal levels of lead in the water.

Learner example:
The cost of it for the Chinese population is an abnormal level of pollution, that causes many deaths every year.

aboard /əˈbɔːd/

ADVERB; PREPOSITION
[C1] on or onto a plane, ship, bus, or train

Dictionary example:
Welcome aboard flight BA109 to Paris.

Learner example:
Competition entry "Welcome aboard on the flight to ancient Rome..." Please fasten your seatbelts...

abolish /əˈbɒliʃ/

VERB [T]
[B2] to officially end something, especially a law or system

Dictionary examples:
I think bullfighting should be abolished.
National Service was abolished in Britain in 1962.

Learner example:
Therefore, I suggest you should not change or abolish any event for any reason.

abortion /əˈbɔː.tʃən/

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] a medical operation to end a pregnancy when the baby is still too small to live

Dictionary example:
She had an abortion.
Learner example:
Some of these problems are serious and should be eliminated, such as abortion and domestic violence.

about /əˈbɔːt/

ADVERB

DIRECTION
[B2] to or in different parts of a place, often without purpose or order

Dictionary example:
They heard someone moving/walking about outside.

above /əˈbʌv/

ADVERB; PREPOSITION

TOO IMPORTANT
[C2] too good or important for something

Dictionary example:
No one is above suspicion in this matter.

abrupt /əˈbrʌpt/

Word family:
Adjectives: abrupt
Adverbs: abruptly

ADJECTIVE

SUDDEN
[C2] sudden and not expected

Dictionary example:
Our conversation came to an abrupt end.

Learner example:
Their income came from the revenues obtained by selling milk, fruit, jelly and other perishable goods, but they had to pay John, or their happy lifestyle would come to an abrupt end.

RUDE
[C2] dealing with people in a quick way that is unfriendly or rude
Dictionary example:
She has a rather abrupt manner.

Learner example:
I was poorly received and the general tone of the person assisting me was rude and abrupt.

**abruptly /əˈbrʌp.tli/**

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** abrupt
**Adverbs:** abruptly

**ADVERB**
[C2] suddenly and quickly

**Dictionary examples:**
They abruptly left the party.
His speech ended abruptly and he left the stage.

**Learner example:**
When she became an adolescent, her perspective changed abruptly.

**absence /ˈæb.sənts/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** absence
**Adjectives:** absent

**NOUN**

**NOT PRESENT**
[B2] [c or u] when someone is not where they are usually expected to be

**Dictionary examples:**
A new manager was appointed during/in her absence.
She has had repeated absences from work this year.

**Learner example:**
Thank you very much for letting me stay in your flat during your absence on holiday.

**NOT EXISTING**
[B2] [u] when something does not exist

**Dictionary example:**
He drew attention to the absence of concrete evidence against the defendant.

**Learner example:**
The biggest difference the absence of TV made in my life was that I actually started living.
**absolute** /ˈæb.sə.luːt/

Word family:
**Adjectives:** absolute
**Adverbs:** absolutely

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**
- **[B2]** complete and definite

  **Dictionary examples:**
  absolute control
  He's an absolute idiot!
  That's absolute rubbish!

  **Learner example:**
  I have no experience [of] surfing – I am an absolute beginner with high motivation.

**absolutely** /ˈæb.sə.luːt.li/

Word family:
**Adjectives:** absolute
**Adverbs:** absolutely

**ADVERB**

Absolutely!
- **[C1]** used to strongly agree with someone

  **Dictionary examples:**
  "Do you think it helped his career?" "Absolutely."
  "It was an excellent film, though." "Absolutely!"

  **Learner example:**
  So have the Swedish grandparents got funkier? Absolutely!

Absolutely not.
- **[C2]** used to strongly disagree with someone or to agree with something negative

  **Dictionary example:**
  "Are you suggesting that we should just ignore the problem?" "No, absolutely not."

  **Learner example:**
  Does it mean the parents will allow them to eat anything they please? Absolutely not. You have to give the children some options, instead of imposing things on them.
absorb /əbˈzɔːb/  

VERB [v]

TAKE IN
[B2] to take something in, especially gradually

Dictionary examples:
Plants absorb carbon dioxide.
The drug is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream.

Learner example:
Everything is getting intermingled and absorbed into the system, making life terribly efficient, quick and easy.

be absorbed in sth
[B2] to give all your attention to something that you are doing

Dictionary example:
Simon was so absorbed in his computer game that he didn't notice me come in.

Learner example:
We hadn't noticed them at first because we were absorbed in [listening to the] birds singing.

REMEMBER
[C1] to understand and remember facts that you read or hear

Dictionary example:
It's hard to absorb so much information.

Learner example:
You will have only three school [subjects] and that'll make it easier to absorb the new knowledge.

abstract /ˈæb.strækt/  

ADJECTIVE

IDEAS
[B2] relating to ideas and not real things

Dictionary examples:
abstract ideas
Truth and beauty are abstract concepts.

Learner example:
Reading improve[s] your ability to imagine and your abstract thinking skills.
Abstract art involves shapes and colours and not images of real things or people.

**Dictionary example:**
abstract paintings/sculpture

**Learner example:**
What kind of material will you use for this painting? Will it be a realistic picture or an abstract one?

**absurd** /əˈbɜːd/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] very silly

**Dictionary examples:**  
What an absurd explanation!  
Don't be so absurd! Of course I want you to come.  
It's an absurd situation – neither of them will talk to the other.

**Learner example:**  
[In your article,] some performers are called 'second-rate', which, in my view, is absurd when talking about such famous groups as 'Snakes' and 'KGB'.

**abuse** /əˈbjuːs/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** abuse  
**Adjectives:** abusive

**NOUN**  
BAD TREATMENT  
[B2] I [c or u] bad or cruel treatment of people or animals

**Dictionary examples:**  
sexual/psychological/mental abuse  
The rescued dogs had been victims of physical abuse.

**Learner example:**  
The one side opposes this treatment as an abuse of living creatures while the other side denies any suffering and points at the values of zoos for people.

**WRONG USE**  
[B2] I [c or u] the use of a substance in an unsuitable and harmful way or for the wrong purpose
Dictionary examples:
Drug and alcohol abuse contributed to his early death.
This program tries to address problems that lead to substance abuse.

Learner example:
Get information about the [effects] of drug abuse and make your generation a better one.

WRONG ACTION
[C1] ! [c or u] an action or activity that is morally wrong or not allowed

Dictionary example:
The politician's behaviour was an abuse of power.

Learner example:
It is a vast resource of information, but the abuse of it may have detrimental consequences.

LANGUAGE
[C2] ! [u] rude and offensive words said to another person

Dictionary example:
Rival fans shouted abuse at each other.

Learner example:
I went all the way back cycling on the wrong side of the road, and anyone who said something about it could expect a stream of abuse.

abusive /əˈbjuːsɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: abuse
Adjectives: abusive

ADJECTIVE
[C2] saying rude and offensive words to someone

Dictionary example:
an abusive phone call

Learner example:
This is partly true, because even [a] slightly abusive expression might result in discord or [rupture] between seemingly close friends.
academic /ˌæk.əˈdem.i.k/  

ADJECTIVE  

EDUCATION  
[B2] relating to schools, colleges and universities, or to subjects which involve thinking and studying and not technical or practical skills  

Dictionary examples:  
academic subjects/qualifications/books  
academic standards  

Learner example:  
As a member of our academic community, I'm very glad to hear that our college will have a surplus in its annual budget.

CLEVER  
[C2] clever and good at studying  

Dictionary example:  
He's not very academic.

accelerate /əkˈsel.ə.rət/  

VERB  

HAPPEN  
[C1] [i or ɪ] to start to happen more quickly, or to make something start to happen more quickly  

Dictionary example:  
Inflation is likely to accelerate this year.  

Learner example:  
Fashion has always been changing but I think this process accelerated after the Second World War.

VEHICLE  
[C2] [i] to move or cause yourself or a vehicle to move faster  

Dictionary example:  
The car in front accelerated and left us behind.  

Learner example:  
When I ride my bike and start accelerating, I feel that I move with the speed of the wind.
**accent** /ˈæk.sənt/  

NOUN [c]  

MARK  
[B2] a mark written or printed over a letter to show you how to pronounce it  

Dictionary example:  
There's an acute accent on the 'e' of 'café'.

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**accept** /əkˈsept/  

Word family:  
Nouns: acceptance  
Verbs: accept  
Adjectives: acceptable, unacceptable, accepted  

VERB  

ADMIT  
[B2] [ɪ] to admit that something is true, often something unpleasant  

Dictionary examples:  
He refuses to accept that he's made a mistake.  
I can't accept that there's nothing we can do.  

Learner example:  
David told her that the reason [for] his failure was her, because she used to press him a lot and she couldn't accept that he wanted to be an actor.  

ALLOW TO JOIN  
[B2] [ɪ] to allow someone to join an organization or become part of a group  

Dictionary examples:  
She's been accepted by two universities.  
He was accepted as a full member of the society.  
His fellow workers refused to accept him.  

Learner example:  
When I returned home I check[ed] my mail and I ha[d] a new message from my uncle, saying that the university have accepted me.  

accept responsibility/blame  
[B2] to admit that you caused something bad that happened  

Dictionary example:  
I accept full responsibility for the failure of the plan.
acceptable /əkˈsep.tə.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: acceptance
Verbs: accept
Adjectives: acceptable, unacceptable, accepted

ADJECTIVE

ALLOWED
[C1] allowed or approved of

Dictionary example:
Smoking is less and less socially acceptable.

Learner example:
They should teach them what is right [and] wrong, and what is morally and socially acceptable.

acceptance /əkˈsep.təns/  

Word family:
Nouns: acceptance
Verbs: accept
Adjectives: acceptable, unacceptable, accepted

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] when you accept something

Dictionary examples:
His acceptance of the award was controversial.
There is a growing public acceptance of alternative medicine.

Learner example:
The main reason for the "fast-food" groceries winning acceptance in Swedish culture is lack of time.

accepted /əkˈsep.təd/  

Word family:
Nouns: acceptance
Verbs: accept
Adjectives: acceptable, unacceptable, accepted

ADJECTIVE

[C1] agreed or approved by most people

Dictionary example:
an accepted spelling
**Learner example:**

Competition can also be an accepted form of expression of one's aggression.

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**access** /ˈæk.ses/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** access

**Verbs:** access

**Adjectives:** accessible

**VERB [ɪ]**

[B2] to find or see information, especially using a computer

**Dictionary example:**

You can access the files over the Internet.

**Learner example:**

We have more time to stay together at home, because we can access [the] internet at home.

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**accessible** /əˈkses.ə.bl/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** access

**Verbs:** access

**Adjectives:** accessible

**ADJECTIVE**

**REACH**

[B2] able to be reached or easily got

**Dictionary example:**

The resort is easily accessible by road, rail and air.

**Learner example:**

It is very accessible because it is situated in the centre.

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**UNDERSTAND**

[C2] easy to understand

**Dictionary example:**

They are attempting to make opera accessible to a wider audience.

**Learner example:**

Jacques Prevert, the French poet, changed our way [of seeing] the world by making poetry accessible to everyone.
accessory /əkˈses.ər.i/

NOUN [c]
[C1] something extra which is not necessary but is attractive or useful

Dictionary examples:
bathroom accessories
computer accessories

Learner example:
They find pleasure in looking at different clothes, shoes, accessories, gadgets and home furnishings.

accidental /ˌæk.sɪˈden.təl/

Word family:
Nouns: accident
Adjectives: accidental
Adverbs: accidentally

ADJECTIVE
[B2] happening by chance

Dictionary examples:
accidental damage
The archeological site was located after the accidental discovery of bones in a field.

accidentally /ˌæk.sɪˈden.təli/

Word family:
Nouns: accident
Adjectives: accidental
Adverbs: accidentally

ADVERB
[B2] by chance or by mistake

Dictionary example:
She accidentally knocked over a glass of water.

Learner example:
I accidentally broke one of your vases – the most beautiful one.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>acclaimed</strong> /əˈkleɪmd/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C1] praised by a lot of people</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong> the acclaimed singer and songwriter</td>
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<td><strong>Learner example:</strong> In order to avoid such an embarrassing inconsistency in the next meeting, I suggest inviting Colin Briggs, the acclaimed footballer, to talk to his fans.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>accompany</strong> /əˈkʌm.pə.ni/</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VERB [T]</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MUSIC</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>[C2] to play music to support someone else who is playing or singing</td>
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<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong> He accompanied me on the piano.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong> Last year, for instance, the concert became a recital: two singers performed Lieder by Schubert accompanied by the piano and by the sweet sound of Arimany’s golden flute.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>accomplish</strong> /əˈkʌm.plɪʃ/</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VERB [T]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C1] to succeed in doing something good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong> I feel as if I’ve accomplished nothing all day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong> To accomplish this, schools should try to respect the individuality of each child, give them chances to think more freely.</td>
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<th><strong>accord</strong> /əˈkɔːd/</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> accord, accordance</td>
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</table>
of your own accord
[C2] If you do something of your own accord, you choose to do it and no one else forces you.

Dictionary example:
She left of her own accord.

Learner example:
She would go alone, but it was something that was chosen of her own accord.

accordance /əˈkɔː.dənts/

Word family:
Nouns: accord, accordance

in accordance with sth
[C1] in the way described by a rule, law, or wish

Dictionary example:
Both companies have insisted that they were acting in accordance with the law.

Learner example:
Although they do not earn much money in this profession, they try to do their best and judge in accordance with the law which they also have to interpret.

according to /əˈkɔː.dɪŋ.tuː/

PREPOSITION

METHOD
[B2] in a way that agrees with

Dictionary example:
Students are all put in different groups according to their ability.

Learner example:
The job included organizing suitable activities according to their age, capability and wishes.

account /əˈkaʊnt/

Word family:
Nouns: account, accountant
NOUN

REPORT
[B2] [c] a written or spoken description of something that has happened

Dictionary examples:
She gave a thrilling account of her life in the jungle.
The documents provide a detailed account of the town's early history.

Learner example:
I would be very interested [in participating] and [writing] the accounts of our journeys.

take account of sth
[B2] to consider something when judging a situation

Dictionary example:
A good architect takes account of the building's surroundings.

Learner example:
I hope you will take account of our request.

take into account sth
[B2] to consider something when judging a situation

Dictionary example:
I think you have to take into account the fact that he's a good deal younger than the rest of us.

Learner example:
Taking into account all these arguments, I also think, like many people, that keeping animals in zoos is cruel and unnecessary.

on account of sth
[B2] because of something

Dictionary example:
He doesn't eat any dairy products on account of the diet he is following.

Learner example:
On account of its location, it is always busy.

by all accounts
[C1] as said by a lot of people

Dictionary example:
The party was, by all accounts, a great success.

Learner example:
I have known Michael Van Cleef for over two decades now, and he is, by all accounts, an exemplary worker.

on no account; not on any account
[C2] not for any reason or in any situation
Dictionary example:
On no account must these records be changed.

Learner example:
Mary did not want Martin to leave on any account, let alone move to a foreign country.

VERB

account for sth PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to be the reason for something, or to explain the reason for something

Dictionary examples:
Can you account for your absence last Friday?
He'd had an argument with Caroline, which accounts for his bad mood this morning.
She was asked to account for the missing money.

Learner example:
I was at a loss for words when I tried to account for her behaviour, but I never ceased to consider her a very valuable friend.

accountable /əˈkaʊn.tə.bl/  

Word family:
Verbs: account
Adjectives: accountable

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] responsible for what you do and having to be able to explain your actions

Dictionary examples:
Hospitals must be held accountable for their mistakes.
Politicians should be accountable to the public that elects them.

Learner example:
Finally, there should be a person who should be held accountable and [is] accessible to our complaints.

accumulate /əˈkjuː.mjə.leɪt/  

Word family:
Nouns: accumulation
Verbs: accumulate

VERB [I or T]
[C1] to increase in amount over a period of time, or to make something increase over a period of time
Dictionary example:
The chemicals accumulate in your body.

Learner example:
Rain water then accumulates in the reservoir.

accumulation /əˌkjuː.məˈleɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: accumulation
Verbs: accumulate

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] an amount of something that has been collected

Dictionary example:
Despite this accumulation of evidence, the government did nothing.

Learner example:
What is success? For some it is the accumulation of possessions, for others it’s fame, health, love.

accuracy /ˈæk.jʊ.rə.si/

Word family:
Nouns: accuracy, inaccuracy
Adjectives: accurate, inaccurate
Adverbs: accurately

NOUN [U]
[B2] how correct or exact something is

Dictionary example:
We can predict changes with a surprising degree of accuracy.

Learner example:
I was very disappointed to observe your lack of accuracy in the description of this wonderful event.

accusation /ˌæk.jʊˈzeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: accusation
Verbs: accuse
NOUN [C]
[C1] when you say that someone has done something bad

Dictionary example:
He made a number of accusations against his former colleagues.

Learner example:
I have enclosed the Distribution Chart in order to prevent you from [making] further accusations.

accuse /əˈkjuːz/

Word family:
Nouns: accusation
Verbs: accuse

VERB [r]
[B2] to say that someone has done something bad

Dictionary examples:
He's been accused of robbery/murder.
Are you accusing me of lying?

Learner example:
They were accused of vandalism.

accustomed /əˈkʌstəmd/

ADJECTIVE

accustomed to sth/doing sth
[C1] If you are accustomed to something, you have experienced it often enough for it to seem normal to you.

Dictionary examples:
I've worked nights for years now so I've grown accustomed to it.
She isn't accustomed to dealing with so much media attention.

Learner example:
I am quite accustomed to being with many kinds of people of different ages.

ache /eɪk/

VERB [i]
[B2] to have a continuous pain that is unpleasant but not strong
Dictionary examples:
My head/tooth/back aches.
I ache/I'm aching all over.

Learner example:
After a[n] hour of horseback riding your muscles can really ache.

acid /ˈæs.id/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a liquid substance which can react chemically with and sometimes dissolve other materials

Dictionary examples:
hydrochloric/fatty acid
Vinegar is an acid.

Learner example:
We saw a little black dragon with scales like iron charging [at] us and spitting acid.

acknowledge /əkˈnɒl.idʒ/

VERB [t]

ACCEPT
[C1] to accept that something is true or exists

Dictionary example:
He acknowledged that there was a problem.

Learner example:
They fully acknowledge the need to keep fit as a part of being a healthy and well-educated person.

SAY RECEIVED
[C1] formal to tell someone, usually in writing, that you have received something they sent you

Dictionary example:
He sent a letter acknowledging receipt of her application.

Learner example:
Re: Follow-up job as interpreter, I acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence.
acquaintance /əˈkwɛɪntəns/  

NOUN [C]  
[C1] someone who you know but do not know well  

**Dictionary example:**  
He's just a business acquaintance.  

**Learner example:**  
Should you not give us a printed apology, I would seriously consider recommending all my friends and acquaintances not to trust your future articles.

acquire /əˈkwɔːr/  

VERB [T]  

GET  
[B2] FORMAL to get something  

**Dictionary examples:**  
He acquired the firm in 1978.  
I seem to have acquired two copies of this book.  

**Learner example:**  
I would like to join the club because I will be able to acquire more stamps for my collection.  

LEARN  
[B2] to learn something  

**Dictionary example:**  
To acquire knowledge/skills  

**Learner example:**  
I have already acquired experience in the Tourism Field, working as a guard in a summer camp in Florida in 1997.

acre /ˈeɪ.kə/  

NOUN [C]  
[C2] a unit for measuring area, equal to 4047 square metres  

**Dictionary example:**  
He's got 400 acres of land in Wales.
Learner example:
We have to admit that, not only because of the financial weakness but also because of the badly organized plans, we failed to achieve the planting of 10,000 trees per acre.

**across /əˈkrɒs/**

**ADVERB; PREPOSITION**

**across the board**

[C2] happening or having an effect on people at every level and in every area

**Dictionary example:**
The improvement has been across the board, with all divisions reporting increased profits.

**Learner example:**
Children in separate schools get on with things regardless of it being work for boys or girls, which can be quite positive especially in today's lifestyles where chores are done across the board.

**act /ækt/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** act, action, actor

**Verbs:** act

**VERB**

**DO SOMETHING**

[B2] [I] to do something, especially in order to solve a problem

**Dictionary examples:**
She acted without thinking.
We have to act now to stop the spread of this disease.

**Learner example:**
We can make the village much more attractive than it has ever been. If we act together as a group, things will be easier.

**NOUN**

**THING DONE**

[B2] [C] something that someone does

**Dictionary examples:**
an act of aggression/kindness/terrorism
a kind/thoughtless/selfish act
The simple act of telling someone about a problem can help.
**Learner example:**
I think that reading is a[n] act of intel[l]ligence because animals can't read, while watching T.V. is only an act of having fun!!!

**FALSE BEHAVIOUR**

[C2] [NO PLURAL] behaviour which hides your real feelings or intentions

**Dictionary example:**
Was she really upset or was that just an act?

**Learner example:**
Sometimes what is put on display for the tourists is all an act and gives you a different impression and opinion of the country and people, so it would be advisable to meet some local people like the butcher or baker and have a talk with them.

**get your act together** INFORMAL

[C2] to organize your activities so that you can make progress

**Dictionary example:**
She's so disorganized – I wish she'd get her act together.

**Learner example:**
He was determined to get his act together and try to find a solution to his problem.

---

**action** /ˈæk.ʃən/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** act, action, actor

**Verbs:** act

**NOUN**

**DO**

[B2] [C or u] something that you do

**Dictionary examples:**
We must take action before the problem gets worse.
She has to accept the consequences of her actions.
What do you think is the best course of action?

**Learner example:**
I decided to take action on my own.

**legal action**

[C1] a legal process in a court

**Dictionary example:**
They are planning to take legal action against the company.
Learner example:
If we do not get a satisfactory answer to this letter, apologising and offering the compensation that the students deserve, we will have no other option but to take legal action.

out of action
[C1] damaged or hurt and not able to operate or play sports

Dictionary examples:
I'm afraid my car's out of action.
They've got three players out of action.

Learner example:
The air-condition[ing] in my room was out of action and the hotel manager didn't care.

course of action
[C1] something that you can do in a particular situation

Dictionary example:
I think the best course of action would be to write to him.

Learner example:
However, I believe that the best course of action in this case is to give our student a refund.

FIGHTING
[C2] [j] fighting in a war

Dictionary example:
He was killed in action.

Learner example:
It was a shock when she got to know that her husband had been killed in action.

PROCESS
[C2] [NO PLURAL] a movement or natural process

Dictionary example:
The rocks are smoothed by the action of water.

Learner example:
The area of Sayago – in the Spanish province of Zamora – and Tras-os-Montes, in Portugal, are joined by a natural border: the river Duero and the rocky canyon that has been eroded for millions of years by the action of the water.

active /ˈæk.tɪv/
INVOLVED
[B2] very involved in an organization or planned activity

Dictionary examples:
He played an active role in the campaign.
Both of his parents were politically active.
Enemy forces remain active in the mountainous areas around the city.

Learner example:
I have always been very active in different organizations, sports as well as charity.

VOLCANO
[C1] An active volcano could throw out rocks, fire, etc. at any time.

Dictionary example:
Mount Etna in Sicily is one of the world's most active volcanoes.

Learner example:
The beautiful, crystal-blue sea and the small white houses, the bright orange of the sky during the evening and the unidentified colour of the volcanic rocks around the great, active volcano are just a few of the colours that paint the natural beauty of Thera.

actively /ˈæk.tɪv.li/

Word family:
Nouns: activity
Adjectives: active
Adverbs: actively

ADVERB
[B2] in a way that involves positive action

Dictionary examples:
He's very actively involved in the local Labour Party.
I've been actively looking for a job for six months.

Learner example:
There's statistical evidence that maths can train a brain to study actively.

activity /ˈæk.tɪv.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: activity
Adjectives: active
Adverbs: actively
NOUN

WORK
[B2] [c or u] the work of a group or organization to achieve an aim

Dictionary examples:
He was found guilty of terrorist activity.
criminal activities

Learner example:
But Rollo was also a good man, so when a policeman, called Calloway, informed him about [Harry's] illegal activity, he turned against him.

MOVEMENT
[B2] [u] when a lot of things are happening or people are moving around

Dictionary examples:
Ministers are concerned by the low level of economic activity.
There was a lot of activity the other side of the room.

Learner example:
Technical progress and industrial activity are causing a lot of problems.

actual /ˈæk.tʃu.əl/

Word family:
Adjectives: actual
Adverbs: actually

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

REAL
[B2] real, not guessed or imagined

Dictionary examples:
We had estimated about 300 visitors, but the actual number was much higher.
The exams are in July, but the actual results don't appear until September.

Learner example:
In my opinion, Burgers' Bush, Safari & Zoo in Arnhem has found the perfect solution. The actual zoo is rather small but each animal has a lot of space for running or wandering around.

in actual fact
[B2] used to emphasize what is really true, or to give more information

Dictionary example:
I thought she was Portuguese, but in actual fact she's Brazilian.
Learner example:
Nowadays almost all people own a car and in actual fact more and more people have been facing death as a consequence of careless driving.

actually /ˈæk.tʃu.ə.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: actual
Adverbs: actually

ADVERB

OPPOSITE
[B2] used when you are correcting someone, disagreeing with someone, or saying no to a request

Dictionary examples:
Actually, Gavin, it was Tuesday of last week, not Wednesday.
"You didn't tell me about needing the car." "Actually, I did."
"Do you mind if I smoke?" "Actually, I'd rather you didn't."

Learner example:
Actually, TORRENTS was [the] second group [at the festival]. I think you probably missed the first performance [in] which KING CUP sang.

adapt /əˈdæpt/

Word family:
Nouns: adaptation
Verbs: adapt

VERB

CHANGE BEHAVIOUR
[B2] [ɪ] to change your behaviour so that it is suitable for a new situation

Dictionary example:
It takes time to adapt to a new working environment.

Learner example:
I and my parents easily adapted to London, [and] to English people.

CHANGE SOMETHING
[B2] [ɪ] to change something so that it is suitable for a different use or situation

Dictionary examples:
Many software companies have adapted popular programs to the new operating system.
Davies is busy adapting Brinkworth's latest novel for television.
Learner example:
In my opinion, as the town is not so big it will be enough to adapt the two areas outside the town walls and to use them for car parking.

adaptation /ˌæd.æpˈteɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: adaptation
Verbs: adapt

NOUN [c or u]
[C1] the process or act of changing to suit a new situation

Dictionary example:
Evolution occurs as a result of adaptation to new environments.

Learner example:
This varies from one person to another, it depends on everyone's priorities and degree of adaptation to their new communities.

add /æd/

Word family:
Nouns: addition
Verbs: add
Adjectives: additional
Adverbs: additionally

VERB

add insult to injury
[C2] to make someone's bad situation worse by doing something else to upset them

Dictionary example:
To add insult to injury, we had to pay for the damage!

Learner example:
To add insult to injury, such an approach often turns out to be counterproductive.

addict /ˈæd.ɪkt/

Word family:
Nouns: addict, addiction
Adjectives: addicted, addictive
NOUN [c]
[B2] a person who cannot stop doing or using something, especially something harmful

Dictionary examples:
a drug/heroïn addict
a gambling addict
I’m a chocolate/shopping addict.

Learner example:
I like TV, I watch it but luckily I haven’t become a TV addict yet.

addicted /əˈdɪk.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: addict, addiction
Adjectives: addicted, addictive

ADJECTIVE

DRUGS
[B2] not able to stop taking a drug

Dictionary example:
He later became addicted to heroin.

Learner example:
One day my uncle called and told me a story of a boy who was addicted to drugs.

LIKING
[B2] liking something very much

Dictionary example:
He’s addicted to chocolate/football.

Learner example:
However, I believe that some people are addicted to computer games and that is not good.

addiction /əˈdɪk.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: addict, addiction
Adjectives: addicted, addictive

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] I when you cannot stop doing or taking something because you are addicted to it
Dictionary examples:
**drug** addiction
an addiction **to** alcohol
His addiction **to** computer games means he is spending far too much time indoors.

**Learner example:**
Sending text messages is an addiction which every teenager is obsessed with.

---

**addictive /əˈdɪk.tɪv/**

Word family:
**Nouns:** addict, addiction
**Adjectives:** addicted, **addictive**

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] If something is addictive, it makes you want more of it so that you become addicted.

Dictionary examples:
Tobacco is **highly** addictive.
The problem with computer games is that they're addictive.

**Learner example:**
Serial dramas are addictive – it is not unknown for whole countries to come to a standstill because an important revelation will be made on television.

---

**addition /əˈdɪʃ.ən/**

Word family:
**Nouns:** addition
**Verbs:** add
**Adjectives:** additional
**Adverbs:** additionally

**NOUN**
**NEW THING**
[B2] [c] a new or extra thing which is added to something

Dictionary example:
Defender Matt Smith is the latest addition **to** the team.

**Learner example:**
There is only one more thing missing: it would be great if there was popcorn provided. I am sure that would be a good addition for everyone.
NUMBERS/AMOUNTS

[B2] [u] the process of adding numbers or amounts together in order to get a total

Dictionary example:
Twice a week the children are tested in basic mathematical skills such as addition and subtraction.

---

**additional** /əˈdɪʃ.ənl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: addition  
Verbs: add  
Adjectives: additional  
Adverbs: additionally

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] extra

Dictionary examples:  
additional costs/problems  
There will be an extra charge for any additional passengers.

Learner example:  
I do have some additional questions for you.

---

**additionally** /əˈdɪʃ.ən.l.i/  

Word family:  
Nouns: addition  
Verbs: add  
Adjectives: additional  
Adverbs: additionally

**ADVERB**  
[B2] in addition

Dictionary example:  
Additionally, we request a deposit of $200 in advance.

Learner example:  
Additionally, I am very interested in helping an organization that’s trying to protect [the] environment.
**address** /əˈdres/  

**VERB [v]**  

**DEAL WITH**  
[C1] to deal with a problem  

**Dictionary example:**  
We have to address the issue/problem before it gets worse.  

**Learner example:**  
On balance, I would say that increasing the price of petrol to solve traffic and pollution problems is certainly a viable, although maybe not the best, way to address the issue.  

**SPEAK**  
[C2] formal to speak to someone, or to give a speech to an audience  

**Dictionary example:**  
Today she will be addressing a major conference in London.  

**Learner example:**  
He inhaled deeply before addressing the group again.  

**BUILDING DETAILS**  
[C2] to write a name and address on an envelope or parcel  

**Dictionary example:**  
A parcel arrived addressed to Emma.  

**Learner example:**  
The envelope was addressed to Kathleen.  

---  

**adequate** /ˈæd.ə.kwət/  

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:** adequate, inadequate  
**Adverbs:** adequately  

**ADJECTIVE**  

**ENOUGH**  
[B2] enough  

**Dictionary examples:**  
I didn't have adequate time to prepare.  
Will future oil supplies be adequate to meet world needs?  

**Learner example:**  
I hope the information I gave is adequate.
GOOD ENOUGH
[B2] good enough, but not very good

Dictionary examples:
The sound quality isn't brilliant but it's adequate for everyday use.
The council's provision for the elderly is barely adequate.

Learner example:
In my opinion, animals should only be kept in a zoo that provide[s] adequate living conditions and sufficient room.

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<td>Adverbs: adequately</td>
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ADVERB
[B2] in an adequate way

Dictionary example:
While some patients can be adequately cared for at home, others are best served by care in a hospital.

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<th>/əˈdʒeɪ.sənt/</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADJECTIVE FORMAL</td>
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<td>[C2] If two things are adjacent, they are next to each other.</td>
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Dictionary examples:
The fire started in an adjacent building.
They live in a house adjacent to the railway.

Learner example:
Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing to you with regard to the recent proposal of the City Council to build a supermarket on land that is currently a local park, namely Cranleigh Gardens, adjacent to the Cranleigh housing estate, where I live.

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<td>Word family:</td>
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<td>Nouns: adjustment</td>
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<td>Verbs: adjust, readjust</td>
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VERB

CHANGE
[B2] [I] to change something slightly so that it works better, fits better, or is more suitable

Dictionary examples:
If the chair is too high you can adjust it to suit you.
As a teacher you have to adjust your methods to suit the needs of different children.

Learner example:
I had to clean the lenses, prepare the tapes, and adjust the sound.

CHANGE BEHAVIOUR
[B2] [I] to change the way you behave or think in order to suit a new situation

Dictionary example:
They found it hard to adjust to life in a new country.

Learner example:
People will be able to adjust and change with the times.

adjustment /əˈdʒʌst.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: adjustment
Verbs: adjust, readjust

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a small change that you make to something so that it works better, fits better, or is more suitable

Dictionary examples:
We've made a few adjustments to the schedule.
I have a few minor adjustments to make.

Learner example:
I have some questions and a minor adjustment to make.

administration /ədˌmɪn.ɪˈstreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: administration, administrator
Adjectives: administrative
NOUN [u]
[C1] the work of organizing and arranging the operation of something, such as a company

Dictionary example:
The job involves a lot of administration.

Learner example:
For schools, it is much easier in terms of administration.

administrative /ədˈmɪn.ɪ.strə.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: administration, administrator
Adjectives: administrative

ADJECTIVE
[C1] relating to the organization and management of something

Dictionary example:
The work is largely administrative.

Learner example:
The engineers and administrative staff must be able to work in both English and French whereas German would be an asset.

administrator /ədˈmɪn.ɪ.streɪ.tər/

Word family:
Nouns: administration, administrator
Adjectives: administrative

NOUN [c]
[C1] someone who helps to manage an organization

Dictionary example:
She is an administrator at the hospital.

Learner example:
As an ex-army officer and an administrator in an international firm, I am learning to work as a member of a team.
admiration /ˌæd.məˈreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: admiration
Verbs: admire

NOUN [u]
[B2] when you admire someone or something

Dictionary examples:
My admiration for that woman grows daily.
She gazed in admiration at his broad, muscular shoulders.

Learner example:
All over the world there are so many people who deserve admiration.

admire /ədˈmaɪər/

Word family:
Nouns: admiration
Verbs: admire

VERB [T]

RESPECT
[B2] to respect or approve of someone or something

Dictionary examples:
I admired him for his determination.
I really admire people who can work in such difficult conditions.

Learner example:
The person I admire most, however, is my father.

admission /ədˈmɪʃ.ən/

NOUN

PERMISSION
[B2] [c or u] when someone is given permission to enter somewhere or to become a member of a club, university, etc.

Dictionary example:
She's applied for admission to law school.
Learner example:
I was wondering whether you could send me some information [about] the rules of admission to the club.

**admittedly** /ədˈmɪt.ɪd.li/

Word family:
Verbs: admit
Adverbs: admittedly

ADVERB
[B2] used when you are agreeing that something is true although you do not want to

Dictionary example:
Admittedly, I could have tried harder but I still don't think all this criticism is fair.

Learner example:
Admittedly, using your car is more convenient and easier [than] using public transport but in my opinion, the advantages of using public transport outweigh the disadvantages it can cause.

adolescent /ˌæd.əˈle.sənt/

NOUN [C]
[C2] a young person who is between being a child and an adult

Dictionary example:
Many adolescents are secretive.

Learner example:
Children become adolescents with more freedom and yet more responsibilities.

**adopt** /əˈdɒpt/

Word family:
Nouns: adoption
Verbs: adopt
Adjectives: adopted

VERB
TAKE CHILD
[B2] [I or T] to legally become the parents of someone else's child
Dictionary examples:
They've adopted a baby girl.
She had the child adopted.

Learner example:
She isn't my biological mother, she adopted me when I was a baby.

START

[B2] [ɪ] to accept or start to use something new

Dictionary examples:
We've adopted a new approach to the problem.
The new tax would force companies to adopt energy-saving measures.
He's adopted a remarkably light-hearted attitude towards the situation.

Learner example:
I believe that we must continue to adopt his ideas.

adopted /əˈdɒptɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: adoption
Verbs: adopt
Adjectives: adopted

ADJECTIVE
[B2] legally taken by another family to be looked after as their own child

Dictionary example:
They've got two adopted children and one of their own.

adoption /əˈdɒp.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: adoption
Verbs: adopt
Adjectives: adopted

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] the process of legally becoming the parents of someone else's child

Dictionary example:
She couldn't have children, so they were considering adoption.
**adult /ˈæd.ʌlt/**

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

**NOT A CHILD**

[C1] having finished growing

**Dictionary example:**

an adult male rat

**Learner example:**

Tony Soprano is the bad kid in every adult male.

**advance /ədˈvaːnts/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** advance

**Adjectives:** advanced

**NOUN**

**PROGRESS**

[B2] [c or u] new discoveries and inventions

**Dictionary examples:**

*technological/scientific* advances

Our lives have been improved by the many recent advances in computer technology.

*the* advance of modern medicine

**Learner example:**

I guess science is about solving our daily problems with technological advances.

**advantage /ədˈvaːn.tɪdʒ/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** advantage, disadvantage

**Adjectives:** disadvantaged

**NOUN**

**take advantage of sb/sth**

[B2] to treat someone or something badly in order to get what you want

**Dictionary example:**

I think she takes advantage of his good nature.

**Learner example:**

There will always be the threat of those men who take advantage of animals' inferior status.
SUCCESS
[B2] [c or u] something that will help you to succeed

Dictionary example:
These new routes will give the airline the advantage over its competitors.

adventurous /ædˈven.tʃərəs/

Word family:
Nouns: adventure
Adjectives: adventurous

ADJECTIVE
[B2] willing to try new and often difficult or dangerous things

Dictionary examples:
I'm trying to be more adventurous with my cooking.
She led an adventurous life.

Learner example:
I think it's better for us to sleep in tents because it'll be more adventurous than staying in rooms.

adverse /ˈæd.və:s/  

ADJECTIVE FORMAL

adverse conditions/effect(s)/impact
[C2] things that cause problems or danger

Dictionary examples:
adverse weather conditions
Pollution levels like these will certainly have an adverse effect on health.
The price rise had an adverse impact on sales.

Learner example:
However, we should bear in mind that tourism could have an adverse effect on the local environment.

advertising /ˈæd.və.tai.zɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: advertisement, advertising
Verbs: advertise
NOUN [u]
[B2] the business of trying to persuade people to buy products or services

Dictionary examples:
Fiona works in advertising.
the advertising industry

Learner example:
Some weeks ago, she was hired by a famous advertising company, widely known for its ironic ads.

adviser /ˈadˌvaɪzə/  

Word family:
Nouns: advice, adviser
Verbs: advise

NOUN [c] (also advisor)
[C1] someone whose job is to give advice about a subject

Dictionary example:
a financial adviser

Learner example:
Some of our financial advisers could provide your students [with] the latest methods used in Accounting and in developing new business projects.

advocate

VERB [t] /ˈæd.və.keɪt/  
[C2] to express support for a particular idea or way of doing things

Dictionary example:
I certainly wouldn’t advocate the use of violence.

Learner example:
Just like Mahatma Gandhi, who advocated non-violent methods of struggle, Picasso struggled against fascism [by] peaceful means, namely with his art.

NOUN [c] /ˈæd.və.ket/  
[C2] someone who supports a particular idea or way of doing things

Dictionary example:
He has always been an advocate of space exploration.

Learner example:
Advocates of international tourism subscribe to the view that mass tourism offer[s] benefits to the whole community.
affair /əˈfeər/  

**NOUN**  

**RELATIONSHIP**  

[B2] [c] a sexual relationship, especially a secret one  

**Dictionary examples:**  
She's **having** an affair with a married man.  
The book doesn't make any mention of his **love** affairs.  

**Learner example:**  
I met a very handsome man and my husband had a little love affair with a very pretty girl there, but we forgave each other.  

**SITUATION**  

[B2] [c] a situation or set of related events, especially bad ones  

**Dictionary examples:**  
The government's handling of the affair has been widely criticized.  
He refused to discuss his financial affairs.  

**Learner example:**  
To make matters worse, people gossiped about me and tried to find out more and more about my private affairs, which made me feel embarrassed.  

affect /əˈfekt/  

**Word family:**  
Verbs: affect  
Adjectives: unaffected  

**VERB [T]**  

**CAUSE CHANGE**  

[B2] to have an influence on someone or something, or to cause them to change  

**Dictionary examples:**  
The divorce affected every aspect of her life.  
Both buildings were badly affected by the fire.  

**Learner example:**  
The telephone is a very important invention, which has affected our lives.  

**CAUSE EMOTION**  

[B2] [OFTEN PASSIVE] to cause a strong emotion, especially sadness  

**Dictionary example:**  
I was deeply affected by the film.
Learner example:
When the for[u]th song, 'Rebel[l]ion' started, I was deeply affected by the r[h]ythm.

**affection** /əˈfek.ʃən/

Word family:
**Nouns:** affection
**Adjectives:** affectionate

**NOUN** [C or U]
[B2] a feeling of liking or loving a person or place

**Dictionary examples:**
He had a deep affection for his aunt.  
She felt no affection for the child.

**Learner example:**
In addition she loves me very much and she offers a lot of affection to me when I face a difficult situation with my job.

**affectionate** /əˈfek.ʃət/  

Word family:
**Nouns:** affection
**Adjectives:** affectionate

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] showing that you like or love someone

**Dictionary examples:**
an affectionate child  
He's very affectionate.

**Learner example:**
She is attentive and affectionate, but most of all she is a sweet mother.

**affluent** /ˈæflju.ənt/

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] having a lot of money

**Dictionary example:**
affluent families/nations/neighbourhoods
**Learner example:**
Children who come from poor families are more mature and responsible than those children coming from affluent families.

**afford /əˈfɔːd/**

**Word family:**
*Verbs:* afford
*Adjectives:* unaffordable

**VERB**
cannot afford
[C2] If you cannot afford to do something, it is impossible for you to do it without causing problems.

**Dictionary example:**
We can't afford to take that risk.

**Learner example:**
We cannot afford to lose our national and global identity.

**affordable /əˈfɔː.də.bl/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] cheap enough for most people to be able to buy

**Dictionary example:**
We need more affordable housing in this area.

**Learner example:**
They are very pleased with the affordable fares, however they are more inclined to comfort.

**after /ˈɑːf.tə/**

**PREPOSITION**

**BECAUSE OF**
[B2] because of something that happened

**Dictionary example:**
I'll never trust her again after what she did to me.

**Learner example:**
I really needed those days after what I've been through this spring.
DESPITE
[C1] despite

Dictionary example:
I can't believe he was so rude to you after all the help you've given him!

Learner example:
But, even after earning more in 2001, the women still do not earn as much [as] men on average earned (£20,363) in 1997.

after all
[C1] used to say that something happened or was true although you did not expect it to happen or be true

Dictionary example:
Helen couldn't come to the party after all.

Learner example:
Cars still enter the city so there will be pollution after all.

NAMED FOR
[C2] used when giving someone or something the same name as another person or thing

Dictionary example:
It was called the Biko building, after the famous South African.

Learner example:
I called her Lena after my sister.

again /əˈgeɪn/

ADVERB

all over again
[B2] repeated from the beginning

Dictionary example:
We had to start all over again.

Learner example:
After that I went back to my home in Ribeirao Preto to begin my routine all over again.

yet again
[B2] again after something has happened or been done many times before

Dictionary example:
The bus was late yet again.
Learner example:
Tom, thank you so much yet again for your interest. This talk is very important to me and to count on you is an honour for our college.

then/there again
[C2] used when adding a fact to something you have just said

Dictionary example:
I failed my history test – but then again, I didn't do much studying for it.

Learner example:
The fact that people live longer nowadays does have some advantages, but then again it also causes a lot of problems.

against /ə'gentst/ PREPOSITION

NOT AGREE
[B2] disagreeing with a plan or activity

Dictionary examples:
She spoke against the decision to close the college.
Are you for or against the proposal?

Learner example:
It is very hard to keep [a] dog because it makes too much noise and so my Mum is against it.

against the law
[B2] forbidden by a law

Dictionary example:
It's against the law to leave a young child alone in the house.

Learner example:
Until that moment, Mary thought [he]r uncle and his friends were smugglers and were doing things against the law.

have sth against sb/sth
[C1] to have a reason not to like someone or something

Dictionary example:
I've got nothing against him personally, I just don't think he's the right man for the job.

Learner example:
If you have nothing against taking public transport, I suggest taking a bus.

against sb's advice/wishes, etc.
[C2] If you do something against someone's advice, wishes, etc., you do it although they have said you should not or must not.
Dictionary examples:
He flew there against his doctor’s advice.
She sold the house even though it was against his wishes.

Learner example:
He was a very ambitious student who wasn’t afraid to develop ideas in unconventional ways and pursue his research even against the advice of his supervisors.

against all (the) odds
[C2] If you do or achieve something against all the odds, you succeed although you were not likely to.

Dictionary example:
We won the game against all odds.

Learner example:
The stormy waters and heavy winds were a great challenge, and almost deemed it impossible for me to succeed, but against all odds I managed to defeat my fears.

age /eɪdʒ/  

Word family:
Nouns: age, ages
Adjectives: aged

NOUN

OLD
[C2] [u] the state of being old or becoming old

Dictionary examples:
He is starting to show his age.
Some wines improve with age.

Learner example:
Usually, as the saying goes, we grow wiser with age.

at the tender age of 8/17/25, etc. LITERARY
[C2] at the young age of 8/17/25, etc

Dictionary example:
She first appeared on stage at the tender age of 14.

Learner example:
She met my father at the tender age of 14, and she soon knew that this was the man she wanted to stay with for the rest of her life.
agency /ˈeɪ.dʒənt.i/  

Word family:  
Nouns: agency, agent  

**NOUN [C]**  

**ORGANIZATION**  
[C1] an international organization or government department  

**Dictionary example:**  
an international development agency  

**Learner example:**  
Television conveys the weather forecasts and any warnings issued by the government agencies, such as flood alerts.

agenda /əˈdʒen.də/  

**NOUN [C]**  

**MEETING**  
[C1] a list of subjects that people will discuss at a meeting  

**Dictionary example:**  
There are several items on the agenda.  

**Learner example:**  
Your memo was one of the points on the agenda for last week’s meeting.  

**IMPORTANT SUBJECTS**  
[C2] important subjects that have to be dealt with  

**Dictionary example:**  
The issue of rail safety is back on the political agenda.  

**Learner example:**  
Postponing the age of retirement is not a realistic solution either, in view of the fact that there are more than 20 million unemployed people in the European Union. The matter has only recently been put on the agenda, and nobody seems to know what to do.

agent /ˈeɪ.dʒənt/  

Word family:  
Nouns: agency, agent
NOUN [C]

BUSINESS
[B2] someone whose job is to deal with business for someone else

Dictionary example:
Please contact our agent in Spain for further information.

Learner example:
I hope the agent will sell it soon.

SECRET INFORMATION
[B2] someone who tries to find out secret information, especially about another country

Dictionary example:
a secret agent

Learner example:
She interrupted and told the man that she was a secret agent.

aggression /əˈɡredʒən/

Word family:
Nouns: aggression
Adjectives: aggressive
Adverbs: aggressively

NOUN [U]
[C1] angry or violent behaviour towards someone

Dictionary example:
an act of aggression

Learner example:
However, it can turn into [a] terrible form of violence and aggression, where the very sense of competition is forgotten and only wild instincts prevail.

aggressive /əˈgresɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: aggression
Adjectives: aggressive
Adverbs: aggressively
ADJECTIVE

VIOLENT
[B2] behaving in an angry and violent way towards another person

Dictionary examples:
aggressive behaviour
If I criticize him, he gets aggressive and starts shouting.

Learner example:
At such moments he became angry and aggressive.

DETERMINED
[C1] using forceful methods and determined to succeed

Dictionary example:
an aggressive marketing campaign

Learner example:
Our competitors pursue a more aggressive marketing strategy, despite the fact [that] they offer inferior products.

aggressively /əˈgres.ɪv.li/  

Word family:
Nouns: aggression
Adjectives: aggressive
Adverbs: aggressively

ADVERB

[B2] in an aggressive way

Dictionary examples:
Small children often behave aggressively.
They played more aggressively in the second half.

ago /əˈgəʊ/  

ADVERB

long ago
[C1] If something happened long ago, it happened a great amount of time ago.

Dictionary examples:
I think we met once, long ago.
It was not long ago that I last saw him.
Learner example:
Not so long ago, you could ring each Dutch doorbell of your choice at 6 pm and you’d find the whole family gathered around the kitchen table, having their supper.

**agree /əˈɡriː/**

Word family:
Nouns: agreement, disagreement
Verbs: agree, disagree

**VERB**

**SAY YES**
[B2] [i] to say you will do something that someone asks you to

Dictionary examples:
She agreed to help him.
The bank has agreed to lend me £5000.

Learner example:
When I came home, I told my mother everything and she agreed to put him up.

**BE THE SAME**
[C1] [i] If two descriptions, statements, etc. agree, they are the same.

Dictionary examples:
Her notes do not agree with what I remember happening.
Does the information in the two reports agree?

Learner example:
This does not agree with the intentions of our Programme.

**agreement /əˈɡriː.mənt/**

Word family:
Nouns: agreement, disagreement
Verbs: agree, disagree

**NOUN**

**DECISION**
[B2] [c] a promise or decision made between two or more groups or people
Dictionary examples:
an agreement with the company
an agreement between both parties
It was difficult to reach an agreement.
The government has signed an international agreement on climate change.
They have broken the agreement on human rights.

Learner example:
There was an attempt to cut down on using and producing sprays which destroy the ozon[e] layer [and] an international agreement was signed.

SAME OPINION

[B2] [u] when people have the same opinion or have made the same decision

Dictionary examples:
Are we all in agreement?
There was broad agreement about/on what to do.

Learner example:
With your agreement we could change the programme.

agriculture /ˈæg.rɪ.kʌl.tʃə/

NOUN [u]

[B2] farming

Dictionary examples:
Agriculture is still largely based on traditional methods in some countries.
The area depends on agriculture for most of its income.

Learner example:
People who live in big cities suffer from air pollutants and noise, and villagers suffer from chemicals used for agriculture.

ahead /əˈhed/

ADVERB

MORE POINTS

[B2] having more points than someone else in a competition

Dictionary example:
Barcelona was ahead after ten minutes.
ADJECTIVE

ahead of time/schedule
[C1] before the time that was planned

Dictionary example:
We finished the project ahead of schedule.

Learner example:
However, a bonus will be given if the project finishes ahead of schedule.

MORE PROGRESS
[C2] making more progress than someone or something else

Dictionary example:
Sue is ahead of everyone else in French.

Learner example:
I have always been a couple of steps ahead of my schoolmates and peers, not only in terms of scholastic pursuits, but in my opinions and desires as well.

aid /eɪd/

NOUN

HELP
[C1] [u] money, food, or equipment that is given to help a country or group of people

Dictionary examples:
Emergency aid was sent to the flood victims.
aid workers

Learner example:
Many people in poorer nations die without proper medical aid.

in aid of sb/sth
[C1] in order to collect money for a group of people who need it

Dictionary example:
a concert in aid of famine relief

Learner example:
It would be an honour for us students at the centre if you could attend our sport[s] function in aid of stress[ed] out kids and present the pri[z]es.

with the aid of sth
[C1] using something to help you
**Dictionary example:**
She can walk with the aid of a stick.

**Learner example:**
The newest computer can handle data that human brains cannot and therefore all scientific research is carried out with the aid of computers.

**EQUIPMENT**
[C1] [c] a piece of equipment that helps you to do something

**Dictionary example:**
teaching aids such as books and videos

**Learner example:**
Also, it would be an excellent aid if a new laser printer was bought, so as to make more copies in less time.

**VERB**
[C1] [t] to help someone

**Dictionary examples:**
The project is designed to aid the homeless.
He was aided in his research by his knowledge of Greek.

**Learner example:**
Some people believe that it is essential for both poorer and rich countries that the rich countries aid the poorer ones, and this is my opinion, for a number of plausible reasons.

**aim** /eɪm/

**VERB**
**be aimed at sb**
[B2] to be intended to influence or affect a particular person or group

**Dictionary example:**
These advertisements are specifically aimed at young people.

**Learner example:**
PIAZZA is too modern and is aimed at the young.

**be aimed at doing sth**
[C2] to be intended to achieve a particular thing

**Dictionary example:**
a plan aimed at reducing traffic

**Learner example:**
Working within projects aimed at improving local agricultural output, I stayed 3 years in South America.
air /eə/

NOUN

the air
[B2] the space above and around things

Dictionary example:
He kicked the ball high in the air.

Learner example:
It was an old painting. In it, a man was holding his axe up in the air and was ready to hit a tree.

on air
[C1] on television or radio

Dictionary example:
The radio station is on air from 6.00 a.m.

Learner example:
It is on air at 8.30 p.m. every Thursday and Saturday.

QUALITY
[C2] [NO PLURAL] a particular appearance or quality

Dictionary example:
He has an air of authority.

Learner example:
The service is excellent and the atmosphere is quite nice, with an air of elegance.

clear the air
[C2] If an argument or discussion clears the air, people feel less angry or upset after it.

Dictionary example:
It was an unpleasant argument, but at least it cleared the air.

Learner example:
I rushed into the room [to] cheer them up and clear the air, although I knew it was too late.

disappear/vanish into thin air
[C2] to suddenly disappear in a mysterious way

Dictionary example:
He was on the path ahead of me and then vanished into thin air.

Learner example:
Sitting on a couch and squeezed between my elderly aunts, I sincerely wished I could vanish into thin air.
a breath of fresh air
[C2] someone or something that is new, different, and exciting

Dictionary example:
Having Eve around has been a breath of fresh air.

Learner example:
The final suggestion is focused on building a leisure centre. Should this be everything the Town Council has promised, it will bring a breath of fresh air.

aircraft /ˈeə.krɑːft/ (PLURAL aircraft)

NOUN [C]
[B2] any vehicle, with or without an engine, which can fly, such as a plane or helicopter

Dictionary example:
military/commercial aircraft

Learner example:
They have all [the] Swedish aircraft that have ever be[en] bui[l]t.

alarm /əˈlɑːm/

Word family:
Nouns: alarm
Verbs: alarm
Adjectives: alarming

NOUN
WORRY
[C2] [u] a sudden feeling of fear or worry that something bad might happen

Dictionary example:
There's no need for alarm – it is completely safe.

Learner example:
Fortunately, her soothing voice damped down any sense of alarm.

raise the alarm
[C2] to warn someone of a dangerous situation

Dictionary examples:
Her parents raised the alarm when she failed to return home.
A local doctor was the first to raise the alarm about this latest virus.
Learner example:
For them, raising the alarm because of five percent unemployment is an example of so-called 'loony-left thinking'.

**VERB [ɪ]**
[C1] to make someone worried or frightened

**Dictionary example:**
I don't want to alarm you but he really should be here by now.

**Learner example:**
What alarmed us the most was the daring use of speculation by the author.

alarming /əˈlɑː.mɪŋ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** alarm
**Verbs:** alarm
**Adjectives:** alarming

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] causing worry or fear

**Dictionary examples:**
alarming news
Crime has been increasing at an alarming rate.

**Learner example:**
Moreover, the alarming frequency of heart attacks in Poland [has] made people stop eating too much fat.

albeit /ɔːlˈbiː.ɪt/

**CONJUNCTION** **FORMAL**
[C2] although

**Dictionary example:**
He tried, albeit without success.

**Learner example:**
If and when homework, household chores and social duties had been dealt with, we were free to pursue our own designs, albeit usually hampered by a younger child tagging along.
alcoholic /ˌæl.əˈhɒl.ic/  

Word family:  
Nouns: alcohol  
Adjectives: alcoholic

ADJECTIVE

PERSON

[C2] I [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] regularly drinking too much alcohol and unable to stop the habit

Dictionary example:  
She lived with her alcoholic father.

Learner example:  
Numerous examples of divorced couples, alcoholic parents, orphans, [and] children without principles, should stay in our minds.

NOUN [C]

[C2] I someone who regularly drinks too much alcohol and cannot stop the habit

Dictionary example:  
He became an alcoholic when his wife left him.

Learner example:  
The quality of the orchestra was poor – it only consisted of amateurs – and the conductor was drunk – he was an alcoholic.

alert /əˈlɜːt/  

ADJECTIVE

[C1] quick to notice and react to things around you

Dictionary examples:
A young dog should be alert and playful.  
Teachers need to be alert to sudden changes in students' behaviour.

Learner example:  
A little bit of tension is alright – I guess it keeps you alert while driving.

VERB [T]

[C2] to warn someone of a possibly dangerous situation

Dictionary example:  
Six hours later she still wasn’t home so they alerted the police.
Learner example:
Karl Marx alerted us all to the fact that work can cause alienation, and that repetitive tasks, or tasks which do not involve a great deal of interaction with other human beings, can make us feel estranged.

NOUN
[C1] a warning about a possibly dangerous situation

Dictionary example:
a bomb alert

Learner example:
Don't forget to take care of your personal belongings – it won't cause a bomb alert like at Victoria but may get lost!

alike /əˈlaɪk/  

ADVERB

SIMILAR  
[B2] in a similar way

Dictionary examples:
We think alike.
My father treated us all alike.

BOTH  
[B2] used after referring to two groups of people or things to show that both groups are included

Dictionary example:
Friends and family alike were shocked by the news of her death.

Learner example:
It was indeed a great treat for old and young alike.

alive /əˈlaɪv/  

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

be alive and kicking/well  
[C2] to continue to live or exist and be full of energy, or to be popular or successful

Dictionary examples:
She said she’d seen him last week and he was alive and kicking.
Despite rumours to the contrary, feminism is alive and well.
Learner example:
He was a farmer who had been working in the fields for more than sixty years, but was still alive and kicking.

PLACE
[C2] full of activity and excitement

Dictionary examples:
The bar was alive with the sound of laughter.
The city comes alive at night.

Learner example:
Normally you would pass by without noticing it, but once a year Roskilde comes alive.

CONTINUING
[C2] continuing to exist

Dictionary example:
Local people are fighting to keep the language alive.

Learner example:
Thirdly, it keeps the village alive, since many people from other villages come to celebrate with them, and our national heritage (traditional songs, dances, costumes) is kept alive too.

all /ɔːl/

DETERMINER; PRONOUN

in all
[B2] used to show the total amount of something

Dictionary example:
Some of the children came, so there were 15 of us in all.

Learner example:
Secondly, even though most people like[d] [the] group RADIANT, they [only] played for 35 minutes in all.

all of a sudden
[B2] suddenly and unexpectedly

Dictionary example:
All of a sudden, he came bursting in through the door.

Learner example:
All of a sudden, a weird creature popped into his dream.

all over again
[B2] repeated from the beginning
Dictionary example:
We had to start all over again.

Learner example:
After that I went back to my home in Ribeirao Preto to begin my routine all over again.

after all
[C1] used to say that something happened or was true although you did not expect it to happen or be true

Dictionary example:
Helen couldn't come to the party after all.

Learner example:
Cars still enter the city so there will be pollution after all.

all things considered
[C1] used for saying that something is true in general if you think about all its aspects

Dictionary example:
The show was a great success, all things considered.

Learner example:
All things considered, it seems like "Kavanagh Catering Services" would be most suitable for the students.

all hours
[C1] very late at night, until early morning, or almost all the time

Dictionary example:
Our neighbours are up till all hours every night, playing loud music.

Learner example:
This causes traffic jams at all hours of the day.

for all
[C2] despite

Dictionary example:
For all her qualifications, she's useless at the job.

Learner example:
For all of his desire to be strong, Okonkwo is haunted [by] fear.

all shapes and sizes
[C2] many different types of people or things

Dictionary example:
We saw people there of all shapes and sizes.

Learner example:
Personal Challenges come in all shapes and sizes.
ADVERB

all along
[B2] from the beginning of a period of time

Dictionary example:
I knew all along that it was a mistake.

Learner example:
In the future the key word for fashion will be comfort as this is basically what everyone has been wanting all along.

all in all
[B2] considering everything

Dictionary example:
All in all, it was a great holiday.

Learner example:
All in all, nobody cares about air pollution and the environment in general.

all over the place
[B2] in or to many different places

Dictionary example:
There were dirty dishes all over the place.

Learner example:
I am thinking of dog–dirt on the pavements, cans all over the place, [and] a lot of disgusting paintings on the walls in the public toilets, the underground and so on.

all at once
[C1] suddenly

Dictionary example:
All at once he stood up and walked out of the room.

Learner example:
All at once, everything started to work again.

be all very well
[C1] used to show that you do not agree with something or that you are annoyed about something

Dictionary example:
It's all very well for her to say everything's fine, she doesn't have to live here.

Learner example:
That's all very well for most of the people but according to my desires [i]t's not enough. I envisage a more sophisticated flat.

be all set
[C1] to be ready

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Dictionary example:
We were all set to go when the phone rang.

Learner example:
So, there you go. I'm all set!

**all the better/easier/more exciting, etc.**
[C2] much better, easier, more exciting, etc.

Dictionary example:
The journey was all the more dangerous because of the bad weather.

Learner example:
He had to overcome great obstacles in his professional and private lives, which makes his achievements all the more remarkable.

**all but**
[C2] almost

Dictionary example:
The film was all but over by the time we arrived.

Learner example:
He could all but hear their stomachs rumble.

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**allegation** /ˌæl.ɪˈgeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: allegation
Verbs: allege
Adjectives: alleged
Adverbs: allegedly

**NOUN [C]**
[C1] when you say that someone has done something wrong or illegal, without proof that this is true

Dictionary examples:
allegations of corruption
Several of her patients have made allegations of professional misconduct against her.
He denied allegations that he had cheated.

Learner example:
Contrary to Mrs Jones' allegation, the exam results of our college are first-class and, moreover, there is an extremely varied social programme organised.
**allege /əˈledʒ/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: allegation
Verbs: allege
Adjectives: alleged
Adverbs: allegedly

**VERB [T]**

[C2] to say that something is true or state something as a fact without giving proof

**Dictionary examples:**
The teacher is alleged to have hit a student.
He alleges that Bates attacked him.

**Learner example:**
Advocates of perpetual economic growth allege that the world in which we live is a better place compared to what it was a long time ago.

**alleged /əˈledʒd/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: allegation
Verbs: allege
Adjectives: alleged
Adverbs: allegedly

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[C1] believed to be true, but not proved

**Dictionary example:**
an alleged attack

**Learner example:**
Besides, as far as the alleged "downpour of rain" is concerned, there was, in reality, only a small April shower which lasted not more than 10 minutes.

**allegedly /əˈledʒ.ɪd.li/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: allegation
Verbs: allege
Adjectives: alleged
Adverbs: allegedly

**ADVERB**

[C2] in a way that is believed to be true, but is not proved
Dictionary example:
That's where he allegedly killed his wife.

Learner example:
[When] he was at his peak, he allegedly [got] involved in drugs and heroin.

**alliance /əˈlaɪ.ənts/**

Word family:
Nouns: alliance, ally
Adjectives: allied

**NOUN [c]**
[C2] an agreement between countries or political parties to work together to achieve something

Dictionary example:
Egbert extended his control over Cornwall, defeating an alliance **between** the Vikings and the Britons at Hingston Down in 838.

Learner example:
Arthur died and both the Spanish Hapsburgs and the Tudors wanted to continue their alliance.

**allied /ˈæl.ərd/**

Word family:
Nouns: alliance, ally
Adjectives: allied

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] joined by a formal agreement

Dictionary example:
the allied powers

Learner example:
During the Second World War, he joined the US Navy and was then sent on a mission to Brazil with the aim of patrolling the coasts to avoid a German bombing [of] allied ships.

**allocate /ˈæl.ə.kət/**

**VERB [r]**
[C1] to give some time, money, space, etc. to be used for a particular purpose
Dictionary examples:
The government has promised to allocate extra money for health care.
More police time should be allocated to crime prevention.

Learner example:
We also think that the gym is under-used because of the lack of equipment, thus we would ask for some funding to be allocated to the purchase of more equipment.

**allocation** /ˌæl.əˈkeɪ.ʃən/

**NOUN**

**SHARE**

[C2] [c] an amount of money, time, space, etc. that is allocated

**Dictionary example:**
They have had their allocation of fuel.

**Learner example:**
It is approximately equal [to] the US in government allocations to child support, but it is still behind Germany (0.25% vs. 2%).

**PROCESS**

[C2] [u] when money, time, space, etc. is allocated

**Dictionary example:**
the allocation of funds/resources

**Learner example:**
However, the latter countries do differ in their allocation of money to services, with the US spending 0.3 per cent of the GDP and Spain spending only 0.1 per cent.

**allow** /əˈlaʊ/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** allowance

**Verbs:** allow

**VERB**

**TIME/MONEY**

[C1] [r] to plan to use a particular amount of money, time, etc. for something

**Dictionary example:**
Allow three hours for the whole journey.
Learner example:
Please allow more free time in the afternoon for shopping and change the free evening which is on
Day 1 in your High Life Programme to another evening.

MAKE POSSIBLE
[C1] [ɪ or ɪ] to make it possible for someone to do something

Dictionary example:
The extra money will allow me to upgrade my computer.

Learner example:
These activities allow people to forget about their problems, to enjoy themselves and also to communicate with others.

NOT PREVENT
[C2] [ɪ] to not prevent something from happening

Dictionary example:
They have allowed the problem to get worse.

Learner example:
A unanimous effort has to be made in order to improve the situation in education instead of allowing it to deteriorate.

allowance /əˈlaʊ.əns/

Word family:
Nouns: allowance
Verbs: allow

NOUN [C]

MONEY
[C1] money that you are given regularly, especially to pay for a particular thing

Dictionary example:
a clothing allowance

Learner example:
She spends most of her allowance quickly and is then without money for the rest of the month.

make allowances for sb/sth
[C2] to remember that someone has a disadvantage which is not their fault when you are judging their behaviour or work

Dictionary example:
They made allowances for the fact that he was ill.
Learner example:
I would say Mr Stevens is a victim of his sense of duty, which makes him think of marriage as a traitor’s act, but I don’t know to what extent we should make allowances for his strong convictions.

ally  /ˈæ.laɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: alliance, ally
Adjectives: allied

NOUN [C]

PERSON
[C1] someone who supports you, especially when other people are against you

Dictionary example:
He is generally considered to be the Prime Minister’s closest political ally.

Learner example:
The participants are under pressure and they have to find allies and make decisions.

COUNTRY
[C2] a country that has agreed to help another country, especially in a war

Dictionary example:
During World War One, Turkey and Germany were allies.

Learner example:
So the allies didn’t exclude the Germanies from the world community, including organizations like NATO, the Warsaw Pact or the UN.

alone /əˈləʊn/

ADJECTIVE, ADVERB

leave sb alone
[B2] to stop talking to someone or annoying them

Dictionary example:
Leave him alone, he’s tired.

Learner example:
"Leave me alone, you monster," I said in panic.

let alone
[C1] used to emphasize that something is more impossible than another thing
Dictionary example:
You couldn't trust her to look after your dog, let alone your child.

Learner example:
We are surrounded by amazing pieces of technology which we do not fully understand, let alone use to their full capacity.

ONLY ONE

[C2] [ALWAYS AFTER NOUN] used to emphasize that only one person or thing is involved

Dictionary examples:
Last year alone the company made a million dollars.
You alone know how you feel.

Learner example:
The decision was hers and hers alone.

along /əˈlɒŋ/

PREPOSITION

PARTICULAR PLACE
[B2] at a particular place on a road, river, etc.

Dictionary example:
Somewhere along this road there's a garage.

Learner example:
She told me [that] along the road there are several places to visit, like a castle which is open [to the] public.

along the lines of *sth*
[C2] based on and similar to something

Dictionary example:
He gave a talk along the lines of the one he gave in Oxford.

Learner example:
Imagine one is encouraged by friends and institutions for their 'different' artistic or other activities, even if their works are not along the lines of 'acceptable' norms and tradition.

ADVERB

all along
[B2] from the beginning of a period of time

Dictionary example:
I knew all along that it was a mistake.
Learner example:
In the future the key word for fashion will be comfort as this is basically what everyone has been wanting all along.

along with *sb/sth*
[B2] in addition to someone or something else

Dictionary example:
California along with Florida is probably the most popular American holiday destination.

Learner example:
I speak foreign languages (English, French and Italian) along with Greek.

**alongside** /əˌlɒŋˈsaɪd/

**ADVERB, PREPOSITION**

**NEXT TO**
[C1] next to someone or something

Dictionary example:
A car pulled up alongside ours.

Learner example:
The skyline [is] filled with huge chimneys displacing tons of gases into the air; millions of vehicles [are] moving on a highway alongside a dead river, where life flourished a few decades ago.

**WITH**
[C1] together with someone

Dictionary example:
She enjoyed working alongside such famous actors.

Learner example:
Also he worked alongside me at another travel agency for 6 months.

**alphabetical** /ˌæl.fəˈbet.ɪ.kəl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** alphabet
**Adjectives:** alphabetical

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] arranged in the same order as the letters of the alphabet

Dictionary examples:
an alphabetical list
The names are published in alphabetical order.
Learner example:
She looked again at the strange words and then she understood. Each letter had been replaced by the next one in the alphabetical order.

**alter** /ˈɔːl.tər/

Word family:
**Nouns:** alteration
**Verbs:** alter

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to change, or to make someone or something change

Dictionary examples:
We've had to alter some of our plans.
Giving up our car has altered our lifestyle a lot.

Learner example:
To go to the show, we need to alter the programme.

**alteration** /ˌɔːl.tərˈeɪʃən/

Word family:
**Nouns:** alteration
**Verbs:** alter

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] a change, or the process of changing something

Dictionary example:
We've made a few alterations to the kitchen.

Learner example:
I hope that my alterations don't give you too much trouble, but I really think that these changes are necessary for full satisfaction among our members.

**alternate**
**ADJECTIVE** /ˈɔːltə.nət/  

**alternate days/weeks/years, etc.**  
[C1] one out of every two days, weeks, years, etc.

**Dictionary example:**  
I work alternate Saturdays.

**Learner example:**  
I had to go to a travel agency on alternate weekends in order to translate some programmes into English.

**VERB** /ˈɔːltə.neɪt/  
[C1] If two things alternate, one thing happens, then the other thing happens, then the first thing happens again, etc.

**Dictionary example:**  
She alternates between cheerfulness and deep despair.

**Learner example:**  
Xanadu Express promises to serve us food from all over the world and to alternate [the] menu.

---

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** alternative

**Verbs:** alternate

**Adjectives:** alternative

**Adverbs:** alternatively

**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] one of two or more things that you can choose between

**Dictionary examples:**  
It's a low-fat alternative to butter.
I'm afraid I have no alternative but to ask you to leave.

**Learner example:**  
Another alternative is to go up the mountain by chairlifts or funicular-railway.

**ADJECTIVE**

**DIFFERENT PLAN**  
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] An alternative plan, method, etc. is one that you can use if you do not want to use another one.

**Dictionary example:**  
We can make alternative arrangements if necessary.
Learner example:
[The new direct coach service] is an alternative way [of getting to Lampton].

NOT USUAL
[B2] different to what is usual or traditional

Dictionary example:
an alternative lifestyle

Learner example:
I wonder if you've ever heard of "alternative music"?

alternatively /ɔːltəˈnætɪv.lɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: alternative
Verbs: alternate
Adjectives: alternative
Adverbs: alternatively

ADVERB
[B2] used to suggest another possibility

Dictionary example:
We could go to the Indian restaurant, or alternatively, we could try that new Italian place.

Learner example:
Alternatively, I suggest that you should invite a famous writer.

altogether /ˈɔ:ltəˈgeð.ə/  

ADVERB

COMPLETELY
[B2] completely

Dictionary examples:
She wrote less and less often, and eventually she stopped altogether.
I'm not altogether sure about the idea.

Learner example:
I don't altogether agree with this fact.

GENERALLY
[B2] when you consider everything

Dictionary example:
Altogether, I'd say the party was a great success.
Learner example:
Altogether, I believe that the most cruel creature on earth is the human being.

**aluminium** /ˌæl.juˈmɪn.i.əm/

NOUN [U]
[B2] a light, silver-coloured metal used for making containers, cooking equipment and aircraft parts

**Dictionary examples:**
Cover the fish with aluminium foil and cook over a low heat.
We take all our aluminium cans for recycling.

**Learner example:**
[In the future,] jewellery will be made of metals which [occur] naturally and [which are] cheap now but will be extremely expensive 100 years from now, such as aluminium and zinc.

**always** /ˈɔːl.wɛəz/

ADVERB

**MANY TIMES**
[B2] again and again, often in an annoying way

**Dictionary example:**
He's always losing his keys.

**Learner example:**
I am always trying to convince my friend Maria of these dangers.

**amateur** /ˈæm.ə.tər/

ADJECTIVE

[C1] doing something as a hobby and not as your job

**Dictionary example:**
an amateur photographer

**Learner example:**
Finally I would like to mention that I feel very confident in front of cameras, since I am an amateur actor.
NOUN [c]

HOBBY
[C1] someone who does something as a hobby and not as their job

Dictionary example:
This tennis tournament is open to both amateurs and professionals.

Learner example:
What I want to explain is that if an amateur sees a professional swimmer winning while wearing our equipment, he is surely going to think that our products helped him succeed, so the amateur is going to buy our equipment too.

NO SKILL
[C1] someone who is not good at what they do

Dictionary example:
I won't be giving them any more work – they're a bunch of amateurs.

Learner example:
I admit that I was an amateur, [which] is why I did not try to do any special "tricks" to impress all those who were watching me.

amazement /əˈmeɪz.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: amazement
Adjectives: amazed, amazing
Adverbs: amazingly

NOUN [u]
[B2] extreme surprise

Dictionary examples:
She stared in amazement.
To my amazement, he ate the whole lot.

Learner example:
Then, to her amazement, she saw him with another girl.

ambassador /æmˈbæs.ə.dər/

NOUN [c]
[B2] the main official sent by a government of a country to represent it in another country
Dictionary examples:
Britain’s ambassador in Moscow has refused to comment.
She’s a former ambassador to the United States.

Learner example:
On the first floor [is] the “star” of the museum: a splendid grand piano built in 1893, which was offered by the Queen to the French ambassador in 1895.

**ambiguity** /ˌæm.bɪˈɡjuː.ə.ti/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** ambiguity
**Adjectives:** ambiguous

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C2] when something has more than one possible meaning

**Dictionary example:**
Legal documents must be free of ambiguity.

**Learner example:**
Lastly, there is the ambiguity of her final decision.

**ambigious** /æmˈbɪg.ju.əs/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** ambiguity
**Adjectives:** ambiguous

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] having more than one possible meaning

**Dictionary example:**
an ambiguous statement

**Learner example:**
It is hard to choose the right option as the advice given [often] seems ambiguous.

**ambition** /æmˈbɪʃ.ən/
NOUN

**STRONG FEELING**

[B2] [u] a strong feeling that you want to be successful or powerful

**Dictionary example:**
My sister always had more ambition than I did.

**Learner example:**
Love, hate, ambition and fear [of] losing are the main subjects for Orson Welles and Tim Burton, the directors [of these two films].

**ambitious /æmˈbɪʃəs/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** ambition
**Adjectives:** ambitious

ADJECTIVE

**PERSON**

[B2] wanting to be successful or powerful

**Dictionary examples:**
an ambitious young lawyer
He’s very ambitious for his children.

**Learner example:**
I chose Omar because I find him very talented and ambitious.

**PLAN**

[B2] If a plan or idea is ambitious, it will need a lot of work and will be difficult to achieve.

**Dictionary examples:**
This is our most ambitious project so far.
She has some ambitious plans for her business.

**Learner example:**
If we accomplish these ambitious plans, we can even run for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games.

**amend /əˈmend/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** amendment
**Verbs:** amend
VERB [t]
[C2] to slightly change the words of a document

Dictionary example:
The contract has now been amended.

Learner example:
The text could be amended.

amendment /əˈmend.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: amendment
Verbs: amend

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] a change in the words of a document, or the process of doing this

Dictionary example:
to make an amendment to the human rights law

Learner example:
In view of the need to clarify all these errors and wrong information, I would urge you to print another report apologising and providing readers with the right figures and possible amendments.

amid /əˈmɪd/

PREPOSITION (ALSO midst)

WHILE
[C1] while something else is happening

Dictionary example:
Security was increased amid fears of further terrorist attacks.

Learner example:
They are involved so much with their occupation that they will respond to an emergency call even when they are amid sweet dreams or having a joyful time with their love[d] ones.

AMONG
[C2] among

Dictionary example:
a village set amid rolling hills
Learner example:
So we are mere fading stars in a huge sky, unsubjected to the elapse of time and instead of following the ancient saying "carpe diem", we get lost amid other stars.

among /əˈmʌŋ/ (also amongst)

**PREPOSITION**

among other things

[B2] used to say that there are other details or examples in addition to the ones you are mentioning

**Dictionary example:**
It's worth visiting the museum while you're here. There's an exhibition about Darwin and a good collection of paintings, among other things.

**Learner example:**
To go by tram or bus is a waste of time and travelling by car is – among other things – a waste of money.

among the best/worst/biggest, etc.

[B2] one of the most extreme examples of a particular type

**Dictionary example:**
He is among the top five tennis players in the country.

**Learner example:**
It was among the worst zoos I have ever seen.

**DIVIDE**

[C1] to each one in a group

**Dictionary example:**
She divided the cake among the children.

**Learner example:**
Although Brazil is the eighth biggest economy in the world and one of the richest countries regarding natural resources, that wealth is not shared equally among the population.

amongst /əˈmæŋst/

**PREPOSITION** FORMAL

[B2] among

**Dictionary example:**
There is a need to raise skill levels both amongst those in work and those seeking work.
Learner example:
He was no longer a man amongst others but a man with a free soul...

ample /ˈæm.pəl/  

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] enough, or more than enough  
Dictionary example:  
She’s had ample time to get the work done.  
Learner example:  
There will be three coffee machines on each floor which should provide ample coffee for everyone.

amuse /əˈmjuːz/  

Word family:  
Nouns: amusement  
Verbs: amuse  
Adjectives: amused, amusing  

VERB [t]  

MAKE LAUGH  
[B2] to make someone laugh or smile  
Dictionary examples:  
The video clips on that website always amuse me.  
I think it amuses him to see people make fools of themselves.  
Learner example:  
"The Blind Owl" – his masterpiece – is a surrealistic novella which has amused critics and ordinary readers for years.  

KEEP INTERESTED  
[B2] to keep someone interested and help them to have an enjoyable time  
Dictionary example:  
I bought a book of crosswords to amuse myself while I was on the train.  
Learner example:  
Another idea is to call a well-known band to amuse all the young people.
amused  /əˈmjuːzd/

Word family:
Nouns: amusement
Verbs: amuse
Adjectives: amused, amusing

ADJECTIVE

FUNNY
[B2] showing that you think something is funny

Dictionary examples:
an amused smile
She was very amused by/at your comments.

Learner example:
When the taxi arrived, he was so amused about the news that an old woman took it.

keep sb amused
[B2] to keep someone interested and help them to have an enjoyable time

Dictionary example:
How do you keep an 8-year-old boy amused?

Learner example:
I could keep them amused with my funny stories.

amusement  /əˈmjuːz.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: amusement
Verbs: amuse
Adjectives: amused, amusing

NOUN

FEELING
[B2] [u] the feeling that you have when something makes you smile or laugh

Dictionary examples:
She looked at him with great amusement.
Carl came last in the race, much to my amusement.

Learner example:
Each made the other one laugh. We had great fun. It was a day with so much amusement, with my best friend John.
ENTERTAINMENT
[B2] [C or u] an enjoyable way of spending your time

Dictionary example:
I play the piano, but just for my own amusement.

Learner example:
In particular, computer games are a kind of amusement, for them and for everyone.

analogous /əˈnæl.əɡəs/

Word family:
Nouns: analogy
Adjectives: analogous

ADJECTIVE
[C2] similar in some ways

Dictionary example:
It’s often said that life is analogous to a journey.

Learner example:
Raising the price of petroleum will be analogous to providing hurdles for better communication and thus the progress.

analogy /əˈnæl.ədʒi/

Word family:
Nouns: analogy
Adjectives: analogous

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] a comparison that shows how two things are similar

Dictionary example:
She draws an analogy between life’s events and a game of chance.

Learner example:
The analogy bears striking similarities to the relationship of dependency between humans and their construct, the machines.
analyse /ˈæn.aɪlz/

Word family:
Nouns: analysis, analyst
Verbs: analyse
Adjectives: analytical

VERB [T]
[B2] to examine the details of something carefully, in order to understand or explain it

Dictionary examples:
Researchers analysed the purchases of 6300 households.
Water samples taken from streams were analysed for contamination by chemicals.

Learner example:
He told me how we can analyse movies.

analysis /əˈnæl.ə.sɪs/ (plural analyses)

Word family:
Nouns: analysis, analyst
Verbs: analyse
Adjectives: analytical

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] the process of analysing something

Dictionary examples:
Chemical analysis revealed a high content of copper.
I was interested in Clare’s analysis of the situation.

Learner example:
I would not do my school projects without using a computer, because I have to do some statistical analysis.

analyst /ˈæn.ə.lɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: analysis, analyst
Verbs: analyse
Adjectives: analytical

NOUN [C]
[B2] someone whose job is to study or examine something in detail
Dictionary example:
a financial/political/systems analyst

Learner example:
As you know I got promotion as a project analyst recently.

analytical /ˌæn.əˈlɪt.ɪ.kəl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: analysis, analyst  
Verbs: analyse  
Adjectives: analytical

ADJECTIVE (also analytic)  
[C1] examining the details of something carefully, in order to understand or explain it  

Dictionary examples:  
analytical skills  
an analytical mind  

Learner example:  
Moreover, employers nowadays are seeking the team-working, problem-solving and analytical skills [needed] for their company.

ancestor /ˈænˌses.tər/  

NOUN [C]  
[B2] a relative who lived a long time ago  

Dictionary example:  
My ancestors came from Ireland.  

Learner example:  
We are living in a technologically advanced world where we are surrounded by all sorts of devices, which would seem fantastic to our ancestors.

anchor /ˈæŋ.kər/  

NOUN [C]  
[BOAT] a heavy, metal object that is dropped into water to stop a boat from moving
Dictionary example:
We dropped anchor in a quiet bay and swam.

Learner example:
Meanwhile, the captain had set the anchor.

SUPPORT
[C2] someone or something that gives support when needed

Dictionary example:
She was my anchor when things were difficult for me.

Learner example:
Yet she had still been fond of his picture, he was her anchor.

VERB

BOAT
[C2] to stop a boat from moving by dropping a heavy metal object into the water

Learner example:
Every night we used to anchor in different bays to spend the night.

FASTEN
[C2] to make something or someone stay in one position by fastening them firmly

Dictionary example:
We anchored ourselves to the rocks with a rope.

Learner example:
It was stronger, much more intense than text or video footage could ever be, for this unmoving image, having been anchored in space and time, solidified its content so as to have an almost physical impact on the viewer.

anger /ˈæŋ.gə/

Word family:
Nouns: anger
Adjectives: angry
Adverbs: angrily

NOUN [u]
[B2] a strong feeling against someone who has behaved badly, making you want to shout at them or hurt them

Dictionary examples:
I think he feels a lot of anger towards his father who treated him very badly as a child.
The people showed no surprise or anger at their treatment.
Learner example:
Trisha, who had invited us there, looked like she was about to explode with anger or burst into tears.

angle /ˈæŋ.gəl/

NOUN [C]

SPACE
[C1] the space between two lines or surfaces at the point at which they touch each other, measured in degrees

Dictionary examples:
an angle of 90 degrees
The interior angles of a square are right angles.

Learner example:
Carriers are to be requested to stick to the regulations which set the approach and takeoff angles at no less than 45 degrees.

at an angle
[C1] not horizontal or vertical, but sloping

Dictionary examples:
He wore his hat at an angle.
The boat settled into the mud at a 35 degree angle.

Learner example:
After purchasing the G5X-1 food processor from your shop last month I discovered, upon connecting it to the mains socket and switching it on, that I needed to tilt the unit at an angle for it to work.

DIRECTION
[C1] the direction from which you look at something

Dictionary example:
This is the same building photographed from different angles.

Learner example:
It is possible to see all the paintings from different angles. You can also zoom in and out.

WAY OF THINKING
[C1] the way you think about a situation

Dictionary example:
Try looking at the problem from another angle.

Learner example:
To be a child is to see the world from a different angle.
animal /ˈæn.ɪ.məl/

NOUN [c]

NOT A PLANT
[B2] anything that lives and moves, including people, birds, etc.

Dictionary example:
Are humans the only animals to use language?

Learner example:
I think the human is [an] animal that want[s] to [do] amusing things.

animated /ˈæn.ɪ.meɪ.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: animation
Adjectives: animated

ADJECTIVE

EXCITEMENT
[C2] showing a lot of interest and excitement

Dictionary example:
an animated conversation

Learner example:
They watched as their fellow travellers appeared to have an animated discussion with the driver of the car.

annoyance /əˈnɔɪ.ənts/

Word family:
Nouns: annoyance
Verbs: annoy
Adjectives: annoyed, annoying

NOUN [u]
[C1] the feeling of being annoyed

Dictionary example:
He kept losing his keys, much to the annoyance of his wife.

Learner example:
This caused a lot of annoyance, so I suggest next year you make some kind of arrangement [for] booking the places [o]n the computer room in advance.
annually /ˈæn.ju.ə.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: annual
Adverbs: annually

ADVERB
[B2] once every year

Dictionary example:
Your starting salary is £28,000 per year and will be reviewed annually.

Learner example:
Dear Mr Benson, I am writing with regard to your letter, in which you asked me to give you some pieces of advice for the special events which take place in the College annually.

anonymous /əˈnɒn.i.məs/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] not giving a name

Dictionary examples:
an anonymous phone call/letter
The winner has asked to remain anonymous.

Learner example:
Because the internet does provide the possibility of staying anonymous, it is very hard to find the people who use it for illegal or criminal actions.

another /əˈnʌð.ər/

DETERMINER; PRONOUN

at one time or another
[C2] used to talk about an occasion in the past without saying exactly which occasion it was

Dictionary example:
Most of us have made a similar mistake at one time or another.

Learner example:
Haven’t we all at one time or another come home from a holiday feeling healthy and strong with a smile on our face thinking, this is what life is about.
antibiotic /ˌæn.tɪ.bəˈɒ.tɪk/

NOUN [c]
[C2] a medicine which cures infections by destroying harmful bacteria

Dictionary example:
He is on antibiotics for an ear infection.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, for all the side effects they may have, for all the unpleasantness of having a needle stuck in your arm or a spoonful of foul-tasting liquid stuck in your mouth, antibiotics and vaccines remain the greatest discovery in the history of the world.

anticipate /ænˈtrɪs.tər.ˈpeɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: anticipation
Verbs: anticipate

VERB [t]
[C1] to expect something, or to prepare for something before it happens

Dictionary examples:
to anticipate a problem
We anticipate that prices will fall next year.

Learner example:
Moreover, it is anticipated that the percentage of the group will rise further in 2010.

anticipation /ænˈtrɪs.tər.ˈpeɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: anticipation
Verbs: anticipate

NOUN [u]

WAITING
[C2] when you are waiting for something to happen, usually with excitement

Dictionary example:
The children were breathless with anticipation.

Learner example:
Yet, what I remember and think is going to stay with me for the rest of my life is that wonderful atmosphere of a fairy tale which has come true, that feeling of excitement and anticipation of something marvelous to happen.
in anticipation (of)
[C2] expecting something to happen or in preparation for something happening

Dictionary example:
She's even decorated the spare room in anticipation of your visit.

Learner example:
This has sometimes resulted in the comic phenomenon of people travelling to a distant country, in anticipation of encountering strange and original lifestyles, only to come across situations not very different [from] the one they have left in their own countries.

anti-social /ˌæn.tɪˈsəʊ.ʃəl/

Word family:
Nouns: society, socialism, socialist
Verbs: socialize
Adjectives: sociable, social, anti-social

ADJECTIVE

BEHAVIOUR
[C1] Anti-social behaviour harms or upsets the people around you.

Dictionary example:
Increasingly, smoking is regarded as an anti-social habit.

Learner example:
It cannot be denied that nowadays children and young people are showing many problems, such as anti-social behaviour.

PERSON
[C1] An anti-social person does not like being with other people.

Dictionary example:
I hope they won't think I'm anti-social if I don't go to the party.

Learner example:
Technology has developed so much that [it] has made us very anti-social.

anxiety /æŋˈzər.ti/
Dictionary examples:
Children normally feel a lot of anxiety about their first day at school. That explains his anxiety over his health.

Learner example:
On the other hand, if we consider this statement in general, we could infer that [the] teenage [years are] quite a good time in a person’s life, as there is no stress or anxiety that is usually encountered later on in life.

anxious  /ˈæŋ.kəs/ 

Word family:
Nouns: anxiety
Adjectives: anxious
Adverbs: anxiously

ADJECTIVE

EAGER
[B2] wanting to do something or wanting something to happen

Dictionary examples:
I’m anxious to hear her news.
I’m anxious that we get there on time because I don’t think there'll be many seats left.

Learner example:
I am very anxious for you to tell me what type of competition you managed to win.

 anxiously  /ˈæŋ.kəs.li/ 

Word family:
Nouns: anxiety
Adjectives: anxious
Adverbs: anxiously

ADVERB

[B2] in an anxious way

Dictionary example:
We waited anxiously by the phone.

Learner example:
I am waiting for your reply anxiously.
**anyhow** /ˈeniː.haʊ/

**ADVERB**

**DESPITE**

[B2] despite that

**Dictionary example:**
He hates carrots but he ate them anyhow.

**Learner example:**
It wasn’t a great support, but anyhow I consider my choice to be the best I could have [made].

**EARLIER SUBJECT**

[B2] used when you are returning to an earlier subject

**Dictionary example:**
Anyhow, as I said, I'll be away next week.

**Learner example:**
After that we drove for about one hour before we had to take a lunch break. It was still very hot when we continued our trip and we had to stop once more. Anyhow, we [got] to Munich the same day, where we stayed for two days.

**MORE IMPORTANTLY**

[B2] used to give a more important reason for something that you are saying

**Dictionary example:**
I don't need a car and I can't afford one anyhow.

**Learner example:**
We both thought that it was a good idea to have that stop-over at your place as it was on our route to Norway any how.

**CHANGING STATEMENT**

[C1] used when you want to slightly change something that you have just said

**Dictionary example:**
Boys aren’t horrible – not all of them anyhow!

**anything** /ˈen.i.θɪŋ/

**PRONOUN**

**or anything**

[B2] used to talk or ask about things of a similar type
Dictionary examples:
Do you want a drink or anything?
Did you do any sightseeing or anything?

anything like
[B2] used in questions and negatives to mean 'at all similar to'

Dictionary example:
Does he look anything like his brother?

Learner example:
Even in my dreams I haven’t seen anything like it.

anywhere /ˈen.i.weər/

ADVERB

not/never get anywhere
[B2] informal to not make any progress

Dictionary example:
I tried discussing the problem with her but I didn't get anywhere.

Learner example:
If we think about making an effort and changing our daily routine at once, we will never get anywhere because a drastic change usually does not last.

anywhere near sth
[C1] used in questions and negatives to mean 'close to being or doing something'

Dictionary example:
The house isn't anywhere near ready.

Learner example:
We could not have gone anywhere near 5000 miles because all our minibuses were broken down – we even stayed in one place for 8 days.

apart /əˈpaːt/

ADVERB

RELATIONSHIP
[B2] If two people are apart, they are not in the same place together.

Dictionary example:
By this time my parents were living apart.
**Learner example:**
I'll always remember those two days which we spent together after such a long time living apart.

**INTO PIECES**
[B2] into separate, smaller pieces

**Dictionary examples:**
I *took* the motor apart to see how it worked.
My jacket is so old, it's *coming* apart.

**be poles apart**
[C2] to be complete opposites

**Dictionary example:**
They are poles apart in their attitudes to religion.

**Learner example:**
Soho at night seemed to be the nicest place on Earth, poles apart from my home town.

---

**apologetic** /əˌpɒl.əˈdʒe.tɪk/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** apology
**Verbs:** apologise
**Adjectives:** *apologetic*

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] showing or saying that you are sorry about something

**Dictionary examples:**
an apologetic smile
She was very apologetic *about* missing the meeting.

**Learner example:**
I am deeply apologetic if my letter troubled anybody or was too boring to read, but I had to say my opinion out loud.

---

**apostrophe** /əˈpɒs.trəˌfi/  

**NOUN** [c]
[B2] the punctuation mark ' that shows when a letter or a number has been left out, or is used before or after 's' to show possession
Dictionary examples:
I'm Ian.
She was born in '65.
Helen's laugh
Charles' cooking
a baby's hand
babies' hands

**appalling** /əˈpɔː.lɪŋ/

**ADJECTIVE**

**BAD**

[C1] very bad

**Dictionary examples:**
appalling behaviour/weather
The film was **absolutely** appalling!

**Learner example:**
Also, they believe that their ability to watch videos is handicapped by the fact that some of the equipment is in [an] appalling condition.

**SHOCKING**

[C2] shocking and very unpleasant

**Dictionary examples:**
appalling brutality/injuries
Prisoners were kept in the most appalling **conditions**.

**Learner example:**
Susan Hill's 'I'm the King of The Castle' is a psychological book about the appalling cruelty and emotions between two pubescent boys.

**apparent** /əˈpær.ənt/

**Word family:**
Adjectives: apparent
Adverbs: apparently

**ADJECTIVE**

**OBVIOUS**

[B2] obvious or easy to notice
Dictionary examples:
Her unhappiness was apparent to everyone.
It was becoming increasingly apparent that he could no longer look after himself.
I was on the metro this morning when for no apparent reason the man opposite suddenly screamed.

Learner example:
This was my Dad, always doing weird things for no apparent reason.

SEEMS TRUE
[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] seeming to exist or be true

Dictionary example:
I was a little surprised by her apparent lack of interest.

Learner example:
In conclusion, our research shows the residents' apparent unwillingness to transform Greendale Park into a car park.

apparently /əˈpær.ənt.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: apparent
Adverbs: apparently

ADVERB
AS HEARD/READ
[B2] used to say you have read or been told something although you are not certain it is true

Dictionary examples:
Apparently it's going to rain today.
Apparently he's had enough of England and is going back to Australia.

Learner example:
Apparently he was planning to visit me and surprise me for my birthday, which was the following day.

SEEMS TRUE
[B2] used to say that something seems to be true, although it is not certain

Dictionary examples:
There were two apparently unrelated deaths.
An eighty-year-old woman was badly hurt in what the police describe as an apparently random attack.

Learner example:
People found it important and still do but apparently, today, we don't appreciate reading as much as our ancestors.
appeal /əˈpiːl/

NOUN

QUALITY

[B2] [u] the quality in someone or something that makes them attractive or interesting

Dictionary examples:
sex appeal
Spielberg films have a wide appeal.
Parties on river-boats have lost their appeal since one sank last year.

Learner example:
In my opinion, computer games are so popular because the games have developed their graphics and they have more appeal to youngsters.

REQUEST

[C1] [c] when a lot of people are asked to give money, information or help urgently

Dictionary examples:
They're launching an appeal to raise money for famine victims.
The police have issued an appeal to the public to stay away from the centre of town at the weekend.

Learner example:
I would suggest that the local authorities with the support of the community and companies start an appeal, to raise money to keep St. Mary's running.

VERB [v]

ATTRACT

[B2] to attract or interest someone

Dictionary examples:
Cycling has never really appealed to me.
It's a programme designed to appeal mainly to 16 to 25 year-olds.

Learner example:
In addition, books appeal to our imagination.

REQUEST

[C1] to make a serious or formal request, especially to the public, for money or help

Dictionary examples:
They're appealing for clothes and blankets to send to the devastated region.
The police are appealing to the public for any information about the missing girl.
FORMALLY ASK
[C2] to formally ask someone to change an official or legal decision

Dictionary example:
He is appealing against a ten-year prison sentence.

appear /əˈpriə/  
Word family:  
Nouns: appearance, disappearance  
Verbs: appear, disappear

VERB [i]

it appears (that)  
[B2] used to say that something seems to be true

Dictionary example:
It appears that she left the party alone.

Learner example:
It appears that people are more aware about clothes and also work.

BECOME AVAILABLE  
[B2] to start to exist or become available

Dictionary examples:
Laptop computers first appeared in the 1980s.  
The story appeared in all the major newspapers.

Learner example:
In almost every city fast-food restaurants have appeared, which have a big group of fans.

it would appear (that)  
[C1] used to say that something seems to be true

Dictionary example:
It would appear that nobody on board the aircraft actually had a licence to fly it.

Learner example:
It would appear that students are not satisfied with the hours and days offered by the Club.

appearance /əˈpriə.rənts/  
Word family:  
Nouns: appearance, disappearance  
Verbs: appear, disappear
NOUN

IN PUBLIC
[B2] [c] when someone appears in public, on television, in a film, etc.

Dictionary examples:
It was his first appearance on television/television appearance as president.
She made two appearances during her visit.
She will be making a public appearance, signing copies of her latest novel.

Learner example:
You probably know him, because he [made] an appearance [i]n the film "Bad Boys."

BECOMING AVAILABLE
[B2] [NO PLURAL] when something starts to exist or becomes available

Dictionary example:
The appearance of new products on the market has increased competition.

Learner example:
The appearance of the car has facilitated our lives.

appetite /ˈæp.ɪ.tət/

NOUN [C or U]

FOOD
[C1] the feeling that makes you want to eat

Dictionary example:
All that walking has given me an appetite.
I won't have any chocolate, thanks – it'll spoil my appetite.

Learner example:
The tasteless food spoiled our appetite.

an appetite for something
[C2] when you want something very much

Dictionary example:
He has a real appetite for adventure.

Learner example:
It does not occur to him that Jack has degenerated into blood-lust and is driven by hatred and an appetite for power.
applaud /əˈploʊd/

Word family:
Nouns: applause
Verbs: applaud

VERB

CLAP
[C1] [i or ð] to clap your hands to show that you have enjoyed a performance, talk, etc.

Dictionary example:
The audience applauded loudly.

Learner example:
Secondly, owing to a sudden shower, there was a short break during the dance display and the horse show, but eventually, we finished the display and the show successfully and people applauded.

PRAISE
[C2] [θ] FORMAL to approve of or admire something

Dictionary example:
Most people will surely applaud the decision.

Learner example:
I admire and applaud Stevens’ integrity and dignity.

applause /əˈpləʊz/

Word family:
Nouns: applause
Verbs: applaud

NOUN [u]
[C1] when people make a noise by clapping their hands to show they have enjoyed or approve of something

Dictionary example:
There was loud applause at the end of her speech.

Learner example:
Still the audience was very pleased, because they gave massive applause at the end.

round of applause
[C2] when people clap
Dictionary example:
The crowd gave him a huge round of applause.

Learner example:
It was unbelievable, there was a round of applause and some people couldn't help crying.

**appliance** /əˈplær.ənts/

**NOUN [c]**
[C1] a piece of electrical equipment with a particular purpose in the home

**Dictionary example:**
fridges, radios, and other *electrical* appliances

**Learner example:**
The fair was well organized and structured into specific sections from clothing and sportswear to household appliances and electronic [goods].

**application** /ˌæp.lɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** application
**Verbs:** apply

**NOUN**

**COMPUTER SOFTWARE**
[B2] [c] a piece of computer software designed for a particular purpose

**Dictionary example:**
Typical examples of software applications are spreadsheets, media players and database applications.

**Learner example:**
I am [an] exp[er]ienced user of [the] Internet and know all application programs for Windows '95 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PinPoint etc.).

**USE**
[C2] [c or u] a way in which something can be used for a particular purpose

**Dictionary example:**
This technology has many practical applications.

**Learner example:**
We have been working [o]n the growing of cells in zero–gravity environments, having in mind its possible application in outer space colonies, such as the International Space Station.
apply /əˈplaɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: application
Verbs: apply

VERB

AFFECT

[B2] [ɪ] to relate to a particular person or situation

Dictionary examples:
That bit of the form is for UK citizens – it doesn't apply to you.
He seems to think that the normal rules of behaviour don't apply to him.
Those were old regulations – they don't apply any more.

Learner example:
The same doesn't apply to a teenager who lives in illness and poverty and whose family and friends constantly mistreat him.

USE

[C1] [ɪ] to use something in a particular situation

Dictionary example:
The same method can be applied to other situations.

Learner example:
Moreover, he can explain how theory is being applied in the field.

apply yourself

[C2] to work hard

Dictionary example:
If he doesn't apply himself, he'll never pass his exams.

Learner example:
Many previously unknown professions emerged, [and] people started to apply themselves to their jobs much more than before; the pursuit of money was initiated.

appoint /əˈpoʊnt/

Word family:
Nouns: appointment
Verbs: appoint

VERB [ɪ]

[C1] to officially choose someone for a job

Dictionary example:
He was appointed as company director last year.
Learner example:
Moreover, with the liberation of Greece, he was appointed as the First Governor of the new state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>appointment</th>
<th>/əˈpoint.mənt/</th>
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<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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</table>

**NOUN**

**JOB**

[C2] [c or u] when you officially choose someone for an important job, or the job itself

**Dictionary examples:**
the appointment of three new teachers
a temporary appointment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>appreciate</th>
<th>/əˈpriː.ʃi.eɪt/</th>
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<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> appreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Verbs:</strong> appreciate</td>
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**VERB [T]**

**VALUE**

[B2] to understand how good something or someone is and be able to enjoy them

**Dictionary examples:**
There's no point buying him expensive wines – he doesn't appreciate them.
I don't think you appreciate how much time I spent preparing this meal.

**Learner example:**
It's like wine, it's impossible to drink a glass of wine quickly, you can't appreciate it.

**would appreciate**

[B2] used when you are politely requesting something

**Dictionary example:**
I would appreciate it if you could let me know in advance whether or not you will be coming.

**Learner example:**
I would really appreciate a positive answer from your side.

**I/We appreciate...**

[B2] used when you are thanking someone or showing that you are grateful
**Dictionary examples:**
Thanks for all the help you gave us last weekend. We really appreciate it.
I appreciate your making the effort to come.

**Learner example:**
Thanks for your congratulations. I really appreciate it.

**UNDERSTAND**

[C2] to understand something about a situation, especially that it is complicated or difficult

**Dictionary example:**
I appreciate that it is a difficult decision for you to make.

**Learner example:**
Given the size of the house and the rather delicate nature of some of the furniture pieces, I appreciate that it may have been somewhat of a challenge.

**appreciation** /əˌpriː.ʃiˈeɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** appreciation
**Verbs:** appreciate

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] when you understand how good something or someone is and are able to enjoy them

**Dictionary examples:**
You’ve done so much to help us so, to show our appreciation, we’ve bought you a little gift.
The crowd cheered in appreciation.
Children rarely show any appreciation of/for what their parents do for them.
My appreciation of art has increased as I’ve got older.

**Learner example:**
To show our appreciation, we would also like to invite you to dinner afterwards at the Red Baron.

**approach** /əˈprəʊtʃ/

**VERB**

**DEAL WITH**

[B2] [ɪ] to deal with something

**Dictionary example:**
I’m not sure how to approach the problem.
Learner example:
This is the right way to approach the issue.

NOUN

METHOD

[B2] [c] a way of doing something

Dictionary examples:
In Sweden they have a different approach to the problem.
I thought we'd adopt/take a new approach.

Learner example:
This will show the contrast in teaching methods, different approaches to students and techniques used by different teachers.

COMING CLOSER

[B2] [u] when something or someone gets nearer in distance or time

Dictionary examples:
The siren signalled the approach of an ambulance.
Please fasten your seat belts, the plane is now making its final approach (in)to Heathrow Airport.

appropriate /əˈprəʊpri.ət/  

Word family:
Adjectives: appropriate, inappropriate
Adverbs: appropriately, inappropriately

ADJECTIVE

[B2] suitable or right for a particular situation or occasion

Dictionary examples:
Is this film appropriate for small children?
I didn't think his comments were very appropriate at the time.

Learner example:
I will explain why I am an appropriate person for this job.

appropriately /əˈprəʊpri.ət.li/  

Word family:
Adjectives: appropriate, inappropriate
Adverbs: appropriately, inappropriately

ADVERB

[B2] in a way that is appropriate
**Dictionary example:**
She didn't think we were appropriately dressed for a wedding.

**Learner example:**
I enjoyed reading it and I think it appropriately describes the atmosphere of that lovely town.

<table>
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<th>Approval</th>
<th>/əˈpruːv/</th>
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**Word family:**
**Nouns:** approval, disapproval
**Verbs:** approve, disapprove

**Noun [u]**

**GOOD OPINION**

[B2] when you have a positive opinion of someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
He showed his approval by smiling broadly.
Sam always tried hard to win his father's approval.
Does the wine meet with your approval?

**Learner example:**
I hope this meets [with] your approval and I am looking forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

**Permission**

[B2] official permission

**Dictionary examples:**
The project has now received approval from the government.
The teacher gave the student a nod of approval.

**Learner example:**
Besides the questionable approval given by governmental authorities, the situation might be useful to us.

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**Word family:**
**Nouns:** approval, disapproval
**Verbs:** approve, disapprove

**Verb**

**GOOD OPINION**

[B2] [i] to think that something is good or right
Dictionary examples:
She doesn't approve of my friends.
He doesn't approve of smoking.
The head of department seems to approve of what I am doing.

Learner example:
Woods didn't approve of the government's attitude to them.

**approximate** /əˈprɒk.sɪ.mət/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** approximate
**Adverbs:** approximately

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] not completely accurate but close

**Dictionary examples:**
The train's approximate time of arrival is 10.30.
Can you give me an approximate idea of the numbers involved?

**Learner example:**
The approximate figure is about 5000 people.

**arbitrary** /ˈɑː.bɪ.t.r.i/

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] not based on a system or principles and often seeming unfair

**Dictionary example:**
an arbitrary decision

**Learner example:**
As the conflict progresses, the influence of civilisation and democratic conduct fades away, being replaced and forced out by Jack’s savagery and absolute and arbitrary rule.

**arch** /ɑːtʃ/

**NOUN [C]**
[C2] a curved structure that usually supports something, for example a bridge or wall

**Dictionary example:**
Passing through the arch, you enter an open courtyard.
Learner example:
She could have taken a short cut, but she chose this long and rather uncomfortable way deliberately, as it was leading past the old arch where a strange man used to play a violin.

**VERB** [I or T]
[C2] to be a curved shape or make something become a curved shape

**Dictionary example:**
The bridge arched over the river.

**Learner example:**
Suddenly a flash arched across the sky, followed by an echoing rumble.

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>archaeologist</strong></th>
<th>/ˌɑː.kiˈɒl.ə.dʒɪst/</th>
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**Word family:**
**Nouns:** archaeologist, archaeology

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<th><strong>NOUN</strong> [C]</th>
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<tr>
<td>[C1] someone who studies ancient cultures by looking for and examining their buildings, tools, and other objects</td>
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**Dictionary example:**
Archaeologists believe the remains date back to the 5th century.

**Learner example:**
It includes articles from prominent journalists, scientists, archaeologists and other experts on Greek civilisation.

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<td>[C1] the study of ancient cultures by looking for and examining their buildings, tools, and other objects</td>
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</table>

**Dictionary example:**
He did archaeology at university.

**Learner example:**
But I have to admit that there could be more presentations to cover areas like archaeology, language, etc.
area /ˈeəriə/  
NOUN [c]  
SUBJECT  
[B2] a part of a subject or activity  
Dictionary examples:  
Marketing is Paul's area.  
Software is not really my area of expertise.  
Learner example:  
I am a 30-year-old Swedish male with a diploma in gardening. I have 6 years experience of the area since I have been employed by a Swedish fruit supplier.

argue /ˈɑːg.juː/  
Word family:  
Nouns: argument  
Verbs: argue  
VERB  
GIVE REASONS  
[B2] [I or T] to give reasons to support or oppose an idea, action, etc.  
Dictionary examples:  
The minister argued for/in favour of making cuts in military spending.  
She argued against tax cuts.  
The minister argued that cuts in military spending were needed.  
Learner example:  
It is often argued that family life is not important.

argument /ˈɑːg.ju.mənt/  
Word family:  
Nouns: argument  
Verbs: argue  
NOUN [c]  
REASON  
[B2] a reason or reasons why you support or oppose an idea, action, etc.
Dictionary examples:
There are many arguments for and against nuclear energy.
I don't think that's a very strong/powerful argument.

Learner example:
An argument in favour of this statement is that shopping is very tiring.

arid /ˈær.ɪd/
ADJECTIVE
[C2] very dry and without enough rain for plants

Dictionary example:
an arid region/climate

Learner example:
It's like being taken from our 'arid desert' routine to a truly refreshing and invigorating oasis.

arise /əˈraɪz/
VERB [i] (arose, arisen)
[C1] If a problem arises, it starts to happen.

Dictionary example:
The whole problem arose from a lack of communication.

Learner example:
Although the place was very good, a number of problems arose during our visit.

arm /ɑːm/
NOUN [c]
CHAIR
[C2] the part of a chair where your arm rests

Dictionary example:
The chair didn't have any arms.

Learner example:
It appears to me that the leather covering the left arm of the sofa has been pierced with some sharp object.

arm in arm
[C2] with your arm gently supporting or being supported by someone else's arm
Dictionary example:
They walked through the park, arm in arm.

Learner example:
We often walked around the playground arm in arm.

(keep sb) at arm’s length
[C2] to not allow someone to become too friendly with you

Dictionary example:
I always had the feeling she was keeping me at arm’s length.

Learner example:
At first she keeps them at arm’s length, but Mr Emerson is direct and advises Lucy to behave in a more natural way instead of doing what some old ladies say.

armed /ˈɑːmd/  

ADJECTIVE

WEAPONS
[B2] 1 using or carrying weapons

Dictionary examples:
an armed robbery
armed conflict
armed guards/police

Learner example:
I could clearly understand that the two armed men would catch us within [a] few minutes.

armed with sth
[C2] carrying or knowing something that will be useful

Dictionary example:
I like to go to a meeting armed with the relevant facts.

Learner example:
We set off armed with all our cameras, lenses, travelling gadgets and equipment.

army /ˈɑː.mi/  

NOUN

ORGANIZED GROUP
[C2] a group of people that is organized to do the same job
**Dictionary example:**
an army of cleaners/helpers

**Learner example:**
There, you are surrounded by an army of waiters: one for the home-baked bread, one for the water, one for the wine, one for the food.

---

**around** /əˈraʊnd/

**ADVERB**

**be around**

[B2] If someone is around, they are present in a place.

**Dictionary examples:**
Will you be around next week?
Roger isn't around at the moment – can I help instead?

**Learner example:**
It was dark and not a soul was around.

**EXISTING**

[C2] present or available

**Dictionary example:**
Mobile phones have been around for years now.

**Learner example:**
Major sporting competitions have been around for the better part of 2500 years, ever since the original Olympic Games were held in ancient Greece.

---

**arouse** /əˈraʊz/

**VERB** [T]

[C2] to make someone have a particular feeling or reaction

**Dictionary example:**
It's a subject which has aroused a lot of interest.

**Learner example:**
There was something about her that had aroused my interest.
arrange /əˈreɪndʒ/

Word family:
Nouns: arrangement
Verbs: arrange, rearrange

VERB

PUT IN POSITION

[B2] [ɪ] to put objects in a particular order or position

Dictionary examples:
She arranged her birthday cards along the shelf.
Who arranged these flowers so beautifully?
His books are neatly arranged in alphabetical order.

Learner example:
Before the pop concert [started], I arranged the seats and carried some musical instruments.

arrangement /əˈreɪndʒ.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: arrangement
Verbs: arrange, rearrange

NOUN

AGREEMENT

[B2] [ɔ or ʊ] an agreement between two people or groups

Dictionary examples:
We had an arrangement that he would clean the house and I would cook.
I'm sure we can come to an arrangement.
You can only withdraw money from this account by (prior) arrangement with the bank.

Learner example:
I didn't know if you would be in the house or not so you need to contact him for a new arrangement [on] this telephone number 333–30.30.

POSITION

[B2] [c] a group of objects in a particular order or position

Dictionary example:
a flower arrangement

Learner example:
Dear Mrs. Anderson, I have learned from a friend that your club gives advanced courses in flower arrangement.
arrest /əˈrɛst/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] when the police take someone away to ask them about a crime which they might have committed

Dictionary examples:
Police made twenty arrests at yesterday's demonstration.
She was stopped outside the shop and placed/put under arrest.

Learner example:
When I came around, Mr Smith was under arrest and fortunately, thing[s] finished well for me.

arrival /əˈrɛr.v/”

Word family:
Nouns: arrival
Verbs: arrive

NOUN

NEW PERSON/THING
[C1] [c] a new thing or person that has arrived

Dictionary example:
Two teachers were there to greet the new arrivals.

Learner example:
Secondly, a barbecue would be a good thing to do on the 1st of September, to welcome the new arrivals.

BECOME AVAILABLE
[C2] [u] when something new is discovered or created or becomes available

Dictionary example:
The town grew rapidly with the arrival of the railway.

Learner example:
With the arrival of capitalism, the mass-production of garments inherent to this system has raised the issue of whether what people wear reflects their personality.

arrive /əˈrɛriv/”

Word family:
Nouns: arrival
Verbs: arrive
VERB [i]

arrive at an answer/conclusion/decision, etc.
[C2] to find an answer to a problem or make a decision after a lot of discussion

Dictionary example:
We didn't arrive at any firm conclusions.

Learner example:
[This is] something very important which should be discussed... we may arrive at a conclusion.

arrogant /ˈær.ə.gənt/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] believing that you are better or more important than other people

Dictionary example:
I found him arrogant and rude.

Learner example:
Chubby, arrogant and filthy were the words that described him best. Every time they met, a bitter feeling of hatred bloomed in her throat.

arrow /ˈær.əʊ/

NOUN [c]

SYMBOL
[B2] a symbol used on a sign, on a computer, etc. to show direction

Dictionary example:
I followed the arrows to the car park.

Learner example:
I followed its arrow and believe it or not I found mum!

WEAPON
[B2] a weapon that is like a long thin stick with a sharp point at one end and often feathers at the other, shot from a bow

Dictionary example:
Robin Hood asked to be buried where his arrow landed.

Learner example:
The museum has many old axes, crossbows, bows and arrows.
**art** /ɑːt/

Word family:
**Nouns:** art, artist
**Adjectives:** artistic

**NOUN**

**arts**
[B2] creative areas including painting, drama, dance, music, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
fine/decorative arts
She's doing a course in the performing arts.

**Learner example:**
You can enjoy both traditional and contemporary performing arts in Osaka.

**arts**
[C1] subjects, such as history, languages and philosophy, that are not scientific subjects

**Dictionary examples:**
an arts subject
the Arts Faculty
an arts **graduate/degree**

**Learner example:**
The same percentage of graduates from arts and social science and science areas became unemployed after finishing university.

**SKILL**
[C1] [c or u] a skill in a particular activity

**Dictionary example:**
the art of conversation

**Learner example:**
In my opinion, spoken English is the best course at the school and it really gives one good practice in the art of negotiation.

**artificial** /ˌɑː.tɪˈfɪʃ.əl/

Word family:
**Adjectives:** artificial
**Adverbs:** artificially
ADJECTIVE

NOT NATURAL

[B2] not natural, but made by people

Dictionary examples:
an artificial flower/lake
artificial flavourings

Learner example:
First, most shop[ing] centres use artificial illumination, which is bad for our health.

NOT SINCERE

[C2] not sincere

Dictionary example:
Their cheerfulness seemed rather strained and artificial.

Learner example:
Miss Bartlett probably comes from the poorer part of the family and that is why she always tries to show her unselfishness to Lucy but this is done in a very artificial and annoying way.

artificial intelligence /ˌɑː.tɪˈfɪʃ.əl.ɪnˈtel.ɪ.dʒənts/

NOUN [u]

[C2] the use of computer technology to do jobs that previously needed human intelligence

Dictionary example:
This is a clearly written, but extremely superficial, introduction to the field of artificial intelligence (AI).

Learner example:
True artificial intelligence, one of the most terrifying dreams of man, is yet to be discovered, but we must handle it with great care if we don't want to suffer the consequences of a world in which machines start to think for us, this making our existence completely pointless.

artificially /ˌɑː.tɪˈfɪʃ.ə.l.i/

Word family:
Adjectives: artificial
Adverbs: artificially

ADVERB

[B2] in an artificial way
Dictionary example:
Most mushrooms sold in supermarkets have been grown artificially in manure.

Learner example:
Zoos are part of nature, despite the fact that they are created artificially.

**artistic** /ɑːˈtɪstɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: art, artist
Adjectives: artistic

**ADJECTIVE**

**CREATIVE ABILITY**

*B2* showing skill and imagination in creating things, especially in painting, drawing, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
Both children are very artistic.
artistic talent

**Learner example:**
If the museum is a place were they can say how they feel, or express it in an abstract or artistic way, they will start to like it.

**RELATING TO ART**

*B2* [always before noun] relating to any form of art, including painting, literature, theatre, music, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
the artistic director of the theatre
a work of artistic merit

**Learner example:**
That would be perfect to improve the artistic and cultural life of Turin.

**as** /æz/

**ADVERB; PREPOSITION**

**as for**

*B2* used at the beginning of a sentence to introduce a slightly different subject, but one that is connected in some way

**Dictionary example:**
I was pleased about the news. As for Emily, well, who cares what she thinks?
Learner example:
As for Chris, he agreed with me to do fifty kilometres on Saturday and stay at the Lakeside Inn.

**as a result of sth**
[B2] because of something

Dictionary example:
Unemployment has risen as a result of the credit crunch.

Learner example:
[O]n more than one oc[c]asion I missed the new releases or arrived late, as a result of trusting the [cinema’s] website.

**as a whole**
[B2] when considered as a group and not in parts

Dictionary example:
The population as a whole is getting healthier.

Learner example:
To sum up, I can say that the greatest ever invention is the invention of computers, that has affected both indivi[d]uals and society as a whole.

**as a matter of fact**
[B2] used to give more information, or to correct something that has been said

Dictionary examples:
John plays golf professionally. As a matter of fact, he has just won a big competition.
"So you’re from Cambridge?" "No, as a matter of fact, I'm from Bristol."

Learner example:
I think it would be better to choose somewhere outdoors. As a matter of fact, I prefer the open air and the sunlight!

**as follows**
[B2] used to introduce a list or description

Dictionary example:
The main reasons are as follows.

Learner example:
The summary of relevant points and recommendations are as follows: 1. Both of them are located in the centre of town.

**as if/as though**
[B2] used to describe how a situation seems to be

Dictionary examples:
It looks as if it might rain.
It was as though we had known each other for years.

Learner example:
Everything was so familiar, as though he [had] never left the place.
as far as *sb* is concerned  
[B2] used to show what someone thinks about something

**Dictionary examples:**  
As far as I'm concerned, feng shui is a load of rubbish.  
As far as our customers are concerned, price is the main consideration.

**Learner example:**  
As far as Laura was concerned, he was the most disgusting man in the world.

as far as *sth* is concerned  
[B2] used to tell someone what you are talking about

**Dictionary example:**  
As far as money is concerned, we're doing very well.

**Learner example:**  
First of all, I think the Majestic Hotel would be the right location, but I have doubts as far as the costs are concerned.

as far as I know  
[B2] used to say that you think something is true, but cannot be sure

**Dictionary example:**  
As far as I know, he's never been in trouble with the police.

**Learner example:**  
As far as I know, accommodation at Camp California is in tents or log cabins.

as it happens  
[C1] something that you say in order to introduce a surprising fact

**Dictionary example:**  
As it happens, her birthday is the day after mine.

**Learner example:**  
As it happens, I am currently looking for a computer course for myself and I would like to join one of your courses.

as many as  
[C1] used before a number or amount to show that the number or amount is large

**Dictionary example:**  
As many as 6,000 people may have been infected with the disease.

**Learner example:**  
As many as 90% of them went to [the] cinema on a regular basis in 1990, with the peak of [a] 95% attendance rate taking place in 1996.

as yet  
[C1] formal until and including this time
Dictionary examples:
We haven’t needed extra staff as yet, but may do in the future.
No ambulances had as yet managed to get across the river.

Learner example:
I would like to do something about it, but as I can’t imagine building anything near my beautiful house (because I’m afraid it would destroy its wonderful harmony), I have no idea as yet how to solve this problem.

**as opposed to**

[C2] used to say that two things are very different

Dictionary example:
I’m talking about English football, as opposed to European football.

Learner example:
Love is accepting people as they are, being tolerant and giving freedom, as opposed to possessive love, which is what is often – if not always – understood by love.

**do sth as you see/think fit**

[C2] to do something that you feel is the right thing to do, although other people might disapprove

Dictionary example:
You must spend the money as you see fit.

Learner example:
Do as you think fit!

**as the/its name implies**

[C2] used to show that the name of something tells you something about it

Dictionary example:
The Long Room, as its name implies, runs the entire length of the house.

Learner example:
Sour Sweet, as the name implies, is originally a Chinese restaurant.

**as it stands**

[C2] as something is now, without changes in it

Dictionary example:
The law as it stands is very unclear.

Learner example:
In my opinion, this debate is rooted in a deeper questioning of society’s foundations: some people see society as it stands today as inherently flawed, an amorphous group of people who follow and worship anyone that gives them pleasure.
ashamed /əˈʃeɪmd/

Word family:
Nouns: shame
Adjectives: ashamed, shameful

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

be ashamed of sb
[B2] to be angry and disappointed with a family member or friend because they have behaved badly

Dictionary example:
My brother was so rude to Jane – I was ashamed of him.

Learner example:
I was very ashamed of them. [They] came from [my] own country.

aside /əˈsaɪd/

ADVERB

MOVE TO SIDE
[B2] on or to one side

Dictionary examples:
Stand aside, please, and let these people pass.
He pulled the curtain aside.
I gave her a plate of food but she pushed it aside.
She took me aside to tell me the news.

Learner example:
I saw an old man slowly pull it aside and peep out, looking [at] the street with his eyes wide open.

SAVE
[B2] If you put or set something aside, you do not use it now, but keep it to use later.

Dictionary example:
We’ve put some money aside for the holiday.

Learner example:
I had put some money aside for a month, thinking about the discount.

aside from sth
[B2] except for

Dictionary example:
This document needs finishing, but aside from that I think everything is done.
Secondly, it is unfair to say the other performers were second-rate aside from the 'Torrents', since they all sang and played very well.

**ask** /ɑːsk/

**VERB**

**Don't ask!**

[B2] informal said when someone asks you about an experience that was very bad

**Dictionary example:**
"How was the meeting?" "Don't ask!"

**Learner example:**
Don't ask me how the concert was!

**Don't ask me**

[B2] informal used to tell someone that you do not know the answer to a question and that you are surprised they have asked you

**Dictionary example:**
"So why would she leave such a good job?" "Don't ask me!"

**If you ask me**

[C2] said when giving your opinion on something

**Dictionary example:**
If you ask me, he doesn't really care about his friends.

**Learner example:**
If you ask me, the things that matter in a job are the people [you] work with and feeling happy about the work you are doing.

**ask yourself sth**

[C2] to think about something carefully

**Dictionary example:**
You've got to ask yourself whether it's what you really want.

**Learner example:**
You have to ask yourself what life is worth in these situations.
asleep /əˈsliːp/

Word family:
Nouns: sleep
Verbs: sleep
Adjectives: asleep, sleepy, sleepless

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

fast asleep
[C2] completely asleep

Dictionary example:
I looked into her room but she was still fast asleep.

Learner example:
Karen's grandson walks into the room to find her fast asleep on her favourite chair.

aspect /ˈæs.pekt/

NOUN [c]
[B2] one part of a situation, problem, subject, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Which aspects of the job do you most enjoy?
That's the most worrying aspect of the situation.

Learner example:
Every aspect of our daily life is influenced by technology.

aspiration /ˌæs.pəˈreɪʃn/

Word family:
Nouns: aspiration
Verbs: aspire
Adjectives: aspiring

NOUN [C USUALLY PLURAL]
[C2] something that you hope to achieve

Dictionary example:
I've never had any political aspirations.

Learner example:
A career should reflect a person's beliefs and aspirations, not their bank account.
aspire  /əˈspær/  

Word family:  
Nouns: aspiration  
Verbs: aspire  
Adjectives: aspiring  

VERB  

aspire to sth; aspire to do sth  
[C2] to hope to achieve something  

Dictionary example:  
He has never aspired to a position of power.  

Learner example:  
[The] younger generation often see some of these people as role-models and aspire to a similar career and easy fame, but although I can understand their interest, I do not see this as a positive thing.  

aspiring  /əˈspærɪŋ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: aspiration  
Verbs: aspire  
Adjectives: aspiring  

ADJECTIVE  

an aspiring actor/politician/writer, etc.  
[C2] someone who is trying to become a successful actor/politician/writer, etc.  

Dictionary example:  
If you are an aspiring artist, you will enjoy the special painting and sketching week they hold three times a year.  

Learner example:  
Mary Peterson was a young woman who was an aspiring journalist.  

assault  /əˈsaʊlt/  

NOUN [C or U]  
[C2] an attack  

Dictionary examples:  
an assault on a police officer  
sexual assault
Learner example:
Rapes, assaults, murders, burglaries, [and] robberies have been so frequent that a lot of technological progress has been made in order to prevent these from happening.

VERB [ɪ]
[C2] I to attack someone violently

Dictionary example:
He was assaulted by a youth who cannot be named.

Learner example:
I remember that once my parents prevented three hooligans from assaulting a girl.

assemble /əˈsem.bli/

Word family:
Nouns: assembly
Verbs: assemble

VERB

GROUP
[C2] [I or T] to join other people somewhere to make a group, or to bring people together into a group

Dictionary example:
They assembled in the meeting room after lunch.

Learner example:
Soon a rescue team was assembled by experienced skiers and climbers, and started com[b]ing the mountain looking for the missing snowboarder.

BUILD
[C2] [ɪ] to build something by joining parts together

Dictionary example:
Their furniture is easy to assemble.

Learner example:
[As well as] relaxing while assembling model aircraft or boats and meeting new friends, the course–takers could learn a fact or two about history as well.

assembly /əˈsem.bli/

Word family:
Nouns: assembly
Verbs: assemble
NOUN

GROUP
[C2] [c] a group of people, such as a government, who meet to make decisions, laws, etc.

Dictionary examples:
the national assembly
the United Nations General Assembly

Learner example:
I hope that it won't be necessary to talk to our local Assembly representative, because that would only make this process longer.

BUILD
[C2] [u] when you build something by joining parts together

Dictionary example:
The frame needs to be strong enough to support the engine assembly.

Learner example:
Major factories the world over incorporate automated robots into their assembly lines.

assert /əˈsɜːt/  
Word family:
Verbs: assert
Adjectives: assertive

VERB
[C1] [ɪ] FORMAL to say that something is certainly true

Dictionary example:
He asserts that she stole money from him.

Learner example:
Our department have already consulted [the] local Marketing Training Centre, which asserted that these employees are eligible to take the course.

assert yourself
[C2] to behave or speak in a strong, confident way

Dictionary example:
She has to learn to assert herself.

Learner example:
Such an attitude may also be the result of little pangs of homesickness or of our need to assert ourselves, to feel superior in a foreign country.
assert your authority/control/independence, etc.

[C2] to do something to show other people that you have power

**Dictionary example:**
She soon asserted her authority as leader.

**Learner example:**
He can assert his authority over all the boys who are there.

---

**assertive /əˈsɜːtɪv/**

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** assert
**Adjectives:** assertive

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] behaving or speaking in a strong, confident way

**Dictionary example:**
You need to be much more assertive.

**Learner example:**
I want to learn how to be more assertive, find emotional independence, fulfil my dreams, be more tolerant, less sarcastic and, most importantly, be given the precious gift of patience.

---

**assess /əˈses/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** assessment
**Verbs:** assess

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to make a judgement about the quality, size or value, etc. of something

**Dictionary examples:**
Examinations are a way of assessing a student's ability.
They assessed the cost of the flood damage at £1500.
We need to assess whether the project is worth doing.

**Learner example:**
The aim of this report is to compare and assess the architecture, food and service of two restaurants in my area.
assessment  /əˈses.mənt/  

Word family:
Nouns: assessment
Verbs: assess

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] when you make a judgement about the quality, size or value, etc. of something

Dictionary example:
That's a fair assessment of the situation.

Learner example:
Secondly, I was a little bit upset about your assessment of [the] other performers because they showed us their great musical talents.

asset  /ˈæset/  

NOUN

USEFUL
[C1] [C] a person, skill or quality which is useful or helps you to succeed

Dictionary example:
He'll be a great asset to the team.

Learner example:
I am sure that you will be more than satisfied with him and that he is going to be an asset to your hotel.

WORTH MONEY
[C1] [C USUALLY PLURAL] something which a person or company owns which has a value

Dictionary example:
The company has $70 billion in assets.

Learner example:
Somehow, all his assets were frozen by the bank and the family became poor overnight.

assign  /əˈsaɪn/  

Word family:
Nouns: assignment
Verbs: assign

VERB [T]
[C1] to give someone a particular job or responsibility
**Dictionary examples:**
UN forces were assigned the task of rebuilding the hospital.
The case has been assigned to our most senior officer.

**Learner example:**
Some of the work they were assigned was quite boring for them.

---

**assignment /əˈsaɪn.mənt/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: assignment
Verbs: assign

**NOUN [C]**
[C1] a piece of work given to someone, especially as part of their studies or job

**Dictionary examples:**
a freelance/photo assignment
The assignment is due on Friday.

**Learner example:**
As your know, I must do the group assignment for Project Management.

---

**assist /əˈsɪst/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: assistance, assistant
Verbs: assist

**VERB [I or T]**
[B2] to help

**Dictionary examples:**
The army arrived to assist in the search.
You will be expected to assist the editor with the selection of illustrations for the book.

**Learner example:**
However, I used to assist my brother, who is a photographer.

---

**assistance /əˈsɪs.tənts/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: assistance, assistant
Verbs: assist
NOUN [u]
[B2] help

Dictionary examples:
Can I be of any assistance, madam?
Teachers can't give pupils any assistance in exams.

Learner example:
Thank you for your assistance.

associate /əˈsəʊ.sɪ.eɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: association
Verbs: associate

VERB

be associated with sth
[B2] to be related to something or caused by something

Dictionary example:
There are many risks associated with smoking.

Learner example:
Undoubtedly there are both positive and negative points associated with this topic.

TWO THINGS/PEOPLE
[C1] [r] to connect someone or something in your mind with someone or something else

Dictionary example:
Most people associate this brand with good quality.

Learner example:
Nowadays we tend to associate computer games or television with young people.

association /əˌsəʊ.siˈeɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: association
Verbs: associate

NOUN
[B2] [c] an organization of people with the same interests or with a particular purpose
**Dictionary example:**
The Football Association

**Learner example:**
I am a member of the local Kung-Fu Association.

**in association with**
[C1] working together with

**Dictionary example:**
The event was organized in association with the Sports Council.

**Learner example:**
This service, which will be [provided] in association with Foster Loft, will be available at the end of 2005.

**CONNECTION**
[C2] [c or u] a connection or relationship between two things or people

**Dictionary example:**
There is no association between the two groups.

**Learner example:**
The second example is people who wear clothes such as black le[a]ther suits and black or purple lip–stick, showing their association with a particular genre of music.

**assume /əˈsjuːm/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** assumption

**Verbs:** assume

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to think that something is true, without question or proof

**Dictionary examples:**
I assumed (that) you knew each other because you went to the same school.
I invited her just assuming she would want to come.

**Learner example:**
The police assumed he was lying so they put him [in] jail.

**assume control/power/responsibility, etc.**
[C2] to take a position of control/power/responsibility, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
He has assumed the role of spokesman for the group.

**Learner example:**
She got involved in the marketing business there and assumed responsibility very soon – she became the marketing director for continental Europe.
assumption /əˈsʌmpʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: assumption
Verbs: assume

NOUN
[C1] [c] something that you think is true without having any proof

Dictionary examples:
People tend to make assumptions about you when you have a disability.
These calculations are based on the assumption that prices will continue to rise.

Learner example:
But if this assumption is right, and if you consider how much fashion has changed over the last 60 years, does this mean that we are so very different from our grandparents?

assurance /əˈʃʊərəns/

Word family:
Nouns: assurance, reassurance, self-assurance
Verbs: assure, reassure
Adjectives: reassuring, self-assured

NOUN
PROMISE
[C1] [c] a promise

Dictionary example:
He gave us an assurance that it would not happen again.

Learner example:
Again, may I give my assurances that the above two requests [for] equipment acquisition would be money well spent for our company.

CONFIDENCE
[C2] [u] confidence

Dictionary example:
He spoke with calm assurance.

Learner example:
'I urge you to stay calm and wait for the rescue team,' said Mark with assurance.
**assure /əˈʃʊər/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** assurance, reassurance, self-assurance
- **Verbs:** assure, reassure
- **Adjectives:** reassuring, self-assured

**VERB [T]**

**SAY WITH CERTAINTY**

[B2] to tell someone confidently that something is true, especially so that they do not worry

**Dictionary example:**
She assured him (that) the car would be ready the next day.

**Learner example:**
If you decide to live in the capital, I can assure you there are plenty of sports facilities here, such as tennis courts, basketball courts, football fields, swimming centres and many more.

**MAKE CERTAIN**

[C1] to make something certain to happen

**Dictionary example:**
This loan should assure the company's future.

**Learner example:**
The PT is guaranteed to assure higher test results or your money back!

**astonished /əˈstɒn.ɪʃt/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** astonishment
- **Adjectives:** astonished, astonishing

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] very surprised

**Dictionary examples:**
I was astonished to see Miriam there.
They looked astonished when I announced I was pregnant.
The doctors were astonished at the speed of her recovery.

**Learner example:**
She was astonished when she saw what [wa]s in front of her.
**astonishing /əˈstɒn.ɪ.ʃɪŋ/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** astonishment

**Adjectives:** astonished, astonishing

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] very surprising

**Dictionary examples:**
Her first novel enjoyed an astonishing level of success.
It’s astonishing to think that only a few years ago Communism dominated eastern Europe.

**Learner example:**
The colour of the sea was astonishing and the mountains were so magical!

---

**astonishment /əˈstɒn.ɪʃ.mənt/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** astonishment

**Adjectives:** astonished, astonishing

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] very great surprise

**Dictionary examples:**
To my astonishment, she started laughing.
She gasped in astonishment.

**Learner example:**
To our astonishment, we were in front of a small house which seemed to have been built centuries ago.

---

**astronomy /əˈstrɒn.ə.mi/**

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the scientific study of stars and planets

**Dictionary example:**
This is the biggest step forward in astronomy since Galileo’s first telescope over four hundred years ago.

**Learner example:**
Her father was famous for his vast knowledge of astronomy and books he wrote on this subject.
at /æt/

PREPOSITION

at least
[B2] used to reduce the effect of a statement

Dictionary example:
I've met the President – at least, he shook my hand once.

Learner example:
But after years of developing my slalom, I wanted to learn something new, [s]o, I started Hot-Dogging. Hot-Dog is great fun. At least, people say so.

AMOUNT
[B2] used to show a price, temperature, rate, speed, etc.

Dictionary example:
He was driving at 120 mph when the police spotted him.

at all costs
[B2] If something must be done at all costs, it is very important that it is done.

Dictionary example:
We have to succeed at all costs.

Learner example:
One thing was sure: he was convinced [he had] to save Anne's life at all costs.

at sb's disposal
[B2] available for you to use at any time

Dictionary example:
We will have a car at our disposal for the whole trip.

Learner example:
But on Wednesday morning I'm at your disposal.

at fault
[B2] responsible for something bad that has happened

Dictionary example:
I was at fault and I would like to apologize.

Learner example:
I really felt at fault.

at risk
[B2] being in a situation where something bad is likely to happen
Dictionary examples:
All houses within 100 metres of the seas are at risk of flooding.
Releasing these prisoners puts the public at risk.

Learner example:
Lives are at risk!

at an angle
[C1] not horizontal or vertical, but sloping

Dictionary examples:
He wore his hat at an angle.
The boat settled into the mud at a 35 degree angle.

Learner example:
After purchasing the G5X-1 food processor from your shop last month I discovered, upon connecting it to the mains socket and switching it on, that I needed to tilt the unit at an angle for it to work.

at the expense of sth
[C1] If you do one thing at the expense of another, doing the first thing harms the second thing.

Dictionary example:
He spent a lot of time at work, at the expense of his marriage.

Learner example:
Unfortunately one is usually done at the expense of the other.

at face value
[C1] If you accept something at face value because of the way it first looks or seems, you do so without thinking carefully about it.

Dictionary examples:
You can't just accept everything you read in the newspapers at face value.
These results should not be taken at face value – careful analysis is required to assess their full implications.

Learner example:
People are assessed at face value [by] the type of cars they drive.

at a glance
[C1] If you see something at a glance, you see it very quickly or immediately.

Dictionary example:
He could tell at a glance that something was wrong.

Learner example:
You could tell at a glance that Peter was a loner.

at hand
[C1] near in time or space
**Dictionary example:**
Teachers are always close at hand to give help to any child who needs it.

**Learner example:**
I haven't had any lectures in English, but now and then there are lectures in English at the University so you need to understand the spoken language with no dictionary at hand.

**at the very least**
[C1] not less than, and probably much more than

**Dictionary examples:**
At the very least, you should apologize.
We should earn £500 at the very least.

**Learner example:**
Thus, I trust you will agree that at the very least I deserve a letter of explanation from you and a substantial refund of my money.

**at short notice** [UK]
[C1] only a short time before something happens

**Dictionary example:**
I had to give a speech at very short notice.

**Learner example:**
The fact that the speech by the famous actor was cancelled at short notice was disappointing.

**at once**
[C1] at the same time

**Dictionary example:**
They all started talking at once.

**Learner example:**
The study centre is really small and all the students talk at once.

**all at once**
[C1] suddenly

**Dictionary example:**
All at once he stood up and walked out of the room.

**Learner example:**
All at once, everything started to work again.

**at random**
[C1] chosen by chance

**Dictionary example:**
Winners will be chosen at random.

**Learner example:**
The rooms suggested to be [filmed] have not been chosen at random.
at times
[C1] sometimes

Dictionary example:
At times, I wish I didn’t have to go to school.

Learner example:
STUDYING METHODS All teachers at the college are high[ly]-skilled professionals and can be very demanding at times, but this is [in] your best interest[s].

at best
[C2] used to show that the most positive way of considering something is still not good

Dictionary example:
At best, only 50 per cent of babies born at 24 weeks will survive.

Learner example:
Then, due to the social standards, the old find themselves being abandoned and helpless. At best, such people are hospitalized.

at the best of times
[C2] used to show that something is not good when it is the best it can be

Dictionary example:
He’s not exactly patient at the best of times.

Learner example:
They knew that even at the best of times he looked unpleasant but now he was of [a] completely different [appearance].

at a disadvantage
[C2] having problems that other people do not have

Dictionary example:
Being shy puts him at a disadvantage.

Learner example:
There would otherwise be no option for such children who would then be at a disadvantage and possibly engage in destructive behaviour.

be at odds with sb/sth
[C2] to not agree with someone or something

Dictionary example:
His remark was at odds with our report.

Learner example:
Young people are inexperienced as far as the world is concerned and thus they are frequently at odds with their family.
at the latest
[C2] If you tell someone to do something by a particular time at the latest, you mean they must do it before that time.

Dictionary example:
She said to be there by 8 o’clock at the latest.

at length
[C2] If you talk about something at length, you talk for a long time.

Dictionary example:
We discussed both topics at length.

Learner example:
Since we have already arranged for your family to come to stay in my home and discussed the arrangements at length and in detail, I will no longer bother you with terms of payment and other information that, judging by your letter, seems to be quite irrelevant.

be at liberty to do sth formal
[C2] to be allowed to do something

Dictionary example:
I’m not at liberty to discuss the matter at present.

Learner example:
On [the] one hand the child is at liberty to do whatever it pleases to do but on the other hand it was never taught the responsibilities implicitly tied to such actions.

at a loss
[C2] not knowing what to do

Dictionary example:
I’m at a loss to explain his disappearance.

Learner example:
And now I am completely at a loss what to write next.

at a loss for words
[C2] not knowing what to say

Dictionary example:
The question was unexpected and she was temporarily at a loss for words.

Learner example:
If it was James I would be at a loss for words, I didn’t know what to tell him.

be at the mercy of sb/sth
[C2] to not be able to protect yourself from something or someone that you cannot control

Dictionary example:
Farmers are often at the mercy of the weather.
Learner example:
I couldn't believe I'd been careless enough to let them be at the mercy of Joanna's careless, boisterous friends, and I felt very lonely now, looking for them.

at the earliest
[C2] used after a time or date to show that something will not happen before then

Dictionary example:
Building will not begin until July at the earliest.

at sb's expense
[C2] in order to make someone look stupid

Dictionary example:
Stop making jokes at my expense.

Learner example:
But despite his intellectual superiority, Piggy was subject to derision because of his physical outward appearance and the group of boys played jokes at his expense.

at your fingertips
[C2] If you have something at your fingertips, you can get it and use it very easily.

Dictionary example:
He had all the information needed at his fingertips.

Learner example:
An Internet connection literally means having the world at your fingertips.

at the hands of sb
[C2] If you suffer at the hands of someone, they hurt you or treat you badly.

Dictionary example:
She suffered terribly at the hands of her classmates.

Learner example:
She felt abandoned and the loss of Mark's friends at the hands of their old nemesis in the local election had left him with fewer activities for the municipality.

at heart
[C2] used to say what someone is really like

Dictionary example:
I'm just a kid at heart.

Learner example:
I also thought that she was brave at heart.

at issue
[C2] most important in what is being discussed

Dictionary example:
The point at issue is what is best for the child.
Learner example:
I wouldn't like to fall into the trap of generalizing the matter at issue, but I believe there are two ways of travelling.

**be at a premium**
[C2] If something useful is at a premium, there is not enough of it.

Dictionary example:
Time is at a premium just before the start of exams.

Learner example:
Honesty and accuracy are very good virtues to strive [for], but having friendship [and a] fair and caring relationship to your friend or partner have to be rated at a premium as well.

**at any price**
[C2] If you want something at any price, you will do anything to get it.

Dictionary example:
She wanted the job at any price.

Learner example:
They wanted to be parents at any price.

**at this rate**
[C2] used before saying what will happen if a situation continues in the same way

Dictionary example:
At this rate we're not going to be there till midnight.

**at any rate**
[C2] used before saying one fact that is certain in a situation that you are generally not certain about

Dictionary example:
Well, at any rate we need her to be there.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, at any rate, we would like to see a society with [a] full and strong workforce working towards stronger economic power.

**at your own risk**
[C2] If you do something at your own risk, you are completely responsible for anything bad that might happen because of it.

Dictionary example:
Customers may leave vehicles here at their own risk.

Learner example:
However, when a young man decides to go on a dangerous expedition, he should do so at his own risk and should not rely on help from anyone.
be at stake
[C2] If something is at stake, it is in a situation where it might be lost or damaged.

Dictionary example:
We have to act quickly – people's lives are at stake.

Learner example:
The whole human race's future is at stake.

at the tender age of 8/17/25, etc. LITERARY
[C2] at the young age of 8/17/25, etc

Dictionary example:
She first appeared on stage at the tender age of 14.

Learner example:
She met my father at the tender age of 14, and she soon knew that this was the man she wanted
to stay with for the rest of her life.

at one time or another
[C2] used to talk about an occasion in the past without saying exactly which
occasion it was

Dictionary example:
Most of us have made a similar mistake at one time or another.

Learner example:
Haven't we all at one time or another come home from a holiday feeling healthy and strong with a
smile on our face thinking, this is what life is about.

athletic /æθˈlet.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: athlete, athletics
Adjectives: athletic

ADJECTIVE
[B2] strong, healthy and good at sports

Dictionary example:
She looks very athletic.

Learner example:
Furthermore, I am not only very athletic, but also really sociable and outgoing.
atmosphere  /ˈæt.mə.sfɪə/

NOUN

the atmosphere
[B2] the mixture of gases around the Earth

Dictionary example:
These factories are releasing toxic gases into the atmosphere.

Learner example:
I'm against cars because their CO2 emissions destroy the atmosphere.

AIR INSIDE
[B2] [NO PLURAL] the air inside a room or other place

Dictionary example:
The atmosphere in the room was so stuffy I could hardly breathe.

Learner example:
The atmosphere in the halls also became hot and humid, thus making the whole experience rather unpleasant.

atom  /ˈæt.əm/

Word family:
Nouns: atom
Adjectives: atomic

NOUN [C]
[B2] the smallest unit that an element can be divided into

Dictionary example:
A molecule of carbon dioxide (CO2) has one carbon atom and two oxygen atoms.

Learner example:
Anyway, the manager of that center called me in order to inform me that I would [be doing] research on nuclear power and atoms.

atomic  /əˈtɒm.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: atom
Adjectives: atomic

ADJECTIVE
[B2] using the energy that is created when an atom is divided
Dictionary example:
atomic energy/power

Learner example:
There are lots more dangerous things in the world, like radioactive pollution or atomic bombs.

**attach** /əˈtætʃ/  

Word family:
Nouns: attachment  
Verbs: attach  
Adjectives: attached

**VERB** [ɪ]  

attach importance/value, etc. to sb/sth  
[C2] to think that someone or something has importance/value, etc.

Dictionary example:  
You attach too much importance to money.  
Learner example:  
My father knew exactly when he had to attach importance to feelings or emotions.

**INCLUDE**  
[C2] to include something as part of something else

Dictionary example:  
There were too many conditions attached to the deal.  
Learner example:  
Furthermore, the aid provided to these countries is not always innocent and might have strings attached.

**attached** /əˈtætʃt/  

Word family:
Nouns: attachment  
Verbs: attach  
Adjectives: attached

**ADJECTIVE**

CONNECTED TO  
[B2] joined or connected to another thing

Dictionary example:  
Please fill out the attached form.
**Learner example:**
As I am an athletic swimmer and a good surfer too, my choice from your attached list is naturally swimming and surfing.

**attached to sb/sth**
[C1] feeling emotionally close to someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
The children are very attached to their grandparents.

**Learner example:**
My only concern is that she is a bit shy and very attached to her family, but I really don't think it would be a problem since she travels a lot and has already spent two months abroad.

**attachment** /əˈtæʃ.mənt/

**Word family:**
Nouns: attachment
Verbs: attach
Adjectives: attached

**NOUN**

**EQUIPMENT**
[B2] [c] an extra piece of equipment that can be added to a machine

**Dictionary example:**
This food processor has a special attachment for grinding coffee.

**COMPUTING**
[B2] [c] a computer file which is sent together with an email message

**Dictionary examples:**
I'll email my report to you as an attachment.
I wasn't able to open that attachment.

**FEELING**
[C2] [c or u] a feeling of love or strong connection to someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
I wasn't aware of any romantic attachments.

**Learner example:**
Despite this impression she rejected her growing attachment to George in order to fulfil her family's expectation[s].
attack /əˈtæk/  

**VERB**

**CRITICIZE**

[C1] [ɪ] to strongly criticize someone or something

*Dictionary example:*
She attacked the government’s new education policy.

*Learner example:*
I hope he was indeed misinformed, because attacking a charity organization like this on purpose, is truly an act of a cruel man.

**DISEASE**

[C2] [ɪ] If a disease, chemical, etc. attacks someone or something, it damages them.

*Dictionary example:*
The virus attacks the central nervous system.

*Learner example:*
There is a myriad of diseases that attack the less protected.

**NOUN [C or U]**

**CRITICISM**

[C2] when you say something to strongly criticize someone or something

*Dictionary example:*
a scathing attack on the president

*Learner example:*
Young people often insist on doing everything on their own and consider advice almost an attack on their personal opinion.

attain /əˈteɪn/  

**Word family:**

*Verbs: attain*

*Adjectives: attainable, unattainable*

**VERB [ɪ]**

[C1] to achieve something, especially after a lot of work

*Dictionary example:*
She’s attained a high level of fitness.
Learner example:
Alternatively, an English speaker from a non–English–speaking country may be of help only if he/she has attained a level higher than yours.

attainable /əˈteɪ.nə.bl/
Word family:
Verbs: attain
Adjectives: attainable, unattainable

ADJECTIVE
[C2] possible to achieve

Dictionary example:
We must ensure that we do not set ourselves goals that are not attainable.

Learner example:
As electronic media sources have become more affordable and attainable, more people have access to local and international news and events.

attempt /əˈtempt/

NOUN [c]
[B2] when you try to do something

Dictionary examples:
This is my second attempt at the exam.
They closed the road in an attempt to reduce traffic in the city.
He made no attempt to be sociable.

Learner example:
I made several attempts to make him change his mind, but I failed.

attendance /əˈten.dəns/
Learner example:
Also in May, we had the swimming gala, which had a very high attendance from students as there were races for all abilities.

REGULARLY
[C1] when you go somewhere such as a church, school, etc. regularly

Dictionary example:
His attendance at school is very poor.

Learner example:
Consequently, I would make attendance more flexible for the members.

In attendance FORMAL
[C2] present at an event

Dictionary example:
They have doctors in attendance at every match.

Learner example:
Professional coach[e]s are in attendance and the members can have proper lessons.

attention  /əˈten.tʃən/

NOUN [u]

attract/get (sb's) attention
[B2] to make someone notice you

Dictionary example:
I waved at her to get her attention.

Learner example:
The bank is near the school, so the lady was trying to get people's attention while the others [robbed] the bank.

draw (sb's) attention to sth/sb
[B2] to make someone notice something or someone

Dictionary examples:
If I could just draw your attention to the second paragraph.
She's always drawing attention to herself.

Learner example:
The purpose of his report is to draw attention to videos in English.

be the centre of attention
[C2] to receive more attention than anyone or anything else
Dictionary example:
She loves to be the centre of attention.

Learner example:
To sum it up, most celebrities love being the centre of attention and sometimes even ask for it.

**attract /əˈtrækt/**

Word family:
Nouns: attraction
Verbs: attract
Adjectives: attractive, unattractive

**VERB**

be attracted to sb
[B2] to like someone, often sexually, because of the way they look or behave

Dictionary example:
I was attracted to him straight away.

Learner example:
She was really attracted to him.

**attraction /əˈtrækʃən/**

Word family:
Nouns: attraction
Verbs: attract
Adjectives: attractive, unattractive

**NOUN**

feeling
[C2] [u] when you like someone, especially sexually, because of the way they look or behave

Dictionary example:
physical attraction

Learner example:
Ever since the beginning, since the day when Olivia met the Nawab for the first time, she felt an inexplicable attraction towards him.
attractive /ˈætrək.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: attraction
Verbs: attract
Adjectives: attractive, unattractive

ADJECTIVE

INTERESTING
[B2] interesting or useful

Dictionary examples:
an attractive offer/idea
We want to make the club attractive to a wider range of people.

Learner example:
In fact, all of my work-mates make fun of me when I talk about my collection of stamps. I want to demonstrate [to] them that it is a very attractive hobby.

attribute

VERB /ˈæt.rɪb.juːt/

attribute sth to sth PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to say that something is caused by something else

Dictionary example:
He attributes his success to hard work.

Learner example:
On the other hand, it might be attributed to the laziness of the people.

NOUN [C] /ˈæt.rə.bjuːt/
[C2] a quality or characteristic that someone or something has

Dictionary example:
Her hair is her best attribute.

Learner example:
What are the attributes of a successful person, then?

aubergine /ˈəʊ.bə.ʒiːn/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] an oval, purple vegetable that is white inside
Dictionary example:
The dish is made with aubergines and cheese.

**auction** /ˈɔː.kʃən/

**NOUN** [C or U]

[C1] a sale in which things are sold to the person who offers the most money

**Dictionary example:**
The furniture was sold at auction.

**Learner example:**
And funds could be raised for the changes by [hold]ing auctions, runs, parties, raffles, contests etc.

**audience** /ˈɔː.di.əns/

**NOUN**

**TYPE**

[B2] [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] the type of people who watch a particular TV show, read a particular book, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
This magazine is aimed at a teenage/young audience.

**Learner example:**
The above-mentioned restaurants are totally different from each other and suit completely different customers. Pasta+, to begin with, is best suited [to a] younger audience.

**audition** /ɔːˈdɪ.ʃən/

**NOUN** [C]

[C1] when someone does a short performance to try to get a job as an actor, singer, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
She's got an audition for the show.

**Learner example:**
Many [un]talented pe[ople] think they can sing and attend the auditions, but others laugh at them.
authentic  /ɔːˈθen.tɪk/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] If something is authentic, it is real, true, or what people say it is.

Dictionary example:
authentic Italian food

Learner example:
I am also nostalgic for authentic Thai culture which has subtly and gradually been replaced by American and European culture.

authority  /ɔːˈθɒr.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: authority
Verbs: authorize

NOUN
POWER
[B2] [u] the power to make decisions or to control other people

Dictionary examples:
The United Nations has used its authority to restore peace in the area.
We need to get the support of someone in authority.
They have the authority to examine the company's records.
The problem is that teachers feel they no longer have authority over their pupils.

Learner example:
Their parents have lost almost all their authority.

OFFICIAL GROUP
[C1] [c] an official group or government department with power to control particular public services

Dictionary example:
the local housing authority

Learner example:
The local authority are worried about the fact that many fathers stopped financial support for their ex-wives and dependent children.

an authority on sth
[C2] someone who has a lot of knowledge about a particular subject

Dictionary example:
She is an authority on seventeenth-century English literature.
Learner example:
I read the book more than six times and I became an authority on [the] Roman Empire.

authorize /ˈɔːrəraɪz/

Word family:
Nouns: authority
Verbs: authorize

VERB [ə/ (ALSO UK authorise)
[C1] to give official permission for something

Dictionary example:
His manager had authorized the expenditure.

Learner example:
Most of [the] rooms are airconditioned and our prices are competitive and authorized by the Greek Tourist Organisation.

be authorized to do sth
[C1] to be officially allowed to do something

Dictionary example:
Only managers are authorized to sign expense forms.

Learner example:
In my capacity as the secretary of the Social Club, I am authorized to express students' dissatisfaction with the facilities of the museum and to urge you to take remedial action towards improving the situation.

automatic /ˌɔː.təˈmæt.ɪk/

Word family:
Adjectives: automatic
Adverbs: automatically

ADJECTIVE

MACHINE
[B2] An automatic machine works by itself or with little human control.

Dictionary example:
automatic doors

Learner example:
It has both manual and automatic functions so it has a lot of possibilities.
PERSON
[C2] done as a natural reaction, without thinking

Dictionary example:
My automatic response was to pull my hand away.

Learner example:
Her gesture was almost automatic.

CERTAIN
[C2] certain to happen as part of the normal process or system

Dictionary example:
You get an automatic promotion after two years.

automatically /ˌoː.təˈmæt.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Adjectives: automatic
Adverbs: automatically

ADVERB

MACHINE
[B2] If a machine does something automatically, it does it independently, without human control.

Dictionary example:
The camera adjusts the shutter speed automatically.

Learner example:
[The] television will be automatically switched on in time for [the] breakfast news.

PERSON
[B2] If you do something automatically, you do it without thinking about it.

Dictionary example:
I automatically put my hand out to catch it.

Learner example:
There was a strange envelope between the others, so automatically, she picked it up and [looked at] the stamp. The letter came from Australia.

availability /ə.ˈveɪ.ləˈbɪl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: availability
Adjectives: available, unavailable
NOUN [u]
[B2] when something or someone is available

Dictionary example:
I checked the availability of flights online and there's plenty of choice.

Learner example:
Therefore, it is essential that you take account of my availability when booking the trip.

avenue /ˈæv.ə.njuː/

NOUN [c]

ROAD
[C1] a wide road in a town or city, often with trees along it

Dictionary example: 
a tree-lined avenue

Learner example: 
The demonstrators just spread litter all over the largest and finest avenue.

POSSIBILITY
[C2] a possible way of doing or achieving something

Dictionary example: 
We have exhausted all other avenues of treatment.

average /ˈæv.ər.i.dʒ/

ADJECTIVE

USUAL
[B2] typical and usual

Dictionary examples: 
The average person in the street is a lot better off than they were forty years ago.
a student of average ability

Learner example: 
This makes people believe that a lot of the food we eat is fast-food, but it's not true at all, in fact it's a very small part of our average diet.

NOT EXCELLENT
[C1] not particularly good
**Dictionary example:**
The meal was pretty average.

**Learner example:**
I didn't get the high standard [of] service that you had offered me, and the food was pretty average.

**NOUN**

**on average**
[B2] usually, or based on an average

**Dictionary example:**
Female workers earn, on average, a third less than men.

**Learner example:**
On average, our pupils are 16 years old and they join actively in all the events we organise.

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**avoid /əˈvɔɪd/**

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** avoid
**Adjectives:** unavoidable
**Adverbs:** unavoidably

**VERB [T]**

**PREVENT**
[B2] to prevent something from happening

**Dictionary examples:**
I left the pub to avoid a fight.
Unnecessary paperwork should be avoided at all costs.
The plane narrowly avoided disaster when one of the engines failed on take-off.

**Learner example:**
I think that all these problems could have been avoided and that asking [for] my money back is the best way of forgetting that evening.

**avoid doing sth**
[B2] to intentionally not do something

**Dictionary example:**
She managed to avoid answering my question.

**Learner example:**
The writer avoided d[e]scribing personal thoughts.
**awake /əˈweɪk/**

**ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]**

**be wide awake**
[C2] to be completely awake

**Dictionary example:**
"Is Oliver awake yet?" "Yes, he's wide awake and running around his bedroom."

**Learner example:**
Sometimes, when I have put my children to bed, half an hour later an aircraft flies over and my two-year old daughter is wide awake again.

**award /əˈwɔːd/**

**VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]**
[B2] to give money or a prize following an official decision

**Dictionary examples:**
He was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics.
The university has awarded her a $500 travel grant.

**Learner example:**
As you will see, I was awarded a grade A.

**NOUN [C]**

**PRIZE**
[B2] a prize given to someone for something they have achieved

**Dictionary examples:**
the Academy Award for Best Director
Both films have received/won several awards.

**Learner example:**
He became world-famous when he won the Oscar award for best song last year.

**aware /əˈweə/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns: awareness, self-awareness**
**Adjectives: aware**
ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

[B2] knowing that something exists, or having knowledge or experience of a particular thing

Dictionary examples:
Were you aware of the risks at the time?
I wasn’t even aware that he was ill.
She was well aware that he was married.
I suddenly became aware of him looking at me.

Learner example:
First of all, we aren’t aware of the necessity of learning such things as biology or maths.

awareness /əˈweə.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: awareness, self-awareness
Adjectives: aware

NOUN [u]

[C1] when you know about something

Dictionary example:
Environmental awareness is increasing all the time.

Learner example:
Thirdly, I have a strong awareness of issues which are important to my local community.

away /əˈweɪ/

ADVERB

GRADUALLY

[B2] gradually disappearing until mostly or completely gone

Dictionary examples:
All the snow had melted away.
The music faded away as the procession moved slowly up the street.

Learner example:
I always feel so fatigued at the end of the day but after a mile, the aches of the day seem to fade away.

SPORT

[C1] If a sports team is playing away, the game is at the place where the other team usually plays.
Dictionary example:
They were playing away.

**CONTINUOUS ACTION**

[C2] used after a verb to mean 'continuously or repeatedly'

Dictionary example:
Chris was hammering away in the garden all day.

Learner example:
They chatted away for a while as Malcolm had to wait for the airport taxi.

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**aw\_e**  /ˈɑː/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** awe
**Adjectives:** awesome

**NOUN** [u]

[C2] a feeling of great respect and sometimes fear

Dictionary example:
I was filled with awe at the sheer size of the building.

Learner example:
As a child growing up, the presence of my grandmother filled me with awe.

**be in awe of sb**

[C2] to feel great respect for and sometimes fear of someone

Dictionary example:
As children we were rather in awe of our grandfather.

Learner example:
As I was the eldest of [the] siblings, they used to respect all my orders and [even] now, they are a bit in awe of me.

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**awesome**  /ˈɔːsəm/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** awe
**Adjectives:** awesome

**ADJECTIVE**

SPECIAL

[C2] great or special and causing deep feelings of admiration, respect, or sometimes fear
Dictionary examples:
an awesome achievement
The scenery was truly awesome.

Learner example:
Italy is crowded by groups sheepishly following their guide[s] in an awesome silence and respect.

awful  /ˈɔː.fəl/

ADJECTIVE

an awful lot (of sth)
[B2] informal a very large amount

Dictionary example:
It cost an awful lot of money.

Learner example:
First of all, I want to highlight that we see an awful lot of mobile phone[s] in our daily life.

awkward  /ˈɔː.kwəd/

ADJECTIVE

DIFFICULT
[B2] difficult or causing problems or embarrassment

Dictionary examples:
an awkward customer
Some of the questions were rather awkward.
My car’s quite awkward to drive.
They’d chosen an awkward time to call as I’d just got into the bath.
She’s put me in quite an awkward position/situation.
There was an awkward silence.

Learner example:
Not a movement, not a voice, just an awkward silence.

NOT ATTRACTIVE
[C2] not relaxed or confident

Dictionary example:
His movements were slow and awkward.

Learner example:
Piggy’s "value" is not apparent to the boys because it is concealed by the sight of his awkward self: he is plump, he wears thick spectacles, he is not gifted with good health.
back  /bæk/

Word family:
Nouns: backing
Verbs: back

ADVERB

STATE
[B2] to the state something or someone was in before

Dictionary examples:
It's not badly broken – I'm sure we can put it back together again.
Hopefully things will get back to normal soon.
I was woken by a thunderstorm, and I couldn't get back to sleep.

Learner example:
My life was back to normal.

EARLIER
[B2] at or to an earlier time

Dictionary examples:
We first met back in 1971.
This tradition dates back to the 16th century.

Learner example:
All in all, it is difficult to get bored in Moscow, where you can see buildings which date back to centuries ago.

AWAY FROM
[B2] in a direction away from something

Dictionary examples:
He pulled back the curtain.
The house is set back from the road.

Learner example:
The action of the book takes place in a lonely inn standing back from the road.

back and forth
[C2] in one direction, then the opposite way, then in the original direction again many times
Dictionary example:
He has to travel back and forth between London and Paris every week.

Learner example:
Finally, after much walking back and forth, we found a road which we followed till we got to the town.

NOUN [c]

back to front
[C2] with the back part of something where the front should be

Dictionary example:
You've got your trousers on back to front.

Learner example:
Therefore, the government needs to cut expenditure and as a result of this, health faciliti[es] will only be accessible for rich people. Then we are back to front.

behind sb's back
[C2] If you do something behind someone's back, you do it without them knowing, often in an unfair way.

Dictionary example:
Have they been saying things about me behind my back?

Learner example:
The food must be perfect, too, or else her mother-in-law and my father's sisters will think that she's not a proper wife, and will probably say insulting things about her behind her back.

turn your back on sb/sth
[C2] to decide to stop having contact with someone or something, or to refuse to help someone

Dictionary example:
She turned her back on Hollywood and went to live in Florida.

Learner example:
She gets to learn that Olivia turned her back on her past and merged totally with India through her attraction to and sympathy for the Nawab.

be (like) water off a duck's back
[C2] If criticisms, insults, etc. are like water off a duck's back to you, they do not affect you at all.

Dictionary example:
She calls him lazy and useless, but it's like water off a duck's back.

Learner example:
The main lesson I have learned is by looking at some people who have lived alone for most of their life and faced with neither contradiction nor argument, they stay in their ivory tower, so sure of their opinions that whatever you say is like water off a duck's back.
ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

back road/street
[C1] a very small road or street that goes behind or between buildings

Dictionary example:
We wandered through the back streets, looking for Tommy.

Learner example:
From the museum you have to walk across a pedestrian street, through an unspoiled district, where a jumble of narrow back streets retain old-world characters.

VERB

back (sth) away/into/out, etc.
[C2] to move backwards or drive backwards

Dictionary examples:
She saw he had a gun and backed away.
He backed into a wall when he was trying to park.

Learner example:
When he backed out of the [car park] he almost crashed into another car.

SUPPORT
[C2] [ɪ] to give support or help to a person, plan, or idea

Dictionary examples:
He backed Mr Clark in the recent election.
Parents backed the idea by more than two to one.

Learner example:
Of course, without [the] people wh[o] are backing the leader in his fight, he could not achieve his success.

background /ˈbæk.graʊnd/

NOUN

SOUND

[B2] [NO PLURAL] sounds that you can hear that are not the main sounds that you are listening to

Dictionary examples:
background music/noise
If you listen carefully to this piece of music, you can hear a flute in the background.
**Learner example:**
The exotic food together with oriental music in the background makes you dream of exotic places.

**PICTURE**
[B2] [c or u] the things that can be seen behind the main things or people in a picture

**Dictionary examples:**
gold stars on a black background
The artist himself did not paint the backgrounds to his pictures – they were done by his pupils.
He has photographed her against lots of different backgrounds.

**Learner example:**
I think it would make the background of the picture colourful and interesting.

**SITUATION**
[B2] [U NO PLURAL] the situation that an event happens in, or things which have happened in the past which affect it

**Dictionary examples:**
These decisions have had to be taken against a background of high unemployment.
Can you give me some background on the situation?

**Learner example:**
The background of the story is life in a small town in one of the southern states of the USA in the early 1930s.

**in the background**
[C2] If a person stays in the background, they try not to be noticed.

**Dictionary example:**
His father hovered in the background.

**Learner example:**
But Piggy plays this role in the background because he knows that he won't be accepted.

**backing** /ˈbæk.ɪŋ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** backing
**Verbs:** back

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] support, especially money, for a person or plan

**Dictionary examples:**
financial backing
The proposal has the full backing of the government.
Learner example:
Take some examples throughout history, such as Napoleon, who was very intelligent, and Hitler who, despite being dangerous and evil, had the backing of his country when he spoke to the people.

backup (also back-up) /ˈbæk.ʌp/

NOUN

EXTRA HELP
[B2] [c or u] extra help, support or equipment which is available if you need it

Dictionary example:
Medical staff are on call to provide backup in case of an emergency.

Learner example:
I'm sure that most business people have battery back-up and a very good knowledge of when the laptop battery needs to recharge.

COPY
[B2] [c] a copy of information that is held on a computer, which is stored separately from the computer

Dictionary examples:
Before we leave work each day, we make a backup of all the records we have entered into the computer that day.
The department's backup disks are all stored in a different building.

Learner example:
Seems he had made a copy in a special file in a back-up memory.

backward /ˈbæk.wəd/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] less developed or slower to develop than normal

Dictionary example:
a backward country

Learner example:
No longer a remote, backward, unimportant country, it became a force to be reckoned with in Europe.
bacteria /bækˈtra.ri.ə/

**NOUN [PLURAL]**

[C1] very small living things that sometimes cause disease

**Dictionary example:**
The infection was caused by bacteria in the lung.

**Learner example:**
We were just lucky that during that period, the weather was cold and low temperatures prevented bacteria from spreading.

bad /bæd/

**Word family:**
*Adjectives:* bad
*Adverbs:* badly

**ADJECTIVE** *(worse, worst)*

**NOT FRESH**
[B2] Bad food is not fresh and cannot be eaten.

**Dictionary example:**
I think this milk is bad.

**Learner example:**
My surprise was when I opened the fridge and all the food smelt bad, so I couldn't eat [anything].

**PAINFUL**
[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] If you have a bad arm, leg, heart, etc., there is something wrong with it and it is painful.

**Dictionary example:**
I've got a bad shoulder.

**Learner example:**
I'm lugging [my laptop] with me everywhere, with a bad back as a result.

too bad
[C1] used to say that nothing can be done to change a situation

**Dictionary example:**
I know you don't want to go but it's too bad, we have to.

**Learner example:**
Human beings have to make their own liv[es] as good as possible, and if they [do] not succeed, the cynical approach is just: too bad!
badge /ˈbædʒ/  

NOUN [c]  
[B2] a piece of metal, plastic, etc., with words or a picture on it which you wear on your clothes  

Dictionary example:  
Everyone at the conference wore a badge with their name on.  

Learner example:  
Then I saw the badge he was wearing.

badly /ˈbæd.lɪ/  

Word family:  
Adjectives: bad  
Adverbs: badly  

ADVERB (worse, worst)  

UNPLEASANT  
[B2] in an unpleasant way  

Dictionary example:  
I thought he was treated very badly.  

Learner example:  
In the past, zoos treated animals quite badly.

bad-tempered /ˌbædˈtemp.əd/  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] describes a person who becomes angry and annoyed easily  

Dictionary example:  
She's very bad-tempered in the mornings!  

Learner example:  
It would be possible too that you lost your temper and became a bad-tempered man.
### baggage

**NOUN [u]**

**FEELINGS**

[C2] feelings and experiences from the past that influence how you think and behave now

**Dictionary example:**
emotional baggage

**Learner example:**
Moreover they need to spend it to the best of their abilities trying to bring up a happy person whose behaviour will be in harmony with his thoughts and feelings and who will be unencumbered with emotional baggage resulting from lack of love.

### bakery

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** baker, bakery

**Verbs:** bake

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a place where bread, cakes, etc. are made or sold

**Dictionary example:**
I buy all our bread in the local bakery.

**Learner example:**
The best bakery was [on] the other side of town.

### balance

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** balance

**Verbs:** balance

**Adjectives:** balanced, unbalanced

**NOUN**

**WEIGHT**

[B2] [u] when the weight of someone or something is spread in such a way that they do not fall over
Dictionary examples:
I **lost** my balance and fell off the bike.
She had to hold onto the railings to **keep** her balance.

**Learner example:**
I began to go downstairs to the kitchen, [with] two hands on the wall to keep my balance.

**EQUAL IMPORTANCE**

**[B2] [U NO PLURAL]** when the correct amount of importance is given to each thing so that a situation is successful

**Dictionary examples:**
We must try to get a balance between police powers and the protection of citizens.
He was concerned that taking on three more men could **upset the** gender balance in the department.

**Learner example:**
It is not easy to find [the] right balance in our lives.

**MONEY**

**[B2] [C]** the amount of money that you still have to pay, or that you have left to use

**Dictionary example:**
I always pay off the balance on my credit card.

**Learner example:**
Sometimes you [are] surprise[d] when you check the balance of your bank account and then need to cut down your expenses for 2 months.

**on balance**

**[B2] used to give your opinion after you have considered all the facts about something**

**Dictionary example:**
On balance, I'd prefer to come straight home.

**Learner example:**
On balance, no matter how important or useful computers may be, they will never replace the pleasure of re-reading familiar pages of your favourite books.

**strike a balance**

**[C1] to give two things the same amount of attention**

**Dictionary example:**
It's important to strike a balance **between** spending and saving.

**Learner example:**
Everything has good and bad sides, the most important thing is to strike a balance.
be/hang in the balance
[C2] If something is or hangs in the balance, nobody knows if it will continue to exist in the future or what will happen to it.

Dictionary example:
After a bad year, Judd's career hung in the balance.

Learner example:
And because of him it was really very much in the balance if she would accept this job or not.

VERB

NOT FALLING
[B2] [I or T] to be in a position where you will not fall to either side, or to put something in this position

Dictionary examples:
She was trying to balance a book on her head.
The flamingoes balanced gracefully on one leg.

Learner example:
If you have to take many things with you, it will be better to carry them in your car, [rather] than balancing them on your bicycle.

EQUAL IMPORTANCE
[B2] [I] to give several things equal amounts of importance, time or money so that a situation is successful

Dictionary example:
I struggle to balance work and family commitments.

Learner example:
In life we need to balance all the areas included in human behavior.

balanced  /ˈbæl.əntst/  

Word family:
Nouns: balance
Verbs: balance
Adjectives: balanced, unbalanced

ADJECTIVE

a balanced diet/meal
[B2] a healthy mixture of different types of food

Dictionary example:
If you have a balanced diet, you are getting all the vitamins you need.
Learner example:
It is very important to have a balanced diet.

FAIR
[B2] considering all the facts in a fair way

Dictionary example:
The news programme prided itself on its balanced reporting.

Learner example:
Your report contained several mistakes and it did not [give a] balanced view.

dictionary entry:

**balcony** /ˈbæl.kə.ni/

NOUN [C]

THEATRE
[C2] the seats in an upper area of a theatre

Dictionary example:
We had seats in the balcony.

Learner example:
The balcony seats reserved for students and young tourists felt like [they were] located on [a steep] cliff, looking down [on] all the heads in the better seats rather than [at] the stage.

**ball** /bɔːl/

NOUN [C]

be on the ball INFORMAL
[C1] to be quick to understand and react to things

Dictionary example:
She's over ninety, but she's still on the ball.

Learner example:
When you're at Sants station, you'll need to be on the ball to find the tube.

set/start the ball rolling
[C2] to begin an activity that involves a group of people

Dictionary example:
I've started the ball rolling by setting up a series of meetings.
### ban /bæn/

**VERB [T USUALLY PASSIVE] (−nn−)**

[B2] to forbid something, especially officially

**Dictionary examples:**
The film was banned in several countries.
She was banned from driving for two years.

**Learner example:**
Personally, I think that driving private cars in the main parts of cities should be banned.

#### NOUN [C]

[B2] an official order that prevents something from happening

**Dictionary example:**
There should be a ban on talking loudly in cinemas.

### band /bænd/

**NOUN**

**CIRCLE**

[C2] [c] a piece of material put around something

**Dictionary example:**
an elastic band

**Learner example:**
The instructor took them up to the bridge and neatly tied them up to the enormous elastic band.

### bandwagon /ˈbændˌwæg.ən/

**NOUN**

**get/jump on the bandwagon**

[C2] to become involved in an activity which is successful so that you can get the advantages of it yourself

**Dictionary example:**
Publishers are rushing to get on the digital downloads bandwagon.

**Learner example:**
Jane and Tiffany decided to jump on the bandwagon and started to take off their clothes.
**bang**  /ˈbæŋ/  

**VERB**  
[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] to make a sudden loud noise or to cause something to do this  

**Dictionary examples:**  
She banged her fist angrily on the table.  
Outside a door was banging in the wind.  
He could hear someone banging **at** the door.  

**Learner example:**  
One Friday afternoon I was putting away clothes and shoes in the little room which is under the stairs, when my little son, Tom (who was just eighteen months old) banged the door **shut** behind me.  

**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] a sudden loud noise  

**Dictionary example:**  
The window slammed shut **with a** loud bang.  

**Learner example:**  
I was reading when I suddenly h[e]ard a big bang.  

**bank**  /ˈbæŋk/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** bank, banker, banking  

**NOUN [C]**  

**RIVER**  
[B2] sloping raised land, especially along the sides of a river  

**Dictionary examples:**  
By the time we reached the opposite bank, the boat was sinking fast.  
These flowers generally grow on **river** banks and near streams.  

**Learner example:**  
One bank of the river is stony, the other is sandy.  

**banker**  /ˈbæŋ.kə/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** bank, banker, banking
NOUN [c]
[B2] someone with an important position in a bank

Dictionary example:
She was a successful banker by the time she was forty.

banking  /ˈbæŋ.kɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: bank, banker, banking

NOUN [u]
[B2] the business of operating a bank

Dictionary example:
international banking

Learner example:
I want to specialize in finance and banking.

bankrupt  /ˈbæŋk.rʌpt/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] unable to continue in business because you cannot pay your debts

Dictionary example:
He went bankrupt after only a year in business.

Learner example:
But the greed for easy money is likely to diminish as many businesses have gone bankrupt these last few months.

bar  /baːr/  

NOUN [c]
LONG PIECE
[B2] a straight stick made of metal

Dictionary example:
The gorilla rattled the bars of its cage.

Learner example:
When they looked into the lake, they saw a long bar of gold.

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**behind bars**
[B2] in prison

**Dictionary example:**
He will spend the rest of his life behind bars.

**Learner example:**
In the darkness, Lew Kuan Yee had sworn revenge against Michael, the detective who had sent him behind bars.

**PREVENTING SUCCESS**
[C2] something that prevents you doing something or having something

**Dictionary example:**
Lack of money should not be a bar to a good education.

**Learner example:**
Nevertheless, fashion could be felt as a bar to our own liberty since the magazines impose their views on the customers.

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**bare** /beər/

**ADJECTIVE**

**NO CLOTHES**
[B2] not covered by clothes

**Dictionary examples:**
a bare chest
bare arms/feet/legs

**Learner example:**
Most people had more essential needs to satisfy than their looks, but there were also women who painted tight-patterns on their bare legs to create a bit of post-war glamour.

**NOT COVERED**
[B2] not covered by anything

**Dictionary example:**
There's no carpet in the room, just bare floorboards.

**Learner example:**
Mary must move to an unattractive site on the bare and wild moorland, called Jamaica Inn.

**BASIC**
[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] including only the smallest amount that you need of something
Dictionary examples:
The report just gave us the barest facts about the accident.
Tony's salary only covers the bare essentials for the family.
Staffing levels will be kept to a bare minimum this year.

Learner example:
Having passed the "prime" of their lives, many of them would be satisfied with the bare minimum as far as material things are concerned.

**empty**

[C2] empty

Dictionary examples:
a bare room
The cupboard was bare.

Learner example:
Olivia decorates her "nest" with pictures, plugs and pale yellow sofas, according to the fashion in Europe, whereas the grand[d]aughter is fully satisfied with a bare room.

with your bare hands

[C2] without using any type of tool or weapon when doing something that requires a lot of strength

Dictionary example:
He wrestled the lion to the ground with his bare hands.

Learner example:
You could tell your grand–children about the good old days when you hunted for mammoths and skinned them with your bare hands, just a few million years back (sigh: "seems like yesterday").

**barely** /ˈbeə.li/

**ADVERB**

[B2] only just

Dictionary examples:
They have barely enough to pay the rent this month.
She was barely fifteen when she won her first championship.

Learner example:
His father replied in a voice barely above a whisper.
bargain /ˈbɑː.gɪn/

NOUN [C]

CHEAP
[B2] something that is on sale for less than its usual price or its real value

Dictionary examples:
This coat was half-price – a real bargain.
The airline regularly offers last-minute bookings at bargain prices.

Learner example:
And it was a real bargain.

into the bargain
[C2] as well as everything else

Dictionary example:
Caffeine has no good effects on health and is mildly addictive into the bargain.

Learner example:
The Open Air Museum is unique, with vast numbers of old houses; you can roam there for days and receive history lessons into the bargain.

bark /bɑːk/

VERB

DOG
[B2] If a dog barks, it makes loud, short sounds.

Dictionary example:
They heard a dog barking outside.

Learner example:
He barks whenever there is a stranger in our house.

SHOUT
[C2] to say something loudly and quickly

Dictionary example:
I’m sorry, I had no right to bark at you like that.

Learner example:
She knew at once that Daniel, the boss, had returned. [...] As the day wore on and from her office she heard Daniel barking at everyone and anyone, she became more and more annoyed.
NOUN [u]

TREE
[C2] the hard, outside part of a tree

Dictionary example:
The bark of the birch tree is white.

Learner example:
By hitting the bark of trees or hollow pieces of wood rhythmically, prehistoric humans tended to communicate or entertain themselves.

barn /bɑːn/

NOUN [c]
[C2] a large building on a farm where crops or animals can be kept

Dictionary example:
The machinery was kept in an old barn.

Learner example:
When she came to she was in a sort of barn, [and] to her horror she realised that her feet were encased in a lump of cement and her hands were firmly tied behind her back.

barrier /ˈbær.i.ər/
Learner example:
I think I could be good at this job because I could plan safety programmes in case of an emergency and the language barrier would not be a problem if a spectator or a sportsman asked me for information.

---

**base /beɪs/**

Word family:

**Nouns:** base, basics, basis

**Adjectives:** basic

**Adverbs:** basically

**NOUN [C]**

**BOTTOM**

[B2] the bottom part of something, or the part something rests on

Dictionary examples:
- a crystal glass with a heavy base
- At the base of the cliff was a rocky beach.

**MILITARY**

[B2] a place where people in the armed forces live

Dictionary examples:
- an American Air Force base
- an old army/naval/military base

Learner example:
During the day you can visit all of our museums or schools or even the air force base, which is open from 9 o’clock.

**MAIN PLACE**

[C2] the main place where a person lives and works, or from where they do things

Dictionary examples:
- I spend a lot of time in Dallas, but Chicago is still my base.
- Nice is an excellent base for exploring the French Riviera.

Learner example:
It also has a function as a base for the fishing industry. Being located on the coast, our town’s key industry is fishing.

**MAIN PART**

[C2] the most important part of something, from which other things can develop

Dictionary example:
- a solid economic base
Learner example:
Other organisations have assured us regular funds so that our project stands on a firm financial base.

**VERB**

*be based at/in/etc.*

[B2] to have a particular town or area, etc. as the main place where you live and work, or where you do business from

**Dictionary example:**
He was based in Birmingham during the war.

**Learner example:**
The shop is based in London.

---

**basement** /ˈbeɪs.mənt/

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a room or set of rooms that is below ground level in a building

**Dictionary example:**
a basement flat

**Learner example:**
There is also a swimming pool in the basement.

---

**basically** /ˈber.sɪk.li/

**Word family:**

*Nouns:* base, basics, basis

*Adjectives:* basic

*Adverbs:* basically

**ADVERB**

**SIMPLY**

[B2] used to introduce a short explanation about something

**Dictionary example:**
Basically, what he's saying is that we need more time.

**Learner example:**
Basically, we spend half our leisure time being stuck to a screen and leading a so-called couch potato lifestyle.
mostly
[C1] in the most important ways

Dictionary examples:
The two machines are basically the same, but you get a few extra features in the more expensive one. The car's basically sound, but the paintwork needs a bit of attention.

Learner example:
Although they will offer some hot meals at any time, most of the food provided is basically fast food and snacks.

basics /ˈbeɪ.sɪks/

Word family:
Nouns: base, basics, basis
Adjectives: basic
Adverbs: basically

NOUN [PLURAL]

the basics
[B2] the most important facts, skills, or needs

Dictionary example:
I really must learn the basics of first aid.

Learner example:
Last year, I chose to take groups on sailing and diving trips because I already knew the basics of sailing and diving.

basis /ˈbeɪ.sɪs/ (PLURAL bases)

Word family:
Nouns: base, basics, basis
Adjectives: basic
Adverbs: basically

NOUN [C]

on a daily/monthly/regular, etc. basis
[B2] how often something happens or is done

Dictionary example:
Meetings are held on a weekly basis.
Learner example:
In order for the transport facilities such as bus stops or underground stations to improve, policemen should be assigned to guard them and cleaners should be assigned to clean them on a daily basis.

METHOD
[B2] a way or method of doing something

Dictionary examples:
Most of our staff work for us on a voluntary basis.
I'm hoping she'll join us on a permanent basis.

Learner example:
On the other hand, the job advert is not very precise about the salary you can earn on a full-time basis.

REASON
[C1] the reason for something

Dictionary example:
There is no scientific basis for these claims.

Learner example:
I cannot imagine on what basis you estimated the figure.

on the basis of sth
[C1] having something as a reason

Dictionary example:
Marks are awarded on the basis of progress and performance.

Learner example:
On the basis of the points mentioned above, it is a foregone conclusion that young people do not face any severe problems.

DEVELOPMENT
[C1] a situation, fact, or idea from which something can develop

Dictionary example:
Dani's essay can serve as a basis for our discussion.

Learner example:
As a basis for my proposals, I'll use the programme you sent to me.

battery /ˈbæt.ər.i/

NOUN [C]

recharge your batteries
[C2] to have a period of rest and relaxation so that you feel energetic again
Dictionary example:
She took a trip to the south of France to recharge her batteries.

Learner example:
It is [a] very effective way in which we could rejuvenate ourselves and recharge our batteries in order to face the difficulties [o]f the daily routine.

**battle** /ˈbæt.l/  

**NOUN**

**PROBLEMS/ILLNESS**

[B2] [c] a fight against something that is very difficult, or that is hurting or destroying you

**Dictionary example:**
a long battle against cancer

**Learner example:**
His life was a hard battle, trying to break through.

**ARGUMENT**

[C2] [c] when two people or groups compete against each other or have an argument about something

**Dictionary example:**
a battle for control in the boardroom

**Learner example:**
A very important point is that there must always be a discussion between children and parents, which allows everyone to understand the different points of view and avoids a constant battle between the family members.

**VERB** [i or T]

[C2] to try very hard to do something difficult or to fight against someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
Throughout the campaign, Johnson was battling against health problems. They spent all of last year battling with housing officials.

**Learner example:**
Many countries are battling with environmental problems and certain tourists feel that it is perfectly acceptable to leave their litter behind them on beaches and other public places, after all in two or three weeks they can leave it all behind them.
**bay /beɪ/**

**NOUN [c]**

_**keep/hold sth at bay**_

[C2] to prevent something unpleasant from coming near you or from happening

**Dictionary example:**
Gunmen kept police at bay for almost four hours.

**Learner example:**
The Leary brothers are unable to cope with real life, which reinforces their innate ability to keep the world at bay and themselves untouched by life and love.

**beak /biːk/**

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] the hard part of a bird's mouth

**Dictionary example:**
It carried a huge stick in its beak.

**Learner example:**
It is an elegant bird, about 2 ft tall, with grey feathers, a black tail and a yellow beak.

**beam /biːm/**

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a line of light shining from something

**Dictionary example:**
a laser beam

**Learner example:**
I was beginning to feel rather impatient when a door opened letting a beam of light come into the dark room.

**bear /beə/**

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** bear
**Adjectives:** unbearable
VERB (bore, borne)

ACCEPT
[B2] [T] to accept someone or something unpleasant

Dictionary examples:
I like her but I can't bear her friends.
I can't bear being bored.
He couldn't bear to see the dog in pain.
How can you bear to talk to him?

Learner example:
And I'd like to stay in a log cabin because I can't bear sleeping in a tent.

bear (sb/sth) in mind
[B2] to remember to consider someone or something that may be useful in the future

Dictionary example:
Thank you for your advice, I'll bear it in mind.

Learner example:
It would be a great opportunity, bearing in mind that we are majoring in fashion journalism.

NAME
[C1] to have or show a particular name, picture, or symbol

Dictionary example:
The shop bore his family name.

Learner example:
He founded at least 17 cities bearing his name, as centres of art and culture.

bear left/right
[C1] to turn left or right

Dictionary example:
Bear right at the next set of traffic lights.

Learner example:
The taxi has to bear left at the fork and then you can see my house, 200 yards on the right side, it's a white house with the number 53.

bear a/no resemblance/relation, etc. to sb/sth
[C2] to be similar to someone or something

Dictionary example:
He bears a striking resemblance to his father.
Learner example:
The concert bore no resemblance to any other I have been to, firstly due to the location, and secondly thanks to the spontaneity, yet impressive precision of the performance – the two factors which created the unique atmosphere of the event.

**bear a grudge**

[C2] to continue to have a bad feeling towards someone

Dictionary example:
They were rude to her in the past, but she's not the kind of woman who bears grudges.

Learner example:
They take everything for granted and [this] leaves them completely unprepared for the harsh reality of life – not to mention that they are likely to bear a grudge.

**HAVE CHILD**

[C2] formal to give birth to a child

Dictionary example:
She has been told that she will never bear children.

Learner example:
Women can still bear children at the age of 30. In the past this was not possible because either the mother or the baby would have died.

**bear fruit**

[C2] If something that someone does bears fruit, it produces successful results.

Dictionary example:
Our decision is just beginning to bear fruit.

Learner example:
Although a new hotel and conference centre would greatly improve the image of our town, I consider it a costly investment that might not bear fruit.

**grin and bear it**

[C2] to accept an unpleasant or difficult situation because there is nothing you can do to improve it

Dictionary example:
I hate my job, but I'm just going to have to grin and bear it for a while.

Learner example:
As I couldn't simply get up and go away, I just had to grin and bear it for a little while longer.
beat /biːt/

**VERB** (beat, beaten)

**HIT**

[B2] [ɪ] to hit a person or animal repeatedly

**Dictionary examples:**
They saw him beating his dog with a stick.
She was beaten to death.

**Learner example:**
He began to drink, and when he was drunk, he beat Kelly.

**BETTER THAN**

[C1] [ɪ] to be better than something

**Dictionary example:**
Being at the youth club beats sitting at home.

**Learner example:**
The sight of a child cured from an immobilizing disease running around laughing and dancing is pure happiness, nothing beats it.

**FOOD**

[C1] [ɪ] to mix food using hard, quick movements

**Dictionary example:**
Beat the egg whites until they are stiff.

**beat about/around the bush**

[C1] to avoid talking about something difficult or embarrassing

**Dictionary example:**
I decided to stop beating around the bush and told him exactly what I thought of him.

**Learner example:**
Well, let's stop beating about the bush and get to the point.

**SOUND**

[C2] [ɪ] or [r] to hit against something hard, making a continuous or regular sound

**Dictionary examples:**
soldiers beating drums
We could hear the pigeons beating their wings.
Rain beat against the windows.

**Learner example:**
The sound of the pelting rain beating against the slat[es] made the minutes last longer than ever and my cosy sofa looked so cold and small.
you can't beat *sth*
[C2] used to emphasize that something is best

**Dictionary example:**
You can't beat Pedro's for a great pizza.

**Learner example:**
You can't beat their "French cuisine" she usually said, when asked why didn't she change [the] place.

**NOUN [C]**

**REGULAR SOUND**
[B2] a regular movement or sound, especially that made by your heart

**Dictionary examples:**
I put my head on his chest but I could feel no heart beat.
My heart missed a beat when she said, "Yes, I'll marry you".

**Learner example:**
She started to exhale after a moment, counting the beats of her heart.

**MUSIC**
[B2] the main rhythm of a piece of music

**Dictionary examples:**
The guitar comes in on the third beat.
He tapped his foot to the beat of the music.

**Learner example:**
They play rock with a very good beat.

**beauty** /ˈbjuː.ti/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** beauty
**Adjectives:** beautiful
**Adverbs:** beautifully

**NOUN [U]**

**the beauty of *sth***
[C2] the quality that makes something especially good or attractive

**Dictionary example:**
The beauty of the plan is that it won't cost anything.
become  /biˈkʌm/

VERB (became, become)

what/whatever became of sb/sth
[C2] something you say when you want to know what has happened to someone

Dictionary example:
Whatever became of your friend Harry?

Learner example:
You might ask yourself: who is this girl in the room and what became of that friend of hers?

bed  /bed/

NOUN

BOTTOM
[C2] [c] the ground at the bottom of the sea, a river, etc.

Dictionary example:
the sea bed

Learner example:
They landed upside down on a river bed and almost everyone was killed during the fall.

GROUND
[C2] [c] a piece of ground that is used for growing plants, especially flowers

Dictionary example:
a flower bed

Learner example:
Having lived in a small town in a cosy detached house with [a] flower bed in front and [an] enormous garden at the back, I was [as] happy as [I'd] ever [been].

before  /biˈfɔːr/

PREPOSITION

IMPORTANCE
[C2] treated as more important than someone or something

Dictionary example:
They always put the children's needs before their own.
Learner example:
She puts people with their needs before her own comfort, that is why she is successful.

CONJUNCTION

before you know it
[C1] very soon

Dictionary example:
We'll be there before you know it.

Learner example:
It is a bit dark inside and especially in winter, it is dark before you know it.

ADVERB

long before
[C2] a long period of time before something

Dictionary example:
I was a vegetarian long before I met Sally.

Learner example:
The cups belonged to my family long before I was born and the fact they are [a] part of my family tradition makes them valuable in my eyes.

beg /beg/ (−gg−)

VERB [I or T]

STRONG REQUEST
[B2] to make a very strong and urgent request

Dictionary examples:
They begged for mercy.
"Please, please forgive me!" she begged (him).
He begged her to stay.

Learner example:
But before she left I begged her not to tell anybody.

VERY POOR
[B2] to ask someone for food or money, because you do not have any

Dictionary examples:
There are more and more homeless people begging on the streets these days.
She had to beg for money and food for her children.

Learner example:
He had [a] shabby coat, old shoes and he was begging for money.
begin /ˈbɪɡɪn/

Word family:
Nouns: beginner, beginning
Verbs: begin

VERB (beginning, began, begun)

to begin with
[B2] used to give the first important reason for something

Dictionary example:
To begin with, we can't afford to move.

Learner example:
To begin with, it doesn’t pollute and I think it's time we started thinking about [the] environment.

behalf /ˈbɪˈhɑːf/

NOUN

on behalf of sb or on sb’s behalf
[B2] If you do something on behalf of someone, you do it for them or instead of them.

Dictionary examples:
On behalf of the entire company, I would like to thank you for all your work.
Unfortunately, George cannot be with us today so I am pleased to accept this award on his behalf.

Learner example:
I am writing on behalf of our college English club members to welcome you [to] our city.

behind /bəˈhæɪnd/

PREPOSITION

behind bars
[B2] in prison

Dictionary example:
He will spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Learner example:
In the darkness, Lew Kuan Yee had sworn revenge against Michael, the detective who had sent him behind bars.
CAUSING
[C1] causing something, or responsible for something

Dictionary example:
What was the reason behind her decision to leave?

Learner example:
Another reason behind this kind of thinking is that some boys feel awkward when they see girls and they think they are being ignored in the class.

NOT AFFECTING
[C2] If a bad experience or your own bad behaviour is behind you, it does not exist or affect your life now.

Dictionary example:
He's put his criminal past behind him.

Learner example:
We have got to put the past behind us.

behind sb's back
[C2] If you do something behind someone's back, you do it without them knowing, often in an unfair way.

Dictionary example:
Have they been saying things about me behind my back?

Learner example:
The food must be perfect, too, or else her mother-in-law and my father's sisters will think that she's not a proper wife, and will probably say insulting things about her behind her back.

behind closed doors
[C2] privately and not in public

Dictionary example:
Most of the deals were done behind closed doors.

Learner example:
Decisions which affect the whole world are made behind closed doors and are top secret.

behind the scenes
[C2] If something happens behind the scenes, it happens secretly.

Dictionary example:
A lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes.

Learner example:
Ms. Bolam knew a lot of things going on behind the scenes, [which were] not [known to] the patients.
ADVERB

SLOWER
[C1] slower or later than someone else, or than you should be

Dictionary example:
She's behind with the rent.

Learner example:
Those children who do not get this at home are the ones who are behind in their schoolwork.

behind the times
[C1] not fashionable or modern

Dictionary example:
Dad's a bit behind the times.

Learner example:
We [should] improve our equipment. Otherwise we will be behind the times.

being /ˈbiː.ɪŋ/

NOUN

come into being
[C2] to start to exist

Dictionary example:
The new law comes into being next month.

Learner example:
Only with knowledge of the written word were villages able to organise themselves in larger forms of government, leading from local to regional to national levels, [and] finally leading to transnational structures as they came into being mostly during the last 100 years.

belief /brˈliːf/

Word family:
Nouns: belief
Verbs: believe
Adjectives: unbelievable

NOUN

TRUE
[B2] [U NO PLURAL] when you believe that something is true or real
Dictionary examples:
a **common/popular/widely-held** belief
He called at her house in the belief **that** she would lend him the money.
It is my **firm/strong** belief that the public have a right to know.
She took this medicine in the **mistaken** belief that it would cure her.

**Learner example:**
At this time, tango was considered an immoral type of music; but Carlos Gardel changed this belief, [and] people from all over the world loved him.

**IDEA**

[B2] [c or u] an idea that you are certain is true

**Dictionary example:**
All non-violent **religious** and **political** beliefs should be respected equally.

**Learner example:**
We get to know the beliefs, superstitions or the principles of other religious denominations.

**EFFECTIVE**

[C2] [u NO PLURAL] the feeling that someone or something is effective or right

**Dictionary example:**
a belief in social justice

**Learner example:**
I'll try to give my children a feeling of security within themselves and a belief in themselves, so that they will be able to stand up [to] danger in society.

**beyond belief**

[C2] too bad, good, difficult, etc. to be real

**Dictionary example:**
The evil of this man is beyond belief.

**Learner example:**
I completely agree with the idea that homelessness in the third world is increasing to rates beyond belief.

believe  /brɪˈliːv/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** belief

**Verbs:** believe

**Adjectives:** unbelievable

**VERB [T]**

**believe in** sth/doing sth **PHRASAL VERB**

[B2] to be confident that something is effective and right
Dictionary example:
He believes in saying what he thinks.

Learner example:
Nowadays I don’t believe in changing your decision.

**bell** /bel/

NOUN [C]

**METAL OBJECT**

[B2] a hollow, metal object, shaped like a cup, that makes a ringing sound when you hit it

Dictionary example:
the sound of church bells ringing

Learner example:
At the beginning I was very excited, living in an old house, not too far from the city (you could still hear the church bells chiming) but far enough away to live your own life without nosy neighbours.

**ring a bell**

[C2] If a word, especially a name, rings a bell, you think you have heard it before.

Dictionary example:
Shane Watson? That name rings a bell.

Learner example:
Its name is Laser – I suppose it rings a bell?

**belong** /bɪˈlɒŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: belongings
Verbs: belong

VERB [I]

**RIGHT PLACE**

[B2] If something belongs somewhere, that is the place it should be in.

Dictionary examples:
This table belongs in the sitting room.
These papers belong with the others.

Learner example:
I can understand people who say that animals belong in nature.
HAPPY SOMEWHERE

[B2] to feel happy or comfortable in a situation

Dictionary example:
I spent two years in Oxford but I never felt that I belonged there.

**belongings** /ˈbɪˈlɑŋ.ɪŋz/

Word family:
Nouns: belongings
Verbs: belong

**NOUN [PLURAL]**
[B2] the things that a person owns, especially those which can be carried

Dictionary example:
I put a few personal belongings in a bag and left the house for the last time.

Learner example:
Five different kings have lived there with their families and it is possible to see several of their personal belongings.

**below** /ˈbɪˈləʊ/

ADVERB; PREPOSITION

**RANK**
[C2] lower in rank

Dictionary example:
Monica is a grade below me.

Learner example:
[With] him being only 37 years old and [having] been promoted to the second level below the board of directors of a well-known international company, he seems like a good example [of] a successful person, at least in this area of success.

**belt** /bɛlt/

**NOUN [C]**

**tighten your belt**
[C2] to try to spend less money
**Dictionary example:**
Since I lost my job we've all had to tighten our belts.

**Learner example:**
All this costs money and where do we get this extra money from but from the tax payers, who once again have to tighten their belts.

### bench /bentʃ/  
**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] a long seat for two or more people, usually made of wood or metal  
**Dictionary example:**  
a park bench  
**Learner example:**  
At 1 p.m. Paul was sitting on a bench and waiting for Julia.

### bend /bend/  
**VERB [I or T] (bent, bent)**  
**BODY**  
[B2] to move your body or part of your body so that it is not straight  
**Dictionary examples:**  
Bend your knees when lifting heavy objects.  
She bent **down** to pick up the pen.  
Now, bend **forwards/over** and touch your toes!  
**Learner example:**  
My friend was bending over the table laughing hysterically.  
**CURVE**  
[B2] to (cause to) curve  
**Dictionary examples:**  
The road bends to the left after the first set of traffic lights.  
The trees were bending in the wind.  
**Learner example:**  
I saw fir trees bending in half and 500-year-old oaks shedding their leaves.  
**NOUN [C]**  
**CURVED PART**  
[B2] a curved part of something
Dictionary examples:
There's a bend in the pipe so you can't see from one end to the other.
There's a **sharp** bend in the road.

**Learner example:**
The other car disappeared around a sharp bend and when we came round it, we saw that the car had stopped in the middle of the road.

**drive/send sb round the bend** INFORMAL
[C2] to make someone very angry, especially by continuing to do something annoying

**Dictionary example:**
This computer is driving me round the bend.

**Learner example:**
I could not work with a beginner as it would drive me round the bend if I was interrupted every few minutes and asked to elucidate to him/her something as easy as pie.

---

**beneath** /brˈniːθ/

**PREPOSITION**

**UNDER**
[B2] under something, or in a lower position than something

**Dictionary examples:**
Jeremy hid the letter beneath a pile of papers.
After weeks at sea, it was wonderful to feel firm ground beneath our feet once more.

**Learner example:**
She could feel the train coming because the ground beneath her feet was moving.

**NOT GOOD ENOUGH**
[C2] If someone or something is beneath you, you think you are too important or from too high a social class to spend time on them.

**Dictionary example:**
He thinks housework is beneath him.

**Learner example:**
He hadn't realised how much he would miss the high-life until he was forced to watch all the rich and famous people come into the restaurant and look down [on] everything and everyone who was beneath them.

**beneath your dignity**
[C2] If it is beneath your dignity to do something, you think you are too important or from too high a social class to do it.
Dictionary example:
She felt that it was beneath her dignity to wear a name badge.

Learner example:
He thought it was beneath his dignity to talk about his master's decisions and ideas.

beneficial  /ˌbenəˈfɪʃəl/

Word family:
Nouns: benefit
Verbs: benefit
Adjectives: beneficial

ADJECTIVE
[B2] helpful, useful or good

Dictionary examples:
The improvement in sales figures had a beneficial effect on the company as a whole. Exercise is beneficial to almost everyone.

Learner example:
To sum up, team sports are beneficial to children so if the schools they attend do not have any, they should take up [something].

benefit  /ˈben.ɪ.fit/

Word family:
Nouns: benefit
Verbs: benefit
Adjectives: beneficial

NOUN [C or U]

give sb the benefit of the doubt
[C2] to choose to believe what someone tells you even though it may be wrong or a lie

Dictionary example:
She says her train was late, so I suppose we'd better give her the benefit of the doubt.

Learner example:
Every time our parents tell us ".. have you thought about it, are you sure you are not making a mistake?" we just answer "sure I have, no problem." Next time they do, let's give them the benefit of the doubt and let's think twice about the subject.

for sb's benefit
[C2] in order to help someone
**Dictionary example:**
We bought the piano for the children’s benefit.

**Learner example:**
Needless to say, I hope you take [all this] into consideration not only for Gustavo’s benefit, but also for the benefit of the astronaut training programme and the world.

**VERB (−t−)**

[B2] [I or T] to be helped by something or to help someone

**Dictionary examples:**
I feel that I have benefited greatly from her experience.
How can we benefit those who most need our help?

**Learner example:**
I am sure that the café would benefit a great deal from a non-smoking-area.

---

**berry /ˈber.i/**

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a small round fruit on particular plants and trees

**Dictionary example:**
I usually scatter a few berries on my muesli.

**Learner example:**
Every day we were swimming, fishing, picking mushrooms and berries, hunting and making fires to prepare food.

---

**beside /brˈsaɪd/**

**PREPOSITION**

**be beside yourself (with sth)**

[C2] to experience a powerful emotion

**Dictionary example:**
He was beside himself with rage.

**Learner example:**
Spending one's spare time being beside oneself with anger scarcely ever makes holidays enjoyable.

**beside the point**

[C2] not important or not connected with what you are talking about
Dictionary example:
The fact that he doesn't want to come is beside the point – he should have been invited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>best</td>
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<td>/best/</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **the next best thing**
  - [C1] the thing that is best, if you cannot have or do the thing you really want
  - **Dictionary example:**
    Coaching football is the next best thing to playing.
  - **Learner example:**
    For many working people, there is hardly time to cook and prepare your dinner, so the next best thing is to rush into a Macdonalds' or Burger King.

- **your best bet**
  - [C2] Someone’s best bet is the action most likely to be successful.
  - **Dictionary example:**
    If you want to get to the theater on time, your best bet is to get a cab.
  - **Learner example:**
    The international cuisine chef can whip up some delicious creations from time to time; but your best bet is to go for one of the delicious steaks served.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADVERB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>know best</td>
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<tr>
<td>[C2] to be the most suitable person to have responsibility and make important decisions</td>
</tr>
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</table>
  - **Dictionary example:**
    When it comes to dealing with my own son, I think I know best.
  - **Learner example:**
    How true is that expression "Father knows best". If my father [was alive] today he would probably be laughing his head off.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOUN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>make the best of sth</td>
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<tr>
<td>[B2] to try to be positive about a situation you do not like but cannot change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  - **Dictionary example:**
    Our hotel room is rather small, but we’ll just have to make the best of it.
Learner example:
Unfortunately I don't have very much spare time so we will have to arrange it carefully in order to make the best of your time in London.

(have) the best of both worlds
[C1] to have the advantages of two different situations

Dictionary example:
Living in the country and working in the city you have the best of both worlds.

Learner example:
Only those that can afford to live in the suburban areas can combine the best of both worlds and they tend to be rather affluent.

at best
[C2] used to show that the most positive way of considering something is still not good

Dictionary example:
At best, only 50 per cent of babies born at 24 weeks will survive.

Learner example:
Then, due to the social standards, the old find themselves being abandoned and helpless. At best, such people are hospitalized.

for the best
[C2] If something is for the best, it seems unpleasant now, but will improve a situation in the future.

Dictionary example:
Divorce is always painful, but it really was for the best.

Learner example:
It's a kind of sad thing to think about but maybe it's for the best.

bring out the best in sb
[C2] to cause someone's best qualities to show

Dictionary example:
This chance to work with young people has really brought out the best in him.

Learner example:
TV can be a baby-sitter, but such a relationship is not going to bring out the best in a child.

at the best of times
[C2] used to show that something is not good when it is the best it can be

Dictionary example:
He's not exactly patient at the best of times.
Learner example:
They knew that even at the best of times he looked unpleasant but now he was of [a] completely different [appearance].

bestseller /ˌbestˈselər/  

NOUN [C]  
[B2] a very popular book that many people have bought  

Dictionary example:  
His latest book is likely to be another bestseller.

Learner example:  
Maybe your parents could bring me one of the newest bestsellers, which haven’t been translated [in]to Polish yet.

bet /bet/  

VERB [I or T]  
[C1] I to risk money on the result of a game, competition, etc.  

Dictionary examples:  
He lost all his money betting on horses.  
I bet him a dollar that I was right.

Learner example:  
The game lost its innocence long before 1985 when players were betting on the result of their own game.

NOUN [C]  
RISK  
[C2] I when you risk money on the result of a game, competition, etc.  

Dictionary examples:  
She won her bet.  
He put a bet on Manchester United winning on Saturday.

Learner example:  
A couple of betting shops attract many people, mostly men, who often come in a hurry to place a bet, some of them in their working uniform with a large apron.

your best bet  
[C2] the best decision or choice  

Dictionary example:  
Your best bet in terms of value would be the Regent Hotel.
**Learner example:**
The international cuisine chef can whip up some delicious creations from time to time; but your best bet is to go for one of the delicious steaks served [there].

**a safe bet**
[C2] something that you are certain will happen

**Dictionary example:**
Wheeler is a safe bet for a place on the team.

**Learner example:**
Automatically, we think that black is a safe bet for any occasion.

---

**betray /bɪˈtreɪ/**

**VERB [T]**
[B2] to behave in a dishonest or cruel way to someone who trusts you

**Dictionary examples:**
She felt betrayed by her mother's lack of support.
He promised never to betray her.

**Learner example:**
He couldn't believe that his best friend had betrayed him.

---

**better /ˈbet.ə/**

**ADVERB**

**know better**
[C2] to have enough experience not to do something stupid or something that will not achieve anything

**Dictionary example:**
I thought she'd listen to me – I should have known better.

**Learner example:**
Surely two grown-ups should have known better than to shout at each other at the top of their lungs.
between /brˈtwiːn/

ADVERB

SPACE
[C1] in the space that separates two people, places, or things

Dictionary example:
The wood is in neat piles with newspaper placed between.

Learner example:
There is a shuttle bus from the airport straight to the main station with only one stop in between.

TIME
[C1] in the period of time that separates two events or times

Dictionary example:
There's a train at 6.15 and one at 10.30 but nothing in between.

Learner example:
Besides, there is research that proves that people cannot work for more than two hours at a time. They can't concentrate that long and they need to rest their minds for short periods in between.

beware /bɪˈweər/

VERB [i]
[C1] used in order to warn someone to be careful

Dictionary examples:
Beware of the dog.
You should beware of spending too long in the sun.

Learner example:
Although it's fun to surf, beware of the danger...

beyond /biˈjɒnd/

PREPOSITION

DISTANCE
[B2] on the other side of something

Dictionary example:
In the distance, beyond the river, was a small town.
Learner example:
Suddenly she recognized something red, beyond a tree and covered with some leaves.

TIME

[B2] continuing after a particular time or date

Dictionary examples:
Few people live beyond the age of a hundred.
We cannot allow the work to continue beyond the end of the year.

Learner example:
You should take a [break] every two hours because, beyond two hours, your mind cannot record what you are learning.

beyond my/our, etc. control

[B2] not able to be changed by me/us, etc.

Dictionary example:
Tonight’s performance has been cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control.

Learner example:
This is a story about an event that turned out to be beyond my control.

INVOLVING OTHERS

[C1] involving or affecting other things or people than the ones you have talked about

Dictionary example:
You should try to develop interests beyond the family.

Learner example:
Of course, the process of women’s liberation isn't viewed with enthusiasm by husbands who would have to wash up and cook if their wives wanted to develop women interests beyond their family circle.

NOT UNDERSTAND

[C1] informal If something is beyond you, you cannot understand it.

Dictionary examples:
Computer studies is completely beyond me.
It's beyond me why anyone would want to buy that house.

Learner example:
Lastly, touching upon the subject of the money, how you get the figure of 60% is beyond me, as I have a clear chart of the charity day results.

beyond belief

[C2] too bad, good, difficult, etc. to be real

Dictionary example:
The evil of this man is beyond belief.
Learner example:
It was a piece of luck beyond belief that we could swap our apartments for the six months to come.

beyond dispute
[C2] certain or certainly

Dictionary examples:
Her skill is beyond dispute.
He is beyond dispute the finest actor in Hollywood today.

Learner example:
It is beyond dispute that we owe a lot to the wise scientists who discovered 'electro-magnetism'.

beyond your wildest dreams
[C2] bigger or better than anything you could imagine or hope for

Dictionary example:
The house was beyond my wildest dreams.

Learner example:
[It] was beyond my wildest dreams.

beyond (sb's) reach
[C2] not possible for someone to have

Dictionary example:
With all this money we can buy things previously beyond our reach.

Learner example:
She was always yearning for things beyond her reach.

ADVERB

PLACE
[C1] past a place

Dictionary example:
From the top of the hill we could see our house and the woods beyond.

Learner example:
The airport-bus will take you to the centre of Ostersund where I live and even beyond.

TIME
[C2] continuing after a particular time or date

Dictionary example:
The strike looks set to continue into March and beyond.

Learner example:
The fact of living longer allow[s] people to share part of their lives with their children, their grandchildren and sometimes even one generation beyond.
bias /ˈbaɪ.əs/

Word family:
Nouns: bias
Adjectives: biased, unbiased

NOUN [c or u]
[C2] when you support or oppose someone or something in an unfair way because you are influenced by your personal opinions

Dictionary examples:
a bias towards/against private education
The news channel has been accused of bias in favour of the government.

Learner example:
It is necessary to get rid of all our previous bias when we go to a foreign country, to achieve a better understanding of the local culture.

biased /ˈbaɪ.əst/

Word family:
Nouns: bias
Adjectives: biased, unbiased

ADJECTIVE
[C1] showing unfair support for or opposition to someone or something because of your personal opinions

Dictionary example:
to be biased against/towards younger workers

Learner example:
Maybe it is not an original idea, but I must admit my choice was a little bit biased, since I am reading a book about this era at the moment.

bid /bɪd/

NOUN [c]

OFFER
[C1] an offer to do something when you are competing with other people to do it

Dictionary examples:
We put in a bid for the stadium contract.
London made a successful bid to host the Olympic Games.
**Learner example:**
I do not believe Beijing would have won the bid for [the] 2008 Olympic Games.

**ATTEMPT**
[C2] an attempt to achieve something

**Dictionary examples:**
a successful bid for re-election
The council has banned cars from the city centre in a bid to reduce pollution.

**Learner example:**
In a bid to conceal my bewilderment, I greeted her and set about cleaning the house.

**BUY**
[C2] an offer to pay a particular amount of money for something

**Dictionary example:**
I made a bid of $150 for the painting.

**VERB** *(bidding, bid)*
[C2] to offer to pay an amount of money for something

**Dictionary example:**
They bid $500 million for the company.

**Learner example:**
As a Tea Company chairman, he buys his tea in Calcutta or Colombo, and generally bids at the right price.

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**big /bɪg/**

**ADJECTIVE** *(bigger, biggest)*

**SUCCESSFUL**
[C1] informal successful or popular

**Dictionary example:**
The programme's been a big hit with young children.

**Learner example:**
Of course, the many traditional craft stalls were a big hit also, and the [re] were hardly any [things] left!

**in a big way** informal
[C2] used to say that someone or something does something to a large degree

**Dictionary example:**
They celebrate birthdays in a big way.
**Learner example:**
Tourism helps Greece's national economy – which is not at its best – in a big way.

**bikini** /ˈbɪkiː.ni/

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a piece of clothing with two parts that women wear for swimming

**Dictionary example:**
I packed my bikini for the beach.

**Learner example:**
Thelma was right: her bikini was really too big for her.

**bilingual** /baɪˈlɪŋg.wəl/

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] using or able to speak two languages

**Dictionary examples:**
a bilingual dictionary
She's bilingual.

**Learner example:**
The staff also seem reluctant to help travellers with their children and it would help if the staff were bilingual.

**billion** /ˈbɪl.jən/

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] the number 1 000 000 000

**Dictionary example:**
Cosmetics is a billion dollar industry.

**Learner example:**
There she was, 70m above the sea with a crazy man with a gun behind her and billions of thoughts in her head.
bind  /ˈbaɪnd/

VERB [v] (bound)

TIE
[C2] to tie something together with string, rope, etc.

Dictionary example:
His hands were bound behind his back.

Learner example:
Take this rope and bind yourselves together, so as not to lose someone.

UNITE
[C2] to unite people

Dictionary example:
Culture and language bind people together.

Learner example:
And even if people mostly cheer for athletes from their own country, it can be seen as a safe outlet for nationalist feelings, that bind a country together without turning to racism, for example.

biological  /ˌbaɪəˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: biology
Adjectives: biological

ADJECTIVE
[B2] connected with the natural processes of living things

Dictionary example:
the biological sciences

Learner example:
Paul always knew that the Watsons weren’t his biological parents.

birth  /bɜːθ/

NOUN

give birth
[B2] When a woman or an animal gives birth, she produces a baby from her body.

Dictionary example:
She gave birth to twins.
Learner example:
The most important person in my life is the person who gave birth to me, my mother.

American/Italian, etc. by birth
[B2] born in a particular place or having parents with a particular nationality

Dictionary example:
I grew up in Paris, but I'm Italian by birth.

Learner example:
I am an eighteen year old college student and I am Portuguese by birth.

BEGINNING
[C1] [u] LITERARY the beginning of something

Dictionary example:
the birth of modern science

Learner example:
Pericles was the man who achieved the birth of democracy.

bit /bɪt/

NOUN [c]

a bit
[B2] INFORMAL a short period of time

Dictionary examples:
I'll see you in a bit.
I'm just going out for a bit. See you later.

Learner example:
I had my breakfast, I went to buy the newspaper and then I came back to my house to rest [for] a bit.

a bit of a change/fool/problem, etc.
[C1] a change, fool, problem, etc., but not an important or serious one

Dictionary examples:
I am a bit of a romantic.
It was a bit of a shock.

Learner example:
I'm a bit of a computer maniac, so I've always wanted to experience the making of computer programmes.

bit by bit
[C1] gradually
Dictionary example:
She saved up the money, bit by bit.

Learner example:
This film is full of tension as the truth is only revealed bit by bit.

bits and pieces
[C2] small things or jobs which are not connected or not very important

Dictionary example:
We've packed most of it up now, there are just a few bits and pieces left.

Learner example:
So, it's memories that make us keep odd bits and pieces.

bite /baɪt/

NOUN [C]

FOOD
[B2] a piece taken from food when you bite it

Dictionary example:
She took a bite from her pizza.

Learner example:
When Alice [took] a bite out of the cake, something hard touched her teeth.

INJURY
[B2] an injury caused when an animal or insect bites you

Dictionary example:
mosquito bites

Learner example:
As far as your question about our sleeping is concerned, I wouldn't mind either staying in rooms or tents, but since you ask me to express my preference, I would suggest staying in rooms, in order to avoid insect bites.

a bite (to eat)
[C2] a small meal

Dictionary examples:
I just want to grab a bite to eat.
I had a bite at Laura's house.

Learner example:
It all went smoothly until 2 o'clock when they stopped for a break and a bite to eat.
bitter /ˈbɪtər/

ADJECTIVE

ANGRY

[B2] angry and upset because of something bad that has happened that you cannot forget

Dictionary examples:
I feel very bitter about my childhood and the way I was treated.
She'd suffered terribly over the years but it hadn't made her bitter.

Learner example:
What can be more real that when your lover is gone or taken away your own soul is also alone, bitter and dark and there is nothing else than feelings of revenge, anger, frustration and sadness?

HATE

[B2] full of hate or anger

Dictionary example:
a bitter argument/dispute

Learner example:
Every time they met, a bitter feeling of hatred bloomed in her throat.

DISAPPOINTED

[B2] making you feel very disappointed

Dictionary examples:
Failing the final exams was a bitter disappointment for me.
She learnt through bitter experience that he was not to be trusted.

Learner example:
Now, I've already recovered from this bitter experience.

COLD

[B2] extremely cold

Dictionary example:
a bitter wind

to/till/until the bitter end

[C2] If you do something to/till/until the bitter end, you continue it until it is finished, although it is difficult and takes a long time.

Dictionary example:
I was determined to go on until the bitter end.
Learner example:
We are willing to talk and find alternatives to the situation, but we are also ready to fight till the bitter end to stand for our rights.

bizarre /bɪˈzaːr/  
ADJECTIVE  
[B2] very strange and unusual  
Dictionary examples:  
a bizarre situation  
bizarre behaviour  
Learner example:  
Things are sometimes quite bizarre, aren't they?

blackmail /ˈblæk.meɪl/  
NOUN [U]  
[C2] when someone forces you to do something or to pay them money, by saying they will tell another person something that you want to keep secret  
Dictionary example:  
She was charged with blackmail.  
Learner example:  
She knows exactly how to handle him, seducing him, accusing him of ingratitude or using emotional blackmail.

VERB [T]  
[C2] to force someone to do something by using blackmail  
Dictionary example:  
They used the photographs to blackmail her into spying for them.  
Learner example:  
It's all over, but she is blackmailing me.

blade /bleɪd/  
NOUN [C]  
[B2] the flat part on a knife or similar tool or weapon, with a very thin edge used for cutting
Dictionary example:
a sword with a steel blade

Learner example:
Suddenly she felt the blade on her neck and she screamed in panic.

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blame /bleɪm/

VERB [T]

be to blame
[C1] to be responsible for something bad which has happened

Dictionary example:
Poor housing is to blame for many of their health problems.

I don't blame him/them/you, etc.
[C2] used to say that you understand and accept the reason for what someone is doing

Dictionary example:
"I think I'll go home early." "I don't blame you – you look really tired."

NOUN [U]

[B2] when people say or think that someone or something is responsible for something bad

Dictionary examples:
The manager should take the blame for the team's defeat.
They put the blame on faulty equipment.
His employers have accepted blame for the accident.

Learner example:
She thought that I would blame her so she decided to write me a letter.

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bland /blænd/

ADJECTIVE

NO TASTE
[C2] If food is bland, it does not have much taste.

Dictionary example:
The soup was a bit bland.
Learner example:
In the evenings they usually attended boring dinner parties, where bland, soggy food was served, and the other guests were at least 20 years older than her and rather snobbish and stiff.

BORING
[C2] not interesting or exciting

Dictionary example:
bland statements

Learner example:
Peeping through the viewer she focused her gaze on the bland face of the man outside.

blank  /blæŋk/

ADJECTIVE

go blank
[B2] If your mind goes blank, you suddenly cannot remember or think of something.

Dictionary example:
When she asked me his name, my mind just went blank.

Learner example:
My mind went blank, I couldn’t utter a word.

NO FEELING
[C2] showing no feeling or understanding

Dictionary example:
a blank expression

Learner example:
The old woman froze, her blank gaze staring in Leila's direction.

blanket  /ˈblæŋ.kɪt/

NOUN [C]

LAYER
[C2] a thick layer of something

Dictionary example:
a blanket of cloud/snow

Learner example:
I do remember it rained heavily and the sky was covered with a blanket of grey.
bleak /bleɪk/

ADJECTIVE

NO HOPE

[C2] If a situation is bleak, there is little or no hope for the future.

Dictionary example:
The future is looking bleak for small businesses struggling with debts.

Learner example:
This may seem like a very bleak future for many young people today.

COLD

[C2] If a place is bleak, it is cold, empty and not attractive.

Dictionary example:
a bleak landscape

Learner example:
They lack basic training and experience and thus often get lost or hurt in bleak and isolated areas, giving the mountain rescue teams a hard time.

blend /blend/

NOUN [C]

[C2] a combination of two or more things

Dictionary example:
Their music is a blend of jazz and African rhythms.

Learner example:
I suppose this is a blend of entertainment and the darker sides of human nature, like envy or curiosity.

blind /blaɪnd/

Word family:
Nouns: blindness
Adjectives: blind

ADJECTIVE

turn a blind eye (to sth)
[C1] to choose to ignore something that you know is wrong or illegal
**Dictionary example:**
Restaurant staff often took food home, and their boss turned a blind eye.

**Learner example:**
Nevertheless, we can't turn a blind eye to this reality.

**be blind to sth**
[C2] to not notice something, or not want to notice something

**Dictionary example:**
Drivers who speed are often blind to the risks they cause.

**Learner example:**
Not only is she completely oblivious of his inner feelings and thoughts, but she also seems to be blind to what is going on around her.

**NOUN**

**the blind**
[C1] people who are blind

**Dictionary example:**
He went to a school for the blind.

**Learner example:**
I write from 'Helpers', an Uruguayan Enterprise specialized in selling products for both the blind and the mute, and whose offerings your Company in Britain is interested in selling.

**blindness** /ˈblaɪnd.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: blindness
Adjectives: blind

**NOUN [U]**

**NOT SEEING**
[C1] the state of being blind

**Dictionary example:**
In its later stages the disease causes blindness.

**Learner example:**
Apart from his blindness, his health has worsened in general.

**NOT NOTICING**
[C2] the state of not noticing something, or not wanting to notice or understand it

**Dictionary example:**
My blindness to what was happening led me to make a bad decision.
Learner example:
His mother and Mister Hooper, with their blindness and insensitivity, do not see what is going on between the two boys.

**blink** /ˈblɪŋk/

**VERB**

**EYES**

[B2] [i or ɪ] to open and close both of your eyes quickly

**Dictionary example:**
You've got something in your eye – try blinking a few times.

**Learner example:**
Her eyes were blinking as she was looking at the bright sunlight outside the window.

**NOUN**

**in the blink of an eye**

[C2] extremely quickly

**Dictionary example:**
In the blink of an eye, he was gone.

**Learner example:**
And for all those who keep nagging about losing their favourite regular programmes during such an event, be patient: TV routine will be back into your living rooms in the blink of an eye.

**blist er** /ˈblɪs.tər/

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a painful, raised area of skin with liquid inside, that you get if your skin has been rubbed or burned, or a similar area on a painted surface

**Dictionary example:**
I've got a blister on my toe.

**Learner example:**
Some people weren't really walking any more. The blisters and aching muscles gave them too much stress.
**block**  /bloʊk/

**NOUN [c]**

**PIECE**

[B2] a solid piece of hard material, usually in the shape of a square or rectangle

**Dictionary example:**
a block of ice/stone/wood

**Learner example:**
It is like an enormous block of stone!

**STOP PROGRESS**

[C2] something that makes it difficult to move or make progress

**Dictionary examples:**
His personality is a major block to reaching an agreement.
Lack of money has been the main **stumbling** block.

**Learner example:**
Very often students are asked to present a certain subject, but the main stumbling block is that they are not given the knowledge of how to do it properly.

**VERB [t]**

**PREVENT MOVEMENT**

[B2] to prevent movement through something

**Dictionary example:**
A fallen tree is blocking the road.

**Learner example:**
It took over three hours because there was a car accident and the street was blocked for two hours.

**CANNOT SEE**

[C1] to be between someone and the thing they are looking at, so that they cannot see

**Dictionary example:**
A pillar was blocking my view.

**Learner example:**
You cannot have a panoramic view [of] the mountains [any more] because buildings block it and [the] people in the nearby village think only of profit.

**STOP PROGRESS**

[C2] to stop something from happening or making progress
Dictionary example:
The council has blocked plans for a new supermarket.

**blood** /blʌd/

Word family:
Nouns: blood
Verbs: bleed
Adjectives: bloody

**NOUN [u]**

new blood
[C1] new people in an organization who will provide new ideas and energy

Dictionary example:
We need some new blood in the organization.

Learner example:
It will give new opportunities to new generations and thus will [provide] new blood in the different organisations.

in cold blood
[C2] in a cruel way, without showing any emotion

Dictionary example:
He shot three policemen in cold blood.

Learner example:
Returning to the story, when I arrived, I went directly to Hillton Avenue where I should have met 005, but when I arrived at the meeting point I found him lying on the floor with two shots in his back; he had been murdered in cold blood.

**FAMILY ORIGIN**

[C2] the family or place that you come from

Dictionary example:
I've got some Spanish blood in me.

Learner example:
I have a background in my blood which, I believe, explains my way of thinking: my mother is Dutch and my father is half from Alsace, half from Hungary.

make your blood run cold
[C2] If something makes your blood run cold, it frightens you very much.

Dictionary example:
I heard a tapping on the window which made my blood run cold.

Learner example:
This thought scared me and made my blood run cold.
make your blood boil
[C2] to make you extremely angry

Dictionary example:
The way they have treated those people makes my blood boil.

Learner example:
Paul said something repulsive, with a cold light in his eyes, and it made her blood boil.

your own flesh and blood
[C2] a member of your family

Dictionary example:
I can’t hate him – he's my own flesh and blood.

Learner example:
On the other hand, another problem old people have to face is a feeling of [not] being useful to society and what proves this is that they are put into old people’s homes even by their own flesh and blood.

bloody /ˈblʌd.i/

Word family:
Nouns: blood
Verbs: bleed
Adjectives: bloody

ADJECTIVE

COVERED IN BLOOD
[B2] covered in blood

Dictionary example:
a bloody nose

Learner example:
The police found a bloody knife [under] his pillow.

VIOLENT
[C1] violent and involving a lot of blood and injuries

Dictionary example:
a bloody war

Learner example:
About 50,000 Romans died during this bloody battle, including the famous Roman Commander Varus.
ANGER
[C2] I used to express anger or to emphasize what you are saying in a slightly rude way

Dictionary example:
I can't find my bloody keys!

Learner example:
'Reachel? Start the car!' the trench coat ordered. 'What?' 'Start the bloody car!'

blow /bloʊ/

VERB (blew, blown)

SOUND
[C2] [ı or ŋ] to make a sound by forcing air out of your mouth and through an instrument

Dictionary examples:
Ann blew a few notes on the trumpet.
We were all waiting for the referee to blow his whistle.

Learner example:
I had never played an instrument before, but when I put the flute to my mouth and blew, it was as though I had played it all my life and that it had always been mine.

blow it/your chance(s) INFORMAL
[C2] If you blow it or blow your chance, you lose an opportunity to do something by doing or saying the wrong thing.

Dictionary examples:
I blew it when I criticized the way she ran the office.
Tom blew his chances of getting the job by arriving late for the interview.

Learner example:
I'm giving you one last chance. If you blow it, you'll be sent to an Institution which treats people like you.

blow your mind INFORMAL
[C2] If something blows your mind, you are very excited or surprised by it.

Dictionary example:
There was one scene in the film that really blew my mind.

Learner example:
'MOMO', written by Michael Ende, is a book that blew my mind as a child and as an adult, I have read it many times, but the last time has been a while now.
NOUN [C]

HIT
[C2] a hard hit with a hand or a weapon

Dictionary example:
They think his death was caused by a blow to the head with an iron bar.

Learner example:
He was really starting to panic when he felt a hard blow to his head.

BAD EVENT
[C2] an unexpected event that has a damaging effect on someone or something

Dictionary example:
Losing his job was a severe blow to his confidence.

Learner example:
Douglas, due to his callousness or because it had been too great a blow for him, was unable to understand or assimilate the fact, so he just went on, doing his duty to his country and his people as before.

blue /blu:/

ADJECTIVE

SAD
[C2] INFORMAL sad

Dictionary example:
I was feeling blue.

Learner example:
Do you feel the need to dress, behave and consume the same products as your friends? Are you the kind of person who go[es] shopping when you feel blue or a little morose?

NOUN [C or U]

out of the blue
[C1] If something happens out of the blue, it is completely unexpected.

Dictionary example:
One day, out of the blue, she announced that she was leaving.

Learner example:
Dear Kim, I was extremely happy when I received your letter out of the blue.
blunt  /blʌnt/

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT SHARP**

[C2] not sharp

**Dictionary example:**
a blunt knife

**Learner example:**
Standing in front of me was a huge man whose skin was roughened by blunt razor blades.

**RUDE**

[C2] saying exactly what you think without caring about people's feelings

**Dictionary example:**
a blunt letter

**Learner example:**
She knows what kind of questions the viewers want answered and asks them without being rude or blunt.

blush  /blʌʃ/

**VERB [i]**

[B2] to become pink in the face, usually from embarrassment

**Dictionary examples:**
He blushes every time she speaks to him.
I blush to think what a fool I made of myself.

**Learner example:**
But there is one special "embarrassing moment" that even today I blush when I think about it.

board  /bɔːd/

**NOUN**

**SURFACE**

[B2] [C] a flat piece of wood, plastic, etc. used for a particular purpose

**Dictionary examples:**
Cut the vegetables on a chopping board.
an ironing board
There was a 'For Sale' board outside the house.
MEALS
[B2] [u] meals that are provided when you stay in a hotel

Dictionary example:
How much is a single room with full/half board?

Learner example:
You are likely to have full board accommodation and a single room.

ORGANIZATION
[C1] [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] a group of people who officially control a company or organization, or a particular type of business activity

Dictionary examples:
the Tourist Board
The board approved the sales plan.

Learner example:
We will try to get a subsidy during the next Board of Directors [meeting].

take sth on board
[C1] to understand or accept an idea or a piece of information

Dictionary example:
Banks need to take on board the views of their customers.

Learner example:
The students feel that if the above suggestions were taken on board, the study centre could be an excellent support for them in their studies.

across the board
[C2] happening or having an effect on people at every level and in every area

Dictionary example:
The improvement has been across the board, with all divisions reporting increased profits.

Learner example:
Children in separate schools get on with things regardless of it being work for boys or girls, which can be quite positive especially in today’s lifestyles where chores are done across the board.

boast /ˈboʊst/ VERB

PRIDE
[B2] [I or T] to talk with too much pride about what you have done or what you own
Dictionary examples:
He didn't talk about his exam results in case people thought he was boasting. Parents enjoy boasting about their children's achievements. They boasted that they had never lost a single game.

Learner example:
Later that evening I went home boasting about my success.

HAVE
[C2] [ɪ] If a place boasts something good, it has it.

Dictionary example:
New York boasts some of the best museums in the world.

Learner example:
The park boasts a picturesque lake with swans and ducks and a walled formal garden.

boat /bɔːt/

NOUN [c]

rock the boat
[C2] to do or say something that changes a situation in a way that causes problems

Dictionary example:
They seemed very happy and I didn’t want to rock the boat.

Learner example:
But let’s not rock the boat. Our preposterous cravings and wishes might become our [down]fall.

be in the same boat
[C2] to be in the same unpleasant situation as other people

Dictionary example:
She complains that she doesn’t have enough money, but we’re all in the same boat.

Learner example:
Unemployment and its consequences is still a major problem. Now we are in the same boat.

miss the boat
[C2] to be too late to get what you want

Dictionary example:
I’m afraid you’ve missed the boat. All the concert tickets have been sold.

Learner example:
What if she never had another chance? What if she missed the boat? Overcome by the anxiety and the lack of sleep, the first thing she did in the morning was to pick up two of her best poems [and] put them in an envelope.
body /ˈbɒd.i/

NOUN [C]

GROUP
[C2] [+ SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] an official group of people who work together

Dictionary example:
the sport's regulatory body

Learner example:
This progress is also facilitated by companies and organisations that are represented in many countries, institutions that tend to be controlled by centrally defined policies or a single governing body.

keep body and soul together
[C2] to be able to pay for your food, clothing and somewhere to live

Dictionary example:
His wages are barely enough to keep body and soul together.

Learner example:
Not only does he keep body and soul together, but he is on good terms with his wife.

body and soul
[C2] used to emphasize that someone does something with all their effort and energy

Dictionary example:
They entered into the relationship body and soul.

Learner example:
If nowadays women are, for the vast majority, working, it occurs to me that some of them are not willing to devote themselves body and soul to their work.

boil /bɔɪl/

Word family:
Verbs: boil
Adjectives: boiled, boiling

VERB

make your blood boil
[C2] to make you extremely angry

Dictionary example:
The way they have treated those people makes my blood boil.
Learner example:
Paul said something repulsive, with a cold light in his eyes, and it made her blood boil.

boiling  /ˈboʊ.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Verbs: boil
Adjectives: boiled, boiling

ADJECTIVE INFORMAL
[B2] very hot

Dictionary examples:
It's boiling in this room!
It's boiling hot outside.

Learner example:
I wouldn't like a job like that, especially in the summer, when it's boiling hot.

bold  /bəʊld/

Word family:
Adjectives: bold
Adverbs: boldly

ADJECTIVE
BRAVE
[B2] not frightened of taking risks

Dictionary examples:
She was a bold and fearless climber.
It was a bold decision to go and live abroad.
The newspaper made the bold move/took the bold step of publishing the names of the men involved.

Learner example:
That was the punishment for being bold!

boldly  /ˈbəʊld.lɪ/

Word family:
Adjectives: bold
Adverbs: boldly
ADVERB

[B2] in a way that is brave or very confident

Dictionary example:
The President had already boldly declared victory.

Learner example:
One boldly ventures where none of their family members have been before in search of a better lifestyle, good weather...

bomber /ˈbɒm.ər/

Word family:
Nouns: bomb, bomber, bombing
Verbs: bomb

NOUN [C]

PERSON

[B2] a person who uses bombs

Dictionary example:
Rajiv Gandhi is believed to have been killed by a suicide bomber.

AIRCRAFT

[C2] an aircraft that drops bombs

Dictionary example:
He flew bombers in the war.

Learner example:
During the war... the terror of the German bombers, the sound of destruction all around, bombs exploding, people crying and dying.

bombing /ˈbɒm.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: bomb, bomber, bombing
Verbs: bomb

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] an attack or several attacks using bombs

Dictionary example:
The city came under heavy bombing.
Learner example:
In fact, despite the number of plane accidents and bombing attempts on aeroplanes, it is the safe[st] way to travel.

**bond /bɒnd/**

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] an interest, experience, or feeling that makes people feel connected

**Dictionary examples:**
the bond between the mother and baby
There is a close/strong bond between the brothers.
We formed a strong bond in this difficult period.
A love of opera created a bond between them.

Learner example:
The strong bond among the family members makes them feel secure and confident.

**VERB**

[C2] [i] to develop a strong relationship with someone

**Dictionary example:**
Physical contact helps a mother bond with her baby.

Learner example:
Another aspect is the fact that it is far more easier to just spend money on your children than to actually bond with them.

**bone /bəʊn/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

a bone of contention
[C2] something that people argue about

**Dictionary example:**
Housework is a major bone of contention in our house.

Learner example:
Another bone of contention over the issue is that of pension schemes for it can't be denied that solutions have to be found to raise funds.
**bonus /ˈbəʊ.nəs/**

**NOUN [c]**

**EXTRA THING**

[B2] another pleasant thing in addition to something you were expecting

**Dictionary example:**
I love the job, and it's an **added bonus** that it's so close to home.

**Learner example:**
Think about this: we will be practising English every day and as a bonus we'll have staff discounts on books and CDs.

**EXTRA MONEY**

[B2] an extra amount of money that you are given, especially because you have worked hard

**Dictionary example:**
a Christmas bonus

**Learner example:**
My employer said if I pass my exam, he will give me a bonus of fifty pounds.

**book /bʊk/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** booking
**Verbs:** book

**NOUN [c]**

**do sth by the book**

[C2] to do something exactly as the rules tell you

**Dictionary example:**
If you want to get permission for the building, you'll need to do everything by the book.

**Learner example:**
The upper-class people always do things by the book, follow the rules and the conventions and therefore are stand-offish and cold.

**be in sb's good/bad books**

[C2] If you are in someone's good books, they are pleased with you, and if you are in their bad books, they are angry with you.

**Dictionary example:**
I'm in Mum's good books at the moment for passing my exams.
Learner example:
She always admired him so much and wanted to be in his good books.

a book of stamps/tickets, etc.
[C2] a set of stamps, tickets, etc. that are fastened together inside a cover

Dictionary examples:
I bought a book of stamps.
You can get a book of ten tickets for the ferry.

booklet /ˈbʊk.let/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a small, thin book that contains information

Dictionary example:
The tourist office has booklets about the area.

Learner example:
I would really appreciate it if you could send me a booklet describing all outdoor and indoor activities.

bookmark /ˈbʊk.maːk/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a way of marking an Internet website so that you can find it easily

Dictionary example:
Add this website to your bookmarks.

VERB [T]
[B2] to mark an Internet website on your computer so that you can find it easily

Dictionary example:
I've bookmarked the page.

boost /buːst/

NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL]
[B2] something that makes you feel more confident and happy, or that helps something increase or improve
Passing my driving test was such a boost to my confidence.
The lowering of interest rates will give a much-needed boost to the economy.

Learner example:
It really gave us a boost!

**VERB [T]**
[B2] to improve or increase something

**Dictionary examples:**
The theatre managed to boost its audiences by cutting ticket prices.
Share prices were boosted by reports of the President’s recovery.
Getting the job had really boosted her confidence.

**Learner example:**
It would not only boost my self-confidence but also look very good on my CV.

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**born /bɔːn/**

**VERB**

**be born**
[C2] If an idea is born, it starts to exist.

**Dictionary example:**
The idea for the business was born during a holiday in France.

**Learner example:**
The idea was born while he was having a bath!

---

**borrow /ˈbɔr.əʊ/**

**VERB**

**MONEY**
[C1] [I or T] to get money from a bank or financial organization and pay it back over a period of time

**Dictionary example:**
We had to borrow heavily to set up the business.

**Learner example:**
Some even borrow from loan sharks just to satisfy impulse shopping needs, which may eventually lead to building up debts to an individual or his family.
bossy /ˈbɒs.i/

Word family:
Nouns: boss
Adjectives: bossy

ADJECTIVE
[B2] always telling other people what to do

Dictionary example:
a bossy older sister

Learner example:
Granny is the problem – she’s a bit bossy!

both /bəʊθ/

DETERMINER, PRONOUN

(have) the best of both worlds
[C1] to have the advantages of two different situations

Dictionary example:
Living in the country and working in the city you have the best of both worlds.

Learner example:
Only those that can afford to live in the suburban areas can combine the best of both worlds and they tend to be rather affluent.

bother /ˈbɒð.ər/

Word family:
Verbs: bother
Adjectives: bothered

VERB

WORRY
[B2] [ɪ] to make someone feel worried or upset

Dictionary examples:
Does it bother you that he’s out so much of the time?
It bothers me that he doesn’t seem to notice.
Living on my own has never bothered me.
I don’t care if he doesn’t come – it doesn’t bother me.
Learner example:
Then I want to mention that there is one thing that bothers me a lot.

MAKE AN EFFORT

[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] to make the effort to do something

Dictionary examples:
He hasn't even bothered to write.
Don't bother making the bed - I'll do it later.
You'd have found it if you'd bothered looking.
You won't get any credit for doing it, so why bother?

Learner example:
TV is entertaining, and it's all digested for you: you don't need to bother thinking after a long day's work.

can't be bothered INFORMAL

[B2] If you can't be bothered to do something, you are too lazy or tired to do it.

Dictionary example:
I can't be bothered to iron my clothes.

Learner example:
It woke me up but I didn't answer it, [I] couldn't be bothered.

bothered ˈbɒð.əd/

Word family:
Verbs: bother
Adjectives: bothered

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

[B2] If you are bothered about something, it is important to you and you are worried about it.

Dictionary examples:
He's very bothered about what people think of him.
They were an hour late and she didn't seem at all bothered.

Learner example:
I'm also bothered about what's going on around me.
**bottom /ˈbɒt.əm/**

**NOUN**

**the bottom line**
[C2] the most important fact in a situation

**Dictionary example:**
The bottom line is that people's health is at risk if they smoke.

**Learner example:**
The bottom line is that the adults of today have to stop for a second and think about what they are doing.

**from top to bottom**
[C2] completely

**Dictionary example:**
I've searched the house from top to bottom and still can't find it.

**Learner example:**
Very often we can see someone in black, from top to bottom, or in white.

**bounce /baʊnts/**

**VERB**

**MOVE UP**
[B2] [I or T] to (cause to) move up or away after hitting a surface

**Dictionary examples:**
The ball bounced off the post and into the net.
She bounced the ball quickly.

**bounce along/around/into, etc.**
[B2] to move somewhere in a happy and energetic way

**Dictionary example:**
Sarah bounced into the room with a big smile on her face.

**Learner example:**
Would you like to wear balloon clothes and bounce around the world?
bound /ˈbɔːnd/  

ADJECTIVE

bound to do *sth*  
[B₂] certain to do something, or certain to happen

Dictionary examples:  
You’re bound to feel nervous before your driving test.  
If you’re stressed for a long period, it’s bound to affect your health.

Learner example:  
I’m bound to feel nervous.

DIRECTION  
[C₁] [NEVER BEFORE NOUN] travelling towards a particular place

Dictionary example:  
He was on a train bound for Berlin.

Learner example:  
The only risk you run is getting on a bus bound for Boras, so take care you avoid this one.

bound up with *sth*  
[C₂] closely connected with something

Dictionary example:  
A country’s culture is bound up with its language and history.

Learner example:  
It’s just the way of the world, I will have to say, and convince myself that I am not as inextricably bound up with that particular diary.

boundary /ˈbɔun.dəri/  

NOUN [C]

LINE  
[C₁] a line that divides two areas or forms an edge around an area

Dictionary example:  
The mountains mark the boundary between the two countries.

Learner example:  
This gives youngsters the opportunity to exchange opinions with people all over the world, and so the boundaries of the countries or the continents have less meaning.

LIMIT  
[C₁] a limit
Dictionary example:
Such violence is beyond the boundaries of civilized conduct.

Learner example:
This is a movie that reminds us that a man's soul cannot be measured with a measuring tape, that passion knows no boundaries, and that love accepts no defeat.

bow /bəʊ/

NOUN [C]

KNOT
[B2] a knot with two curved parts and two loose ends, that is used to tie shoes or as decoration

Dictionary example:
The present was wrapped in gold paper and tied with a big red bow.

Learner example:
He saw a big black bow on the handle of the door.

WEAPON
[B2] a piece of curved wood with string fixed to both ends, used for shooting arrows

Dictionary example:
a bow and arrows

Learner example:
The bow was very beautiful and there were some letters on it: Artemis. He could not believe it, he had the bow of Artemis.

MUSIC
[C2] a long, thin piece of wood with hair stretched between the ends, used to play some musical instruments

Dictionary example:
a violin bow

Learner example:
The feeling was, moreover, enhanced by his unique style, as for instance with the guitar solo on "Dazed and confused", played with a violin bow.
**bra** /bra:/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a piece of women's underwear that supports the breasts

**Learner example:**
She knew that I had bought my first bra without having asked her for advice.

**bracket** /ˈbræk.ɪt/

**NOUN**

**SYMBOL**

[B2] [C USUALLY PLURAL] either of two symbols put around a word, phrase or sentence in a piece of writing to show that what is between them should be considered as separate from the main part

**Dictionary examples:**
- square/round brackets
- Biographical information is included in brackets.

**GROUP**

[C1] [c] a group of people whose ages, taxes, etc. are between two limits

**Dictionary example:**
Most heart attack victims are in the 45–65 age bracket.

**Learner example:**
The 35–49 age bracket remained constant in terms of cinema attendance and [the] same also with the 50+ age bracket.

**brain** /breɪn/

**NOUN [c]**

**INTELLIGENCE**

[C1] used to refer to intelligence

**Dictionary examples:**
That can’t possibly be the right way to do it – use your brain!
He's got brains but he's too lazy to use them.
Learner example:
The whole [of] Western society already seems to be founded on computers and relying on chips, which to a certain extent has taken away our own abilities of using our brains.

**brake** /breɪk/

**VERB** [i]

[B2] to make a vehicle stop or move more slowly

**Dictionary example:**
I tried to brake but it was too late.

**Learner example:**
The motorcyclist cut in dangerously, so we had to brake.

**branch** /brɑːnʃ/

**NOUN** [c]

**SUBJECT**

[B2] a part of a subject

**Dictionary example:**
Immunology is a branch of biological science.

**Learner example:**
As a matter of fact, in[n]ovations have taken place quite frequently in every branch of science.

**brand** /brænd/

**NOUN** [c]

[B2] a type of product made by a particular company

**Dictionary examples:**
a best-selling/popular brand of toothpaste
This isn’t my usual brand of deodorant.

**Learner example:**
My computer brand is Acer.
**brass** /braːs/

**NOUN [u]**

**METAL**
[C1] a shiny yellow metal

**Dictionary example:**
a door with a brass handle

**Learner example:**
The dark marble is easy to keep clean and the solid brass handles look luxur[ious].

**MUSIC**
[C2] the group of musical instruments made from brass

**Dictionary example:**
a brass band

**Learner example:**
I liked it so much that I decided to become a brass band musician myself.

**bravery** /ˈbrɛvər.i/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** bravery

**Adjectives:** brave

**Adverbs:** bravely

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] when someone is brave

**Dictionary example:**
He was awarded a medal for his bravery in battle.

**Learner example:**
Of course my bravery disappeared and I felt my heart beating faster and faster.

**breadth** /bretθ/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** breadth

**Verbs:** broaden

**Adjectives:** broad

**Adverbs:** broadly
sb's breadth of experience/knowledge/interest, etc.
[C2] the great number of different things that someone has done, knows, is interested in, etc.

Dictionary example:
Her novels show her huge breadth of knowledge.

Learner example:
In my opinion, it is irresponsible to base our knowledge only on our experience and to overlook the example of all those who, with their breadth of learning, made amazing innovations and helped society.

the length and breadth of sth
[C2] in every part of a place

Dictionary example:
They travelled the length and breadth of Scotland together.

Learner example:
It is the reason that we can easily see the foreigners wandering the length and breadth of the museum being unaware of the origin of items they look at.

break /breɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: break, outbreak
Verbs: break
Adjectives: breakable, broken

VERB (broke, broken)

[B2] [I or T] to come to an end or make something come to an end

Dictionary examples:
Eventually someone spoke, breaking the silence.
The factory brought in outside workers in an attempt to break the strike.

Learner example:
George was looking outside when something broke the silence.

break a record
[B2] to do something better, faster, etc. than anyone else

Dictionary example:
Usain Bolt broke the world record for the 200 metres.
**Learner example:**
I personally think that nobody will ever break his record of being champion seven times.

**break an agreement/promise, etc.**
[B2] to not do what you should do

**Dictionary example:**
She agreed not to tell anyone but she has broken her promise.

**Learner example:**
I am very surprised that such a reputable theatre [as] yours has been able to break all [the] promises that appeared in the advertisement.

**break the law**
[B2] to do something illegal

**Dictionary example:**
He didn't know he was breaking the law by smoking inside the building.

**Learner example:**
Jem, the youngest brother, is a horse-thief, so he breaks the law as well, but his crime is a minor one.

**break the ice**
[B2] to make people feel more relaxed in a social situation

**Dictionary example:**
I told everyone a joke, which helped to break the ice.

**Learner example:**
And, of course, don't forget that a warm smile is one of the best ways to break the ice.

**break sb’s heart**
[B2] to make someone feel extremely sad

**Dictionary examples:**
She really broke his heart when she left.
It breaks my heart when I hear the terrible things that have been said about him.

**Learner example:**
I thought that the hamster would live forever but I was wrong and that mistake broke my heart.

**break even**
[C1] to not make money but also not lose money

**Dictionary example:**
The company only managed to break even this year.

**Learner example:**
Company C does not seem to be doing well. In the year 2000, it just seems to be breaking even.
BECOME KNOWN
[C2] [i or ɪ] If news or a story breaks, or if someone breaks it, it becomes known by
the public for the first time.

Dictionary example:
News of the scandal broke just before the election.

break the news to sb
[C2] to tell someone about something unpleasant that has happened

Dictionary example:
Who's going to break the news to his wife?

Learner example:
She broke the news to his wife Helen.

break free
[C2] to suddenly escape or become separate from something

Dictionary example:
The prisoner broke free while the guards weren't looking.

break free
[C2] to escape from someone or something that is controlling you

Dictionary example:
She tried to break free from the social conditioning of her upbringing.

Learner example:
I would like to revisit there one day as it's firmly connected to my ad[o]lescence, when I struggled
to break free from my peers, [and] tried to establish my own identity.

STORM
[C2] [ɪ] If a storm breaks, it starts suddenly.

Dictionary example:
The storm broke just as we reached home.

Learner example:
Suddenly the moon disappeared behind the clouds and, in a few moments, a violent storm broke.

WEATHER
[C2] [ɪ] If the weather breaks, it changes suddenly, and usually becomes worse.

Dictionary example:
The weather is due to break at the weekend.

break new ground
[C2] to do something that is different to anything that has been done before

Dictionary example:
Their research is really breaking new ground.
Learner example:
Paul decided to break new ground in music no matter how long it took.

NOUN [C]

DAMAGE
[C1] where something has separated in an accident

Dictionary example:
a break in the bone

OPPORTUNITY
[C2] a lucky opportunity

Dictionary examples:
His big break came when he was offered a part in a TV series.
Meeting Tom was my lucky break.

breakable  /ˈbreɪkə.bl/  
Word family:
Nouns: break, outbreak
Verbs: break
Adjectives: breakable, broken

ADJECTIVE
[B2] easy to break

Dictionary example:
That vase is breakable so be careful.

breakdown  /ˈbrɛk.dən/  
NOUN [C]

ILLNESS
[B2] a short period of mental illness when people are too ill to continue with their normal lives

Dictionary examples:
Later that year she had a breakdown.
a nervous breakdown

Learner example:
Instead of that I almost end[ed] up in hospital suffering [a] nervous breakdown.
NOT WORKING
[B2] when a vehicle or machine stops working for a period of time

Dictionary example:
I had a breakdown in the middle of the road.

Learner example:
On Friday we went to Scotland but unfortunately we had a breakdown. By chance a very nice farmer fixed our car and [as] it was late he suggested we should spend the night on his farm.

FAILURE
[C1] when something such as communication or a relationship fails or ends

Dictionary example:
a breakdown in the peace talks

Learner example:
Eventually, society may be affected by the breakdown of these relationships.

EXPLANATION
[C2] a short explanation of the details of something

Dictionary example:
I need a breakdown of the costs involved.

Learner example:
The pie charts showing the breakdown of annual spending of the school take into account money spent on insurance, teachers' salaries, furniture and equipment, resources (such as books), and other workers' salaries.

breakthrough ˈbreɪk.θruː/

NOUN [C]
[B2] an important discovery or event that helps to improve a situation or provide an answer to a problem

Dictionary examples:
Scientists are hoping for a breakthrough in the search for a cure for cancer.
A major breakthrough in negotiations has been achieved.

Learner example:
For me the main technology breakthrough has been in computers.
breath /breθ/

Word family:
Nouns: breath
Verbs: breathe

NOUN [U]

be out of breath
[B2] to be breathing quickly because you have been running, walking fast, etc.

Dictionary example:
He burst into the room, red-faced and out of breath.

Learner example:
I find that shopping is very good exercise too! By the time you have completed the whole High Street, you will be out of breath.

hold your breath
[B2] to keep air in your lungs and not let it out

Dictionary example:
How long can you hold your breath under water?

Learner example:
My heart was beating fast. I was holding my breath.

take your breath away
[B2] If something takes your breath away, you feel surprise and admiration because it is so beautiful or exciting.

Dictionary example:
The view from the window took my breath away.

Learner example:
The landscape just takes your breath away sometimes.

take a deep breath
[B2] to fill your lungs with air

Dictionary example:
Take a deep breath and relax.

Learner example:
But if you took a deep breath after reading the question, don't worry.

catch your breath; get your breath back
[C1] to rest for a short time until you can breathe regularly again

Dictionary example:
Let's stop here and catch our breath.
Learner example:
Unfortunately, the rooms we stayed in were on the 4th floor. The older people couldn’t catch their breath when they finally arrived there!

under your breath
[C2] If you say something under your breath, you say it very quietly so that other people cannot hear it.

Dictionary example:
He was muttering curses under his breath.

Learner example:
"We must have taken a wrong turn somewhere..." he kept muttering under his breath.

with bated breath
[C2] in an excited or anxious way

Dictionary example:
I waited with bated breath as the results were read out.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, a huge number of scientists carrying out very useful research, [and] composers, actors, [and] artists making us watch their creations with bated breath, do not earn [as much] money as a lot of outstanding sportsmen do.

a breath of fresh air
[C2] someone or something that is new, different, and exciting

Dictionary example:
Having Eve around has been a breath of fresh air.

Learner example:
The final suggestion is focused on building a leisure centre. Should this be everything the Town Council has promised, it will bring a breath of fresh air.

hold your breath
[C2] to wait for something to happen, often feeling anxious

Dictionary example:
While the leaders negotiated, the world held its breath.

Learner example:
They, the critics, the fans and friends and his wife, held their breath and crossed their fingers, hoping to once again hear his enchanting voice.

breathtaking /ˈbreθˌteɪ.kɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] very beautiful or surprising
Dictionary example:
breathtaking scenery/views

Learner example:
For me it is a very beautiful country, with amazing and breathtaking scenery.

**breathe** /breɪd/  

**verb** (bred, bred)

**keep animals**  
[B2] to keep animals for the purpose of producing young animals

**Dictionary example:**
His main income comes from breeding cattle.

**Learner example:**
We can keep animals, breed them, observe, and protect [them].

**breed contempt/ignorance, etc.**  
[C2] to cause something to develop, especially something bad

**Dictionary example:**
He believes that movies like this breed violence.

**Learner example:**
The question arises: who is right – those who love and cherish history or those for whom the above-mentioned familiarity breeds contempt?

**noun** [c]

[B2] a type of dog, sheep, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
This rare breed of sheep is particularly good for wool.
What’s your favourite breed of dog/dog breed?

**Learner example:**
After she had seen pictures of the show animals, she de[c]ided to buy a small male kitten of the Cornish rex breed.

**bribe** /braɪb/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** bribe, bribery

**Verbs:** bribe
NOUN [c]
[C1] money or a present given to someone so that they will do something for you, usually something dishonest

Dictionary example:
The politician was accused of accepting bribes from businessmen.

Learner example:
Because we don't like to wait, it is very common to jump in the queues or give bribes to people in charge.

VERB [v]
[C1] to try to make someone do something for you by giving them money, presents or something else they want

Dictionary example:
He bribed immigration officials and entered the country illegally.

Learner example:
She considers presents to be a means of bribing her in order to love you.

bribery  /ˈbraɪ.bri/  

Word family:
Nouns: bribe, bribery
Verbs: bribe

NOUN [u]
[C2] when someone is offered money or a present so that they will do something, usually something dishonest

Dictionary example:
bribery and corruption

Learner example:
They treat bribery as something natural – as it was in the last political system.

brick  /brɪk/  

NOUN [c]
[B2] a small, hard, rectangular block used for building walls and houses

Dictionary example:
a brick wall

Learner example:
Future homes might not be built out of bricks at all!
bridge  /brɪdʒ/

NOUN [C]

CONNECTION

[C2] something that connects two groups, organizations, etc. and improves the relationship between them

Dictionary example:
After the war they tried to build bridges with neighbouring countries.

Learner example:
It is difficult to prevent this but we must do our best to build bridges between countries.

brief  /briːf/

Word family:
Adjectives: brief
Adverbs: briefly

ADJECTIVE

in brief

[B2] using only a few words

Dictionary example:
world news in brief

Learner example:
In brief, I have had a marvellous week.

bright  /braɪt/

Word family:
Adjectives: bright
Adverbs: brightly

ADJECTIVE

INTELLIGENT

[B2] clever

Dictionary examples:
They were bright children, always asking questions.
She was enthusiastic and full of bright ideas and suggestions.
Learner example:
Rony had the bright idea of calling the firemen.

HAPPY
[B2] happy or full of hope

Dictionary examples:
You're very bright and cheerful this morning!
She's an excellent student with a bright future.

Learner example:
I think I'm [a] very bright kind of person, friendly with lots of energ[y].

look on the bright side
[C1] to find good things in a bad situation

Dictionary example:
Look on the bright side – no one was badly hurt.

Learner example:
I am quite self-confident and I usually look on the bright side, as I am not keen on pessimistic thoughts.

brightly /ˈbraɪt.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: bright
Adverbs: brightly

ADVERB
[B2] with a lot of strong colour or light

Dictionary examples:
brightly coloured clothes
a brightly lit room

Learner example:
The sun was shining brightly over the white mountain tops.

brilliantly /ˈbrɪl.i.ənt.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: brilliant
Adverbs: brilliantly

ADVERB
[B2] in a very skillful way
Dictionary example:
He seems to do everything brilliantly – piano playing, skiing, sailing.

Learner example:
Although they are not very famous like JULIE BLOOM, they sang brilliantly.

**bring /brɪŋ/**

**VERB [T] (brought, brought)**

**bring sth to an end**
[C1] to make something finish

Dictionary example:
The stories in the newspaper brought her career to a sudden end.

Learner example:
At the end of the year 2002 a great construction was brought to an end.

**bring out the best in sb**
[C2] to cause someone’s best qualities to show

Dictionary example:
This chance to work with young people has really brought out the best in him.

Learner example:
TV can be a baby-sitter, but such a relationship is not going to bring out the best in a child.

**bring sth to light**
[C2] If information about something bad is brought to light, it is discovered.

Dictionary example:
The trial brought to light numerous contradictions in his story.

Learner example:
The evening investigation which was carried out by [the] mysterious Inspector brought all these facts to light.

**bring a lump to your throat**
[C2] to make you feel such strong emotion that you want to cry

Dictionary example:
It was a very moving speech, and it brought a lump to my throat.

Learner example:
This devastating image brought a lump to John’s throat.
brink /brɪŋk/

NOUN

be on the brink of *sth*
[C2] to be in a situation where something bad is going to happen very soon

Dictionary example:
The two countries are on the brink of war.

Learner example:
By the end of the 21st century, Earth was on the brink of destruction. The atmosphere was polluted, the seas were poisoned, the animals were just a distant memory.

broadband /ˈbrɔːd.bænd/

NOUN [u]
[B2] a type of Internet connection that allows large amounts of information to be sent or received very quickly

Dictionary example:
We've got broadband at home.

broadcast /ˈbrɔːd.kɑːst/

VERB [I or T] (broadcast, broadcast)
[B2] to send out a programme on television, radio or the Internet

Dictionary examples:
Radio Caroline used to broadcast from a boat in the North Sea.
The tennis championship is broadcast live to several different countries.

Learner example:
Unfortunately most of the programmes that channels broadcast are not quality programmes.

broaden /ˈbrɔːd.n/
VERB [i or ɪ]
[C1] to increase or make something increase and include more things or people

Dictionary examples:
We need to broaden the range of services that we offer.
Travel broadens your mind.

Learner example:
I mentioned the fact that such a presentation would broaden his mind and help him to strengthen his position in the company.

broadly /ˈbrɔːd.li/

Word family:
Nouns: breadth
Verbs: broaden
Adjectives: broad
Adverbs: broadly

ADVERB
[C1] in a general way and not including everything or everyone

Dictionary examples:
The plans have been broadly accepted.
Broadly speaking, don't you think women make better drivers than men?

Learner example:
The car is a marvellous means of transport as far as mobility, freedom, speed and comfort are concerned but it is now broadly acknowledged that it is inappropriate for the [short journeys] in our big cities.

broadminded /ˌbrɔːdˈmaɪn.dɪd/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] willing to accept other people's behaviour and beliefs, especially sexual behaviour

Dictionary example:
At seventy she was surprisingly broadminded.

Learner example:
My father is not as broadminded as my mother but I love him with all my heart.

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broken /ˈbrəʊ.kən/

Word family:
Nouns: break, outbreak
Verbs: break
Adjectives: breakable, broken

ADJECTIVE

a broken heart
[B2] when you are very sad because of the end of a relationship

Dictionary example:
They said she died of a broken heart.

Learner example:
He will split up with you and [you] will get a broken heart!

broken English/Spanish, etc.
[C1] English/Spanish, etc. that is spoken slowly and has a lot of mistakes in it

Dictionary example:
I managed to make myself understood in broken French.

Learner example:
A non–English speaker may be [able] to talk in broken English to a native English speaker, but has only [a vague] idea as to what he's uttering.

a broken home
[C2] a family in which the parents do not now live together

Dictionary example:
Many of these children come from broken homes.

Learner example:
The development of the modern society has brought with it a growing number of broken homes, divorces and economic problems which have directly affected the parent–child relationship.

bronze /brɔnz/

NOUN

PRIZE
[C1] a bronze medal

Dictionary example:
He won a bronze in the 200m.

Learner example:
I have won two bronze medals and one gold for swimming 50m.
METAL
[C2] a shiny orange–brown metal

Dictionary example:
a statue made from bronze

Learner example:
Each single station in the centre is worth seeing: mosaics, massive statues made of bronze, huge framed paintings.

ADJECTIVE
METAL
[C2] made of bronze

Dictionary example:
a bronze statue

Learner example:
The water flowed from the mouth of a bronze dolphin to the small pond full of lily–pads and reeds.

COLOUR
[C2] being the colour of bronze

Dictionary example:
bronze skin

Learner example:
The world was drenched in colours. It looked as if the autumn had taken all [the] colours of spring and softly blended them in richly intense shades of amber, bronze and purple.

brother-in-law /ˈbrʌð.ər.ɪn.ˈlɔː/

NOUN [C] (PLURAL brothers–in–law)
[B2] the man married to your sister or the brother of your husband or wife

Dictionary example:
It's my brother–in–law's birthday today.

browse /braʊz/

Word family:
Nouns: browser
Verbs: browse
LOOK
[B2] [i] to look through a book or magazine without reading everything, or to walk
around a shop looking at several things without intending to buy any of them

Dictionary examples:
I was just browsing through some fashion magazines.
"Are you looking for anything in particular, Madam?" "No, I'm just browsing."

Learner example:
If I want to buy a nice pair of shoe[s], I'll have to go into [the] city centre and browse around from
shop to shop until I find the shoes I like.

COMPUTING
[B2] [i or τ] to look at information on the Internet

Dictionary example:
It's a good site to browse.

Learner example:
Furthermore people read when the[y] browse on the internet, whet[her] for entertainment or
educational and business affairs.

browser /ˈbraʊ.zə/  

Word family:
Nouns: browser
Verbs: browse

NOUN [C]
[B2] a computer program that makes it possible for you to read information on the
Internet

Dictionary example:
a Web browser

Learner example:
It is important to install an Internet browser, that could be Internet Explorer, as well as the free
Mozilla Firefox.

bruise /bruːz/  

NOUN [C]
[B2] a dark area on your skin where you have been hurt
Dictionary examples:
His arms and back were covered in bruises.
She had a few cuts and bruises but nothing serious.

Learner example:
I entered the room and saw him, covered in bruises, but I couldn’t see his face because he was sleeping turned to the other side.

**brush** /brʌʃ/

**NOUN**

**ACTION**

[B2] [NO PLURAL] the action of using a brush

**Dictionary example:**
I need to give my hair a quick brush.

**VERB**

**TOUCH**

[B2] [I or T] to lightly touch someone or something as you move past

**Dictionary examples:**
Charlotte brushed against him as she left the room.
His lips gently brushed her cheek and he was gone.

**Learner example:**
A soft, cool breeze brushed my skin.

**brush sth away/off, etc.**

[C1] to move something somewhere using a brush or your hand

**Dictionary examples:**
Jackie brushed the hair out of her eyes.
He brushed away a tear.

**Learner example:**
She picked the diary up, brushed off the dust, and immediately started to read it.

**brutal** /ˈbruː.təl/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] very violent or cruel

**Dictionary example:**
a brutal murder
Learner example:
Can you remember the days when soccer was peaceful, harmless and all about joy? It has nothing to do with contemporary soccer, [which] is brutal, aggressive, [and] emotional.

bubble /ˈbʌb.l/

NOUN [C]
[C1] a ball of air or gas with liquid around it

Dictionary example:
an air bubble

Learner example:
As a consequence the sea became polluted, and its deep blue colour turned into a dirty green, covered with bubbles!

VERB [I]
bubble (over) with confidence/enthusiasm, etc.
[C1] to be full of a positive emotion or quality

Dictionary example:
The children were bubbling over with excitement.

Learner example:
However taking into account that students often leave class bubbling over with excitement and go straight to the canteen, the noise is a little bit loud there [so] I do not think this would be a good place to film.

liquid
[C2] If a liquid bubbles, balls of air or gas rise to its surface.

Dictionary example:
The soup was bubbling on the stove.

budget /ˈbʌdʒ.ɪt/

NOUN [C]

amount
[B2] the amount of money a person or organization has available to spend

Dictionary examples:
an annual budget of £40 million
They are over/under/on/within budget.
They have a very tight budget.
Learner example:
Finally, as I am a student on a very tight budget I would prefer a cheap B&B or a family rather than a local campsite.

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] very cheap

**Dictionary example:**
a budget airline

**bug /bʌg/**

**NOUN [C]**

**ILLNESS**
[B2] a bacteria or a virus causing an illness that is usually not serious

**Dictionary examples:**
I had a tummy/stomach bug last week.
There's a bug going around.

**COMPUTER**
[B2] a mistake or problem in a computer program

**Dictionary example:**
A bug had caused the company's computer system to crash.

**Learner example:**
For instance, the millennium bug [might] make all computers confuse[d], and banks will lose money.

**build /bɪld/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** builder, building
**Verbs:** build, rebuild

**VERB [I or T] (built, built)**

**build (sth) up or build up (sth) PHRASAL VERB**
[C1] to increase or develop, or to make something increase or develop

**Dictionary examples:**
This will help to build up his confidence.
Traffic usually builds up in the late afternoon.

**Learner example:**
What might take a long time to build up could be ruined in a very short time.
### bulb /bʌlb/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a glass object which produces light from electricity

**Dictionary example:**
an energy-saving light bulb

**Learner example:**
We use the bulb everywhere and [for] almost everything.

### bulk /bʌlk/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** bulk

**Adjectives:** bulky

**NOUN**

**in bulk**

[C1] in large amounts

**Dictionary example:**
to buy in bulk

**Learner example:**
I suggest that you buy food in bulk so that you not only save money but also save time.

**the bulk of sth**

[C1] the largest part or most of something

**Dictionary example:**
He spends the bulk of his money on rent.

**Learner example:**
I have noticed that the bulk of the commit[tee] are people over forty years old.

### bulky /ˈbʌl.ki/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** bulk

**Adjectives:** bulky

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] too big and taking up too much space

**Dictionary example:**
bulky equipment
**Learner example:**
The problem is actually that to get access to this kind of program, one needs to buy special equipment, which is [still] quite expensive and bulky.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>bullet</strong></th>
<th>/ˈbʊl.ɪt/</th>
<th><strong>NOUN [C]</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|            | [B2] a small, metal object that is shot from a gun | **Dictionary example:**
|            | A bullet had lodged in the boy’s leg. | **Learner example:**
|            | After this, she [was] working for the FBI until she received a bullet in [the] shoulder. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>bully</strong></th>
<th>/ˈbʊl.i/</th>
<th><strong>VERB [t]</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|            | [C1] to intentionally frighten someone who is smaller or weaker than you | **Dictionary examples:**
|            | He was bullied at school by some older boys. |
|            | She was bullied into leaving. | **Learner example:**
|            | Nowadays, due to active bullying prevention by the schools, the children are exposed to the bad effects of bullying and how to stand up if anybody tries to bully them. |

<table>
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<th>/ˈbʊl.i/</th>
<th><strong>NOUN [C]</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|            | [C1] someone who intentionally frightens a person who is smaller or weaker than them | **Dictionary example:**
|            | He's just a bully. | **Learner example:**
|            | One day you accidentally kill the bully of the village with a sword you found, and you are cast out of the village. |
bump /ˈbʌmp/  

VERB

HURT

[B2] [ɪ] to hurt part of your body by hitting it against something hard

Dictionary example:
I bumped my head on the shelf as I stood up.

bump against/into sth

[B2] to hit something with force

Dictionary example:
She bumped into his tray, knocking the food onto his lap.

Learner example:
A young man ran after the ball and bumped into her.

NOUN

BODY

[C1] a raised area on your body where it has been hurt by hitting something hard

Dictionary example:
a nasty bump on the head

SURFACE

[C1] a round, raised area on a surface

Dictionary example:
My bike hit a bump in the road.

Learner example:
When people don't feel safe on the streets anymore due to [the] lack of speed limit signs or speed bumps on the roads, or simply traffic lights!

bumper /ˈbʌm.pə/  

NOUN [c]

[B2] a bar fixed along the front or the back of a vehicle to protect it in an accident

Dictionary example:
a front/rear bumper

Learner example:
The cars were bumper to bumper.
bun /bʌn/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a small, round cake or piece of bread

Dictionary examples:
an iced bun
a hamburger bun

Learner example:
I was selling sweet buns and coffee in the coffee shop.

bundle /ˈbʌn.dl/

NOUN

TIED GROUP
[C2] a number of things that are tied together

Dictionary example:
a bundle of letters/clothes

Learner example:
It was a bundle of papers hanging out of a hole in the ceiling.

a bundle of energy/nerves INFORMAL
[C2] a very energetic/nervous person

Dictionary example:
I was a bundle of nerves before the speech.

Learner example:
When he began to be a bundle of nerves, he understood that he had to ask her [for] the truth.

burden /ˈbɜː.dən/

NOUN [c]
[C1] something difficult or unpleasant that you have to deal with or worry about

Dictionary examples:
the burden of responsibility
I'd hate to be a burden to you when I'm older.

Learner example:
With the heavy burden of paying the high school fees already on our shoulders, why not take into consideration the idea of opening the centre to the public?
bureaucracy /ˈbjuərəkrəsi/  
NOUN  
RULES  
[C2] [u] complicated rules and processes used by an organization, especially when they do not seem necessary  
Dictionary example:  
government bureaucracy  
Learner example:  
It was difficult because the bureaucracy proved to be extremely slow and I was all on my own suddenly.

GOVERNMENT  
[C2] [c or u] a government or organization in which there are a lot of officials in a lot of departments  
Dictionary example:  
The country has a powerful bureaucracy.  
Learner example:  
In any case, the Government and bureaucracy must play a leading role in the performance of the economy.

burglar /ˈbɜː.glər/  
Word family:  
Nouns: burglar, burglary  
Verbs: burgle  
NOUN [c]  
[B2] a person who illegally enters buildings and steals things  
Dictionary example:  
I saw someone climbing in through a window and assumed it must be a burglar.  
Learner example:  
Was it possible that a burglar was trying to break into the house?

burglary /ˈbɜːglər.i/  
Word family:  
Nouns: burglar, burglary  
Verbs: burgle
NOUN [C or U]
[B2] the crime of illegally entering a building and stealing things

Dictionary example:
He was charged with burglary.

Learner example:
It makes the shops more secure against burglary and vandalism.

burgle  /ˈbɜː.gl/  

Word family:
Nouns: burglar, burglary
Verbs: burgle

VERB [r]
[B2] to get into a building illegally and steal things

Dictionary example:
They’ve been burgled twice recently.

Learner example:
One night she burgled my friend’s home and stole the painting.

burial  /ˈber.i.əl/  

Word family:
Nouns: burial
Verbs: bury

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] when a dead body is put into the ground

Dictionary example:
The burial took place on Monday.

Learner example:
After his burial, I would receive a book where all kinds of items were made explicit to me.

burn  /bɜːn/  

Word family:
Verbs: burn
Adjectives: burning
VERB (burnt or burned, burnt or burned)

COPY

[B2] [ɪ] to copy music, information or images onto a CD

Dictionary example:
He’s burnt all his favourite records onto a CD.

Learner example:
Microsoft Vista is [such a] complex system that there is no need for the additional programs for viewing websites, watching movies, listening [to] music or burning your own CDs or DVDs.

ENERGY

[B2] [ɪ] (also burn up) to use fuel to produce heat or energy

Dictionary example:
to burn calories/fuel

Learner example:
In this way, our organism is provided with oxygen which is essential in order to burn fat and produce the energy we need every day.

burn the midnight oil

[C2] to work late into the night

Dictionary example:
I had to burn the midnight oil to get the essay finished.

Learner example:
My examinations were nearing and I was always burning the midnight oil.

burning  /ˈbɜː.nɪŋ/

Word family:
Verbs: burn
Adjectives: burning

ADJECTIVE

a burning issue/question

[C1] a subject or question that must be dealt with or answered quickly

Dictionary example:
Climate change is the burning issue of the day.

Learner example:
Dear David Gold, I am writing this letter to discuss and give my opinion on the two proposals for solving the traffic problem in Castlecross, which is widely recognised as arguably the most burning issue nowadays.
burning ambition/desire, etc.
[C1] a very strong need to do something

Dictionary example:
I have no burning desire to go diving.

Learner example:
By travelling back to Germany in 1933 I might be able to find out where Hitler's burning ambition
to rule the world stemmed from in the first place.

burst /bɜːst/

VERB [I or T] (burst, burst)

BREAK APART
[B2] to break open or apart suddenly, or to make something do this

Dictionary examples:
The balloon burst and frightened the children.
Suddenly the door burst open and police officers carrying guns rushed in.
If I eat any more cake I'll burst!

Learner example:
We had a lovely lunch there and ate so much that we nearly burst.

be bursting with confidence/joy, etc.
[C2] to be full of an emotion or quality

Dictionary example:
She was bursting with pride.

Learner example:
And after, they feel as fit as a fiddle, bursting with energy to go back to work.

burst into flames
[C2] to suddenly start burning

Dictionary example:
The car plunged down a hill and burst into flames.

Learner example:
When we turned it on, it burst into flames and before we could exti[n]guish it, the fire destroyed
my desk.
bury /ˈber.i/

Word family:
Nouns: burial
Verbs: bury

VERB [T]

HIDE
[B2] to put something into a hole in the ground and cover it

Dictionary examples:
The dog trotted off to bury its bone.
buried treasure

Learner example:
I was really frightened, so I decided to bury the money in the back garden.

bury yourself in sth
[C2] to give all your attention to something

Dictionary example:
He buried himself in his work.

Learner example:
Miss Kenton is clearly attracted to the butler but he is equally clearly terrified of intimacy and buries himself in his work.

bury your face/head in sth
[C2] to move your face/head somewhere where it is hidden

Dictionary example:
She buried her face in her hands.

Learner example:
A seemingly courageous young man, who had stayed perfectly calm until that moment, dropped to his knees, then buried his face in the scorching sand.

bush /bʊʃ/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a short, thick plant with a lot of branches

Dictionary example:
a rose bush

Learner example:
There were so many flowers and bushes, [and] the water of the lake was so fresh.
beat about/around the bush
[C1] to avoid talking about something difficult or embarrassing

Dictionary example:
I decided to stop beating around the bush and told him exactly what I thought of him.

Learner example:
Well, let's stop beating about the bush and get to the point.

the bush
[C2] wild parts of Australia or Africa where very few people live

Dictionary example:
He spent weeks wandering in the bush.

Learner example:
For the first three days we were walking through different types of bush that changed like in a kaleidoscope; the swampy, the dry, the barren.

business /ˈbiz.nɪs/

NOUN

be none of sb's business
[B2] If something is none of someone's business, they do not need to know about it, although they want to, because it does not affect them.

Dictionary example:
I'm certainly not going to tell Lara how much money I've spent – it's none of her business!

Learner example:
You might think it's none of my business, but I simply have to say this.

mind your own business
[C2] used to tell someone in a rude way that you do not want them to ask about something private

Dictionary example:
I wish you'd just mind your own business.

Learner example:
Despite knowing that he was only doing what he thought was best for me, I couldn't stand him, and I often told him to mind his own business.
butt /bʌt/

**VERB**

**butt in** **PHRASAL VERB**

[C2] to interrupt or join in a conversation or activity when the other people do not want you to

**Dictionary example:**
The interviewer kept butting in and wouldn't let me answer the question.

**Learner example:**
"Was it a big one, Granny?", the little girl butt[ed] in.

buzz /bʌz/

**NOUN**

**EXCITEMENT**

[C2] [NO PLURAL] a feeling of excitement, energy, or pleasure

**Dictionary example:**
He gets a real buzz from going to the gym.

**Learner example:**
The reading groups will then create a real buzz in the community in regard to reading.

**SOUND**

[C2] [c] a continuous sound like a bee makes

**Dictionary example:**
I could hear the buzz of a fly near my ear.

**Learner example:**
I was working when I started hearing a kind of buzz, that was getting louder and louder.

**VERB [i]**

**SOUND**

[C2] to make a continuous noise like a bee

**Dictionary example:**
I can hear something buzzing.

**Learner example:**
They are now sitting quietly at their desks in a classroom where you can hear the flies buzz.

**ENERGY**

[C2] to be full of activity and excitement
Dictionary example:
The crowd was buzzing **with** excitement.

**Learner example:**
Summer was getting into full swing and the city was buzzing with activity.

**by** /bʌɪ/

**PREPOSITION**

**HOLDING**
[B2] holding a particular part of someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
She grabbed me by the arm.

**by far**
[B2] by a great amount

**Dictionary example:**
They are by far the best students in the class.

**Learner example:**
I have travelled to many countries, but New Zealand is by far the best.

**by heart**
[B2] so that you can remember all of something

**Dictionary example:**
We had to learn the whole poem **off** by heart.

**Learner example:**
I know all his songs by heart and I was singing all the time.

**day by day/little by little/one by one, etc.**
[B2] used in particular phrases to mean 'gradually' or 'in units of'

**Dictionary example:**
Day by day he grew stronger.

**Learner example:**
The weather gets warmer and warmer day by day and noone miss[es] the rain and the severe cold of winter.

**AMOUNT**
[B2] used to show measurements or amounts
Dictionary examples:
twelve by ten metres of floor space
Interest rates have been increased by 0.25%.
I’m paid by the hour.
Copies have sold by the million.

Learner example:
Therefore you will see that this festival attracts people by the truckload.

by all accounts
[C1] as said by a lot of people

Dictionary example:
The party was, by all accounts, a great success.

Learner example:
I have known Michael Van Cleef for over two decades now, and he is, by all accounts, an exemplary worker.

by and large
[C1] in general

Dictionary example:
By and large, people have welcomed the changes.

Learner example:
By and large, it is clear that we all enjoy some kind of sport.

by law
[C1] If you have to do something by law, it is illegal not to do it.

Dictionary example:
They have to provide a contract by law.

Learner example:
Swedish organisations and [companies] are forced by law to put forward programmes for employing more women and improv[ing] their conditions.

by way of sth
[C1] as a type of something

Dictionary example:
He sent me some flowers by way of apology.

Learner example:
The Academy however provided nothing whatsoever by way of entertainment, though with a group of interesting young people and a little imagination this should not be a pro[b]lem.

do sth by the book
[C2] to do something exactly as the rules tell you

Dictionary example:
If you want to get permission for the building, you’ll need to do everything by the book.
**Learner example:**
The upper-class people always do things by the book, follow the rules and the conventions and therefore are stand-offish and cold.

**by any chance**
[C2] used to ask in a polite way whether something is possible or true

**Dictionary example:**
You're not Spanish by any chance, are you?

**Learner example:**
I pick up the phone "Hello, Nick have you by any chance got, or seen, my diary?"

**by virtue of sth** FORMAL
[C2] because of something

**Dictionary example:**
She succeeded by virtue of hard work rather than talent.

**Learner example:**
However, you should take into consideration the expenses, which might be exorbitant by virtue of the fact that you inten[d] to create places with a beautiful ambience and a wide range of comforts offered that will facilitate residents' lives.

**by all means**
[C2] something that you say when you are agreeing to let someone do something

**Dictionary example:**
I have a copy of the report on my desk. By all means have a look at it.

**Learner example:**
The kitchen utensils stay next to the sink. You can make use of them by all means.

**by the same token**
[C2] in a similar way

**Dictionary example:**
You have to let people know your plans in good time and, by the same token, they should give you some advance warning.

**Learner example:**
Our college will only benefit from this event as long as it give[s] a nice and memorable impression. By the same token, we should all be well prepared and visualise beforehand possible manoeuvres that could appear, so that we can control the situation.
cabin  /ˈkæb.in/

NOUN [C]

HOUSE
[C1] a small, simple house made of wood

Dictionary example:
a log cabin

Learner example:
For many years, the visitor could only stay in one of the few cabins near the lake, enjoying a breathtaking view.

SHIP
[C2] a small room to sleep in on a ship

Dictionary example:
We had a cabin on the top deck.

Learner example:
I went to my cabin to have a little nap.

cabinet  /ˈkæb.ɪ.nət/

NOUN [C]

[B2] a cupboard with shelves or drawers to store or show things in

Dictionary examples:
a bathroom/medicine cabinet
a glass-fronted cabinet

Learner example:
By the way I found your watch in the bathroom cabinet, so you don't have to worry about it.
cable /ˈkeɪ.bl/  

NOUN
WIRED [B2] [c or u] a set of wires, covered by plastic, that carries electricity, telephone signals, etc.

Dictionary examples:  
The road had been dug up in order to lay cables.  
overhead power cables

Learner example:  
A mouse had eaten the cable so that there was no contact any more.

cake /ˈkeɪk/  

NOUN [C or U]  

be a piece of cake  
[B2] INFORMAL to be very easy

Dictionary example:  
The exam itself was a piece of cake.

Learner example:  
The article was a piece of cake though I didn't expect to win.

sell like hot cakes  
[C2] to be bought quickly and in large numbers

Dictionary example:  
Their new game is selling like hot cakes.

Learner example:  
Books about how to remain young are selling like hot cakes.

calculate /ˈkæl.kjʊ.leɪt/  

Word family:  
Nouns: calculation, calculator  
Verbs: calculate  

VERB [T]  
MATHS  
[B2] to discover an amount or number using mathematics
Dictionary examples:
Have you calculated the cost of the project?
He’s calculated that it would take him two years to save up enough for a car.
At some stage we need to calculate when the project will be finished.

Learner example:
First of all, you say that we must do 80 kilometres on Saturday, but I have calculated the distance and [it is] only 50 kilometres.

be calculated to do sth
[C2] to be intended to have a particular effect

Dictionary example:
His comments were calculated to embarrass the prime minister.

Learner example:
Had he known that his Majesty would be vexed, he would have never written such comical rhymes, hardly calculated to endear himself to the King.

| calculation | /ˌkæl.kjuˈleɪ.ʃən/ |

Word family:
Nouns: calculation, calculator
Verbs: calculate

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] when you use mathematics to discover an amount or number

Dictionary example:
I did some quick calculations to see if we could afford it.

Learner example:
Just a simple calculation: the living space an elephant has got in a zoo is about 500m².

calf /kɑ:f/

NOUN [C] (PLURAL calves)

LEG
[C2] the back of your leg below your knee

Dictionary example:
I pulled a muscle in my calf.
call /kɔːl/

VERB

DESCRIBE
[B2] [t] to describe someone or something in a particular way

Dictionary examples:
Are you calling me a liar?
He called it a disgrace.

Learner example:
You work too hard and you could be called [a] work[a]holic.

call in sick
[B2] to telephone the place where you work and report that you are sick and unable to work

Dictionary example:
Three people called in sick this morning.

Learner example:
A few minutes after the concert began, a backstage assistant called in sick who was responsible for checking whether everything is going well according to the timetable.

ASK TO COME
[C1] [i or t] to ask someone to come somewhere

Dictionary examples:
She called me into her office.
He called me over to where he was sitting.
I keep the bedroom door open in case the children call for me in the night.

Learner example:
Next door there's an elderly neighbour who I have always helped. [...] Remember to call him over [sometimes] and together watch television or play cards.

call an election/meeting, etc.
[C1] to arrange for an election/meeting, etc. to happen

Dictionary example:
The chairman has called an emergency meeting.

Learner example:
We hope you will call a meeting to discuss this matter in detail.

call it a day
[C2] INFORMAL to stop doing something, especially working

Dictionary example:
It's almost midnight – let's call it a day.
Learner example:
She decided to call it a day, so Meredith mustered all her courage and wrote a letter to him: "You are not good enough for me," she told him.

call sb names
[C2] to use impolite or unpleasant words to describe someone

Dictionary example:
He said the other children were calling him names.

Learner example:
He had never called me names or told me off.

NOUN [C]

a call for sth
[C1] a demand for something to happen

Dictionary example:
a call for action/peace

Learner example:
Their demands included an all-out call for vital reforms in education – not, as one might expect, a call for higher salaries.

VISIT
[C1] a short visit

Dictionary example:
I thought I'd pay Gary a call.

Learner example:
During our stay in Dublin we [took] a half-day trip by bus throughout the city, which was an unforgettable experience, and paid a call to the National Museum as well.

calm /ˈkɑːm/

Word family:
Verbs: calm
Adjectives: calm
Adverbs: calmly

VERB [T]

calm down (sb) or calm (sb) down PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to stop feeling upset, angry, or excited, or to stop someone feeling this way
**Dictionary examples:**
Calm down, Lily, and tell me what's wrong.
She was angry at first but we managed to calm her down.
She sat down and took a few deep breaths to calm herself down.

**Learner example:**
When I got in my car, I told myself to calm down and take a deep breath.

---

**calmly** /ˈkɑːml.i/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** calm
**Adjectives:** calm
**Adverbs:** calmly

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a quiet or relaxed way

**Dictionary example:**
She reacted surprisingly calmly to the news of his death.

**Learner example:**
Very calmly, I closed my book and put it on the table which was on my left.

---

**camp** /kæmp/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** camp, camping
**Verbs:** camp

**NOUN**

an army/prison/refugee, etc. camp

[B2] an area containing temporary buildings or tents used for soldiers/prisoners/refugees

**Dictionary example:**

**Learner example:**
This year I think I'd rather go to a refugee camp to organise a program for children.
**campaign** /ˈkæmˈpeɪn/

**NOUN [C]**

**ACTIVITIES**
[C1] a series of organized activities or events intended to achieve a result

*Dictionary example:*
an advertising/election campaign

*Learner example:*
In order to solve problems caused by traffic congestion, perhaps the City Co[u]ncil should consider launching a publicity campaign to show people in Baden the alternative means of transport and the advantages of using them.

**WAR**
[C1] a series of military attacks

*Dictionary example:*
a bombing campaign

*Learner example:*
Another example is the campaign of Alexander the Great.

**VERB [I]**
[C1] to organize a series of activities to try to achieve something

*Dictionary example:*
to campaign against/for something

*Learner example:*
Instead of campaigning against tourism, people should [look for] ways of making it better and safer.

---

**campus** /ˈkæmˌpæs/

**NOUN [C or U]**
[B2] the buildings of a college or university and the land that surrounds them

*Dictionary example:*
There's accommodation for about five hundred students on campus.

*Learner example:*
You [should] visit Kamakura City, which is 30 minutes from our campus by train.
can² /kæn/

MODAL VERB

TYPICAL
[B2] used to talk about how someone often behaves or what something is often like

Dictionary example:
She can be really rude at times.

Learner example:
When you choose to travel by car there can be a lot of traffic.

SOMETIMES HAPPENING
[B2] used to say that something sometimes happens or is true

Dictionary examples:
Smoking can cause cancer.
The nights can be very cold.

Learner example:
But overworking is also bad. It has lots of disadvantages, and can cause lots of problems, including health problems.

cancellation /ˌkæn.ˈsɛl.ən/  

Word family:
Nouns: cancellation
Verbs: cancel

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] when someone decides that an event will not now happen or stops an order for something

Dictionary example:
a last-minute cancellation

Learner example:
To begin with, there was a general disappointment due to the cancellation of the opening speech.

candidate /ˈkæn.dɪ.dət/  

NOUN [C]

JOB/ELECTION
[B2] a person who is competing to get a job or elected position
Dictionary example:
There are three candidates standing in the election.

Learner example:
I am the appropriate candidate for this job.

canned /kænd/

Word family:
Nouns: can
Adjectives: canned

ADJECTIVE
[82] used to describe food or drink that has been put into metal containers in a factory

Dictionary example:
canned tomatoes

Learner example:
A new way of of eating has sprung [up] – fast food and canned vegetables are all around us.

cap /kæp/

VERB [T]

LIMIT
[C1] to put a limit on an amount of money that can be borrowed, charged, etc.

Dictionary example:
The interest rate has been capped at 5%.

Learner example:
The cost should also be delinked from the international petrol prices and capped at certain fixed rates for a fixed term.

to cap it all
[C1] used when you mention something in addition to all the other bad or disappointing things that have happened

Dictionary example:
It's been a terrible week and now, to cap it all, the car's broken down.

Learner example:
To cap it all, there was often not enough to eat.
**capability /ˌkeɪ.əˈbɪl.ə.ti/**

Word family:
- **Nouns:** capability
- **Adjectives:** capable, incapable

**NOUN [C or U]**
- **[C1]** the ability or power to do something

  **Dictionary examples:**
  - Both players have the capability to win this match.
  - With the new machines we finally have the capability to do the job properly.

  **Learner example:**
  - The most important part of this job is to be able to work as a member of a team and manage to use everyone's skills and capabilities.

**capable /ˈkeɪ.pə.bl/**

Word family:
- **Nouns:** capability
- **Adjectives:** capable, incapable

**ADJECTIVE**
- **GOOD AT DOING THINGS**
  - **[B2]** able to do things effectively and achieve results

  **Dictionary examples:**
  - She's a very capable young woman.
  - He's very capable.

  **Learner example:**
  - I had a little farm when I was in Italy so I think I'm quite capable and have more experience than others.

**capable of sth/doing sth**
- **[B2]** having the ability, power or qualities to be able to do something

  **Dictionary examples:**
  - She is certainly capable of running the business.
  - She was capable of great cruelty.

  **Learner example:**
  - And although I've never had to cook [for] myself, I suppose I would be capable of cooking if needed.
capacity /ˈkæpəs.ə.ti/  

NOUN  

AMOUNT  
[B2] [c or u] the largest amount or number that a container, building, etc. can hold

Dictionary examples:  
a restaurant with a capacity of 200  
The new stadium has a seating capacity of 50,000.  
The ground was filled to capacity.

Learner example:  
I would recommend the use of the state stadium next year for the concerts, in order to support the capacity of the crowd.

ABILITY  
[B2] [c] the ability to do, experience, or understand something

Dictionary examples:  
She has a great capacity for hard work.  
What impresses me is his capacity to absorb information.

Learner example:  
On the other hand, I think [films] reduce your capacity [for] imagination.

JOB  
[C1] [c] a position or job

Dictionary example:  
He attended over 100 events last year in his capacity as mayor.

Learner example:  
I'm writing in my capacity as secretary of the Social Club of the language school to complain about the services provided to us during our visit to the Science and Technology museum.

capitalism /ˈkæp.i.təl.i.zəm/  

Word family:  
Nouns: capitalism  
Adjectives: capitalist

NOUN [u]  
[C2] a political and economic system in which industry is owned privately for profit and not by the state

Dictionary example:  
Modern capitalism has shaped the global economy.
Learner example:
Although living in the former DDR was almost like living in prison, the film shows the problem of unemployment and the negative results of capitalism.

capitalist /ˈkæp.tɪl.ɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: capitalism
Adjectives: capitalist

ADJECTIVE
[C2] relating to capitalism

Dictionary example:
a capitalist society

Learner example:
There will be important insights to have in examining the ways Japan maintains its social solidarity while prospering as a capitalist society.

captain /ˈkæp.tɪn/

NOUN [C]

SHIP/ AIRCRAFT
[B2] the person in charge of a ship or an aircraft

Dictionary example:
This is your captain speaking. We expect to be landing at London Heathrow in an hour’s time.

Learner example:
At his third attempt the captain succeeded in landing the plane on the air-strip.

capture /ˈkæp.tʃər/

VERB [T]

CATCH
[B2] to catch someone and make them your prisoner, or to take something into your possession, especially by force

Dictionary examples:
Two of the soldiers were killed and the rest were captured. Rebel forces captured the city after a week-long battle.
**Describe**
[B2] to show or describe something successfully using words or pictures

**Dictionary example:**
His book really captures the spirit of the place.

**Learner example:**
Firstly, let me tell you that your report is really good. I think you capture in a few lines the whole expression of a Mexic[an] town['s] life.

**Capture sb/sth on camera/film, etc.**
[B2] to record someone or something on camera/film, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
He was captured on film swearing at the referee.

**Learner example:**
Another event that should absolutely be captured on film is the preparation of the meals in the canteen.

**Capture sb's attention/ imagination/ interest**
[C1] to make someone interested in or excited about something

**Dictionary example:**
The Moon landing captured the attention of the whole world.

**Learner example:**
I am sure this program would capture the interest of other students in this college, as those who participated would be telling their friends all about their adventurous trip.

**Noun [u]**
[C1] when a person or animal is caught and made a prisoner

**Dictionary example:**
He shot himself to avoid capture.

**Learner example:**
The best example is Operation Takedown wh ih is based on the capture of Kevin Mitnick, who illegally hacked in to computers and stole information, but in the movie he is presented [as] a hero.

---

**carbon** /ˈkɑː.bən/

**Noun [u]**
[B2] a chemical element present in all animals and plants and in coal and oil
Dictionary example:
Diamonds are formed from carbon.

**carbon dioxide** /ˌkɑː.bən.ˌdaɪˈoʊ.kсид/  
NOUN [u]  
[B2] the gas formed when carbon is burned, or when people or animals breathe out

Dictionary example:
carbon dioxide emissions

Learner example:  
If we use up carbon dioxide with balloon clothes there will be less carbon dioxide on Earth, so there is no worry about [the] Ozone.

**carbon footprint** /ˌkɑː.bənˈfʊt.prɪnt/  
NOUN [c]  
[B2] the amount of energy that a person or organization uses in order to exist or operate

Dictionary example:  
Many of us could reduce our carbon footprint by taking fewer flights and insulating our homes better.

Learner example:  
I also included some possible precautions to reduce our carbon footprints.

**carbon monoxide** /ˌkɑː.bən.ˌməˈnɑk.sайд/  
NOUN [u]  
[B2] a poisonous gas that is produced by burning some types of fuel, especially petrol

Dictionary example:  
The cause of death was given as carbon monoxide poisoning.

Learner example:  
Cars also emit carbon monoxide and make the air unfit to breath.
**card** /kaːd/

**NOUN [c]**

**be on the cards**

[C2] to be likely to happen

*Dictionary example:*
Do you think marriage is on the cards?

**cardboard** /ˈkaːd.bɔːd/

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] material like very thick stiff paper, usually pale brown in colour, which is used especially for making boxes

*Dictionary example:*
a cardboard *box*

**cardigan** /ˈkaː.dɪ.gən/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a piece of clothing often made from wool, which covers the upper part of the body and fastens at the front

*Dictionary example:*
My worst present ever was an orange and green knitted cardigan from my aunt.

*Learner example:*
I lost my favourite pink cardigan.

**care** /keər/

*Word family:*

**Nouns:** care, carelessness

**Verbs:** care

**Adjectives:** careful, careless, caring

**Adverbs:** carefully, carelessly

**NOUN**

**PROTECTION**

[B2] [u] the process of protecting and looking after someone or something
Dictionary examples:
The standard of care at our local hospital is excellent.
Nurseries are responsible for the children in their care.

Learner example:
In zoos, there are many people who look after them, of course, and so many people think that this care is enough.

take care of sth/doing sth
[C1] to be responsible for dealing with something

Dictionary example:
I did the cooking while Guy took care of the washing up.

Learner example:
As for special requirements, one man and one woman are vegetarians and the woman is allergic to cats. I hope you are able to take care of that.

WORRY
[C2] [c] a feeling of worry

Dictionary example:
He was sixteen years old and didn’t have a care in the world.

Learner example:
The world is your oyster and you do not have a care in the world.

VERB

Who cares?
[B2] INFORMAL used to emphasize that you do not think something is important

Dictionary example:
“Chelsea should have reached the final!” “Who cares?”

Learner example:
“Who cares?” he answered.

I/he, etc. couldn’t care less INFORMAL
[C1] used to emphasize that someone is not interested in or worried about something or someone

Dictionary example:
I couldn’t care less what people think.

Learner example:
There was hunger, there was poverty and the king couldn’t care less about his people’s well-being.
career /ˈkəɹɪər/  

NOUN [c]
TIME
[C2] the time that you spend doing a particular job

Dictionary example:
She began her acting career in TV commercials.

Learner example:
His tennis career was only a small introduction to his business career.

carefree /ˈkeə.fri:/  

ADJECTIVE
[C2] without any worries or problems

Dictionary example:
a carefree childhood

Learner example:
It reminded her of their far-away, carefree youth when they were energetic, healthy and full of hope.

carelessly /ˈkeə.ləs.li/  

Word family:
Nouns: care, carelessness
Verbs: care
Adjectives: careful, careless, caring
Adverbs: carefully, carelessly

ADVERB
[B2] in a careless way

Dictionary example:
He told me off for driving carelessly.

Learner example:
I broke your beautiful vase carelessly while I ran to answer the door.
**carelessness  /ˈkeə.ləs.nəs/**

Word family:
Nouns: care, carelessness
Verbs: care
Adjectives: careful, careless, caring
Adverbs: carefully, carelessly

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] the state of being careless

Dictionary example:
It's the carelessness with which he just throws stuff on the floor that annoys me.

Learner example:
Please forgive my carelessness. I'd like to bring a new one like yours when I come to you next time.

**cargo  /ˈkɑː.gəʊ/**

**NOUN [c or u] (cargoes)**

[C2] goods that are carried in a vehicle

Dictionary examples:
a cargo of oil
a cargo ship/plane

Learner example:
The ships that pass through the Schelde usually carry cargo such as oil, and different vitally important foods from abroad.

**caring  /ˈkeə.rɪŋ/**

Word family:
Nouns: care, carelessness
Verbs: care
Adjectives: careful, careless, caring
Adverbs: carefully, carelessly

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] describes someone who is kind and gives emotional support to others

Dictionary example:
I've always thought of Jo as a very caring person.
Learner example:
Of course I enjoyed staying with you. It was really a remarkable experience being able to live with a caring family like yours.

carnival  /ˈkɑr.nɪ.vəl/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a public celebration where people wear special clothes and dance and play music in the streets

Dictionary example:
I took the kids to the local carnival.

Learner example:
Of course it is not as good as the carnival of Rio!

carriage  /ˈkær.idʒ/

NOUN [C]

TRAIN
[C1] one of the separate parts of a train where the passengers sit

Dictionary example:
The front carriage of the train is for first-class passengers only.

Learner example:
You may also buy a ticket in a sleeping carriage and spend the whole night comfortably sleeping.

WITH HORSE
[C2] a vehicle with wheels that is pulled by a horse

Dictionary example:
a horse and carriage

Learner example:
James Brown, the most brilliant detective of all time, was driving in a horse-drawn carriage through the foggy London streets to his flat in Oxford Street.
carrot /ˈkær.ət/

NOUN

REWARD

[C2] [C] INFORMAL something that is offered to someone in order to encourage them to do something

Dictionary example:
The carrot is the extra payment they will get if they finish the work on time.

Learner example:
Weiss[‘s] policy of dangling the carrot proved useful – he managed, literally, to hit two birds with one stone.

carry /ˈkær.i/

VERB [T]

TRANSPORT

[B2] to move someone or something from one place to another

Dictionary examples:
The plane was carrying 300 passengers.
The bus was carrying children to school.
Underground cables carry electricity to all parts of the city.
Police think that the body was carried down the river.
Rubbish left on the beach during the day is carried away at night by the tide.

Learner example:
Jay's swimming trunks got carried away by that huge wave.

DISEASE

[C1] to have a disease that you might give to someone else

Dictionary example:
Mosquitoes carry malaria and other infectious diseases.

HAVE

[C2] to have something as a part, quality, or result of something

Dictionary examples:
All cigarette advertising must carry a government health warning.
Murder still carries the death penalty there.

Learner example:
It is not something flashy or expensive but to me it is an object that carries great sentimental value.
SUPPORT
[C2] to support the weight of something

Dictionary example:
Is the ice thick enough to carry my weight?

Learner example:
My legs hardly managed to carry my weight as we began to enter.

carry weight
[C2] to be considered important and effective in influencing someone

Dictionary example:
His opinions carry a lot of weight with the scientific community.

Learner example:
It has become increasingly important to strive for near perfection in every move they make, the pursuit of excellence therefore carrying more weight than ever and leading to strenuous training programs.

carve /kɑːv/
VERB [I or T]
[C2] to make an object, a shape, or a pattern by cutting wood, stone, etc.

Dictionary examples:
The statue was carved out of stone.
They had carved their initials into the tree.

Learner example:
Odd symbols have been carved on both sides of its square handle.

case /keɪs/
NOUN

be the case
[B2] to be true

Dictionary examples:
Bad diet can cause tiredness, but I don't think that's the case here.
I take it that the booking includes breakfast – if that isn't the case, please let us know.

Learner example:
Could you also please let me know if you're coming back in time for dinner because if that's the case I'll make a splendid dinner for us.
in any case

[B2] used to give another reason for something you are saying, or that you have done

Dictionary example:
I don't want to go and in any case, I haven't been invited.

Learner example:
I suggest that you should in any case leave your car at home and take buses or other public means of transport.

in that case

[B2] because of the mentioned situation

Dictionary example:
There's no coffee left? In that case I'll have tea.

Learner example:
You could try [k]ayaking. In that case, of course, you need to pay for the equipment.

CRIME

[B2] [c] a crime that police are trying to solve

Dictionary examples:

a murder case
Police in the town have investigated 50 cases of burglary in the past month.
The detective on the case has been suspended from duty.

Learner example:
They succeeded in solving a case too difficult even for the police.

COURT OF LAW

[B2] [c] a matter to be decided by a judge in a court of law

Dictionary examples:
The case will go before the European Court next month.
She accused her employer of unlawful dismissal and won/lost her case.

Learner example:
To summarize, we lost the case on the ground that he had a criminal background and that the girl's testimony wasn't reliable because she was in love with the man, as she confessed herself in court.

ILLNESS

[C2] [c] an illness, or somebody with an illness

Dictionary example:
4,000 new cases of the disease are diagnosed every year.

Learner example:
Two years ago, Mr Slovac contacted us and told us that John had died of a severe case of malaria.
ARGUMENT
[C2] [c] arguments, facts, or reasons that prove a particular opinion

Dictionary examples:
There is a strong case for/against bringing in the new legislation.
He put the case for more funding very convincingly.
She was given the opportunity to state her case.

Learner example:
But there are other reasons which help make a case for tourism.

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casserole /ˈkæs.ərəl/

NOUN

FOOD
[C2] [c or u] a mixture of meat or beans with liquid and vegetables cooked for a long time in the oven

Dictionary example:
a beef casserole

Learner example:
The "Quaint and Cosy", which faces our town's main square, is a classy place with a hint of irony: the atmosphere, quiet and relaxing, is what you need to taste a very special salmon en croute, and a pork and orange casserole that eventually became the restaurant's second name.

CONTAINER
[C2] [c] (also casserole dish) a large, heavy container with a lid, that is used for cooking casseroles

Dictionary example:
Bake the mixture in a casserole.

Learner example:
I remember going around the kitchen, looking for old used pans, casseroles and all kind of utensils which could call the attention of the people passing by.

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cast /kaːst/

NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]
[B2] all the actors in a film, play or show

Dictionary examples:
After the final performance, the director threw a party for the cast.
Part of the film's success lies in the strength of the supporting cast.
Learner example:
Unfortunately as soon as I came to the theatre I was told that there had been a change in the cast and Danny Brook was not part of it anymore.

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]

ACTORS
[C2] to choose an actor for a particular part in a film or play

Dictionary example:
Why is he always cast as a criminal?

Learner example:
And this "universal force" of this book made [it] possible to already have two cinematographic versions; the first, really similar to the book, casts Colin Firth as the main character, the second, an American version of the book, changed the football passion [to] a baseball madness, showing well how universal this story could be.

cast a/your vote
[C2] to vote

Dictionary example:
Many people cast their votes for the opposition.

Learner example:
When the day of the General Elections came, no woman cast her vote [for] James and he lost his seat to a man from a minority party, not even the man representing the Labour Party.

cast your mind back
[C2] to try to remember

Dictionary example:
If you cast your mind back, you might recall that I never promised to go.

Learner example:
Thus, when I pick one of these stones, I cast my mind back to the specific place where I found it, the person I was, the particular moment.

cast a spell on sb
[C2] to seem to use magic to attract someone

Dictionary example:
The city had cast a spell on me and I never wanted to leave.

Learner example:
Even objects that came indirectly into our possession may cast an emotional spell on us.

cast a spell on sb
[C2] to use magic to make something happen to someone

Dictionary example:
The witch cast a spell on her.
Learner example:
The good fairy, taking pity upon Laura, prevented her from going on living without her prince – which would have been too painful for her – by casting a spell upon the castle that put every one of its inhabitants [in]to a deep, dreamless sleep.

cast doubt on sb/sth
[C2] to make people feel uncertain about someone or something

Dictionary examples:
Witnesses have cast doubt on the suspect's innocence.
A leading scientist has cast doubts on government claims that the drug is safe.

Learner example:
Wars lead to suffering, tears and [the] death of many people. They cast doubt on our humanity and values, especially in countries where the right to live is the principal one.

LIGHT
[C2] LITERARY to send light or shadow in a particular direction

Dictionary example:
The moon cast a white light into the room.

Learner example:
The first blush of the morning was casting a yellow soft light over the landscape.

casual /ˈkæʒ.ju.əl/

ADJECTIVE

NOT PLANNED
[B2] [ ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] not planned, or without particular meaning or importance

Dictionary example:
a casual meeting/remark

Learner example:
It was last summer, when I had a casual meeting with someone.

WORK
[C2] [ ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] Casual work is not regular or fixed.

Dictionary example:
casual labour/workers

Learner example:
I am a registered nurse by profession and am a casual worker at Bankstown Hospital.
casually /ˈkæʒ.ju.li/  
ADVERB
[B2] in a casual way

Dictionary example:  
She was dressed casually in shorts and a T-shirt.

Learner example:  
I suggest that you and your group go dressed casually.

casualty /ˈkæʒ.ju.əl.ti/  
NOUN
INJURED
[C2] someone who is injured or killed in an accident or war

Dictionary example:  
Both sides in the conflict have promised to try to avoid civilian casualties.

Learner example:  
As films, books and documentaries show, it was a real disaster, not only because the ship sank, but also due to the high number of casualties.

HOSPITAL
[C2] the part of a hospital where people go when they have been injured or have urgent illnesses so that they can be treated immediately – the official name for this is Accident and Emergency (A&E)

Dictionary example:  
Mark has been taken to casualty.

Learner example:  
It was so bad that I needed to be taken to casualty for my blood tests and X-rays.

catalogue /ˈkæt.əl.ɒɡ/  
NOUN [c]
[B2] a book with a list of items, such as pictures on display or goods that you can buy from a business

Dictionary example:  
a mail-order catalogue
Learner example:
I would be very grateful if you [could] send me the catalogue for the next auction.

catastrophe /ˈkætəstriː/  
NOUN [C or U]  
[C2] an extremely bad event that causes a lot of suffering or destruction

Dictionary example:
After the drought, the country is facing environmental catastrophe.

Learner example:
In Asian and African societies, where time is seen as a circle, rather than a straight line with [a] definite beginning and end, the legacy of past generations is regarded with due respect as the main source of wisdom and deliverance from natural catastrophes as well as everyday difficulties.

catch /kætʃ/  
VERB (caught, caught)  
catch sb’s attention, interest, etc.  
[B2] to make someone notice something and feel interested

Dictionary example:
A ship out at sea caught his attention.

Learner example:
The first thing that caught my attention in the advert was "... eight people from different countries...".

DISCOVER  
[B2] to discover someone who is doing something wrong or something secret

Dictionary examples:
He caught her reading his old love letters.
She was caught cheating in the exam.

Learner example:
I [learnt] a good lesson when I was caught cheating on a test at school last year.

CRIMINAL  
[B2] If the police catch a criminal, they find them and take them away.

Dictionary example:
These terrorists must be caught.
**Learner example:**
The issue had been forgotten and the burglar was never caught.

**be/get caught**
[C2] to be unable to avoid something unpleasant

**Dictionary example:**
I got caught in the rain.

**Learner example:**
I must apologise for my lateness as I was caught in the bad weather.

**STICK**
[C2] [I or T] to stick somewhere, or to make something stick somewhere

**Dictionary example:**
My dress caught on the door handle as I was leaving.

**Learner example:**
No sooner did I start bicycling before my slacks got caught in the chain and with a curse coming from my lips I fell right into the neighbour’s well trimmed shrubbery.

**catch sight of sth**
[C2] to see something suddenly, often only for a short time

**Dictionary example:**
He caught sight of himself in the mirror.

**Learner example:**
All we could see were people bursting into tears when they caught sight of his coffin.

**catch sb’s eye**
[C2] to get someone’s attention by looking at them

**Dictionary example:**
I tried to catch her eye, but she had already turned away.

**Learner example:**
All of a sudden she caught my eye and smiled in a sad way.

**catch sb’s eye**
[C2] to be attractive or different enough to be noticed by people

**Dictionary example:**
It was the colour of his jacket that caught my eye.

**Learner example:**
Dear Sir, I am writing regarding your newly published article about nutrition, which immediately caught my eye as I was reading your magazine.

**catch sb off guard**
[C2] to surprise someone by doing something when they are not ready to deal with it
Dictionary example:
The journalist caught him off guard and he admitted to lying.

Learner example:
It caught me off guard. This grotesque image shattered the comfort of a languid Sunday afternoon and for a few seconds hurled me into a world of pain.

category /ˈkæt.ər.i/  
NOUN [C]  
[B2] a group of people or things of the same type

Dictionary example:
There are three categories of accommodation – standard, executive and deluxe.

Learner example:
I belong to the category of people who think that society needs zoos.

cater /ˈkeɪ.tər/  
VERB [I or T]  
[C1] to provide and often serve food and drinks for a particular event

Dictionary example:
How many are we catering for at the wedding reception?

Learner example:
I can understand why you shortlisted these three proposals as all of them seem good enough to cater for our canteen.

catering /ˈker.tərɪŋ/  
NOUN [U]  
[B2] providing food and drinks for people

Dictionary example:
Who did the catering for the party?  
a high-class catering company

Learner example:
All food, appetizers and refreshments will be provided by a catering company.
**cause /kɔːz/**

**NOUN**

**REASON WHY**

[B2] [c] the reason why something, especially something bad, happens

*Dictionary examples:*
The police are still trying to establish the cause of the fire.
She had died of natural causes.

*Learner example:*
Overworking can be a cause of many problems.

**PRINCIPLE**

[C1] [c] a principle or aim that a group of people support or fight for

*Dictionary examples:*
The money will all go to a good cause.
He fought for the Republican cause in the war.

*Learner example:*
It would be a shame if people got the wrong impression, that it is not worth working and making an effort for charity and good causes and I would certainly not like to believe that your paper contributed to giving that impression??

**REASON FOR**

[C2] [u] a reason to feel something or to behave in a particular way

*Dictionary example:*
He’s never given me any cause for concern.

*Learner example:*
Nowadays, the world is filled with fast food restaurants, making diseases like obesity a cause for concern everywhere.

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to make something happen, especially something bad

*Dictionary examples:*
The difficult driving conditions caused several accidents.
Most heart attacks are caused by blood clots.
The bright light caused her to look away.

*Learner example:*
Admittedly, using your car is more convenient and easier [than] using public transport but, in my opinion, the advantages of using public transport outweigh the disadvantages it can cause.
caution /ˈkɔːsn/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** caution  
**Verbs:** caution  
**Adjectives:** cautious

**NOUN**

CARE  
[C1] [u] great care and attention not to take risks or get into danger  

**Dictionary examples:**  
Travellers have been advised to exercise great caution when passing through the region.  
I would treat anything he says with extreme caution.  

**Learner example:**  
Extreme caution has to be taken during push-back and engine start.

**throw caution to the wind**  
[C2] to take a risk  

**Dictionary example:**  
I decided to throw caution to the wind and book a ticket to India.  

**Learner example:**  
They just threw caution to the wind, and did what they wanted.

**VERB**

[C2] [I or T] FORMAL to warn someone of something  

**Dictionary example:**  
They were cautioned against buying shares in the company.  

**Learner example:**  
This is a totally unnecessary situation to be in and if possible, people should be cautioned about getting into such a habit.

cautious /ˈkɔːʃəs/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** caution  
**Verbs:** caution  
**Adjectives:** cautious

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] taking care to avoid risks or danger
Dictionary examples:
He's a very cautious driver.
We take a more cautious approach.
She is cautious about lending money to anyone.

Learner example:
You should be cautious and sensible.

**cease /siːs/**

**VERB [I or T] FORMAL**
[B2] to stop

**Dictionary examples:**
He ordered his men to cease firing.
The company has decided to cease all UK operations after this year.
She never ceases to amaze me.

**Learner example:**
I thought the ring was just inside my head, in the dream. But it didn't cease, making me realize it was something else, from outside the room.

**ceiling /ˈsiː.lɪŋ/**

**NOUN [C]**

**AMOUNT**
[C2] a limit on the amount that can be paid for something

**Dictionary example:**
They have set a ceiling on pay rises.

**cell /sel/**

**NOUN [C]**

**ORGANISM**
[B2] the smallest basic unit of a plant or animal

**Dictionary examples:**
brain/blood cells
cancer cells
Learner example:
[...] such as, us[ing] gamma rays to damage the cancer cell or to treat people's short sight and so on.

ROOM
[B2] a small room in a prison or police station where a prisoner is kept

Dictionary example:
He was kept in a prison cell for four months.

Learner example:
That's why six years after this I'm writing the story in my cold wet cell.

cellar /ˈsɛl.ər/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a room under the ground floor of a building, usually used for storage

Dictionary example:
He keeps his wine in the cellar.

Learner example:
We were in the cellar of the old castle without a candle or even matches.

cello /ˈtʃel.oʊ/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a large, wooden musical instrument with four strings that you hold between your knees to play

Dictionary example:
She plays the cello.

Learner example:
It was Beethoven, the 9th symphony. The cellos [and] violins, followed by the timpani...

cemetery /ˈse.mə.tri/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a place where dead people are buried

Dictionary example:
She went to the cemetery where her grandfather was buried.
Learner example:
It was Halloween night and almost midnight, and Steve had the idea of going out to the nearest cemetery to catch some ghosts or vampires.

centigrade /ˈsen.trɪ.greɪd/

NOUN [u]
[B2] a measurement of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100°

Dictionary example:
Water boils at 100° centigrade.

Learner example:
The last few days I prefer[red] to go swimming, because the temperature was above thirty degrees centigrade.

central /ˈsen.trəl/

Word family:
Nouns: centre
Adjectives: central

ADJECTIVE

CITY
[C1] in the main part of a town or city

Dictionary example:
Our offices are very central.

Learner example:
The house location is very central, it is in South Kensington and it is [with]in walking distance [of] Gloucester Road Underground station.

ORGANIZATION
[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] controlled or organized in one main place

Dictionary examples:
central authorities/government
the US central bank
central control/planning

Learner example:
The contribution of the central government seems to be inevitable to complete the project.

IMPORTANT
[C2] main or most important
Dictionary examples:
a central character/figure
the central argument of the book
Her role is central to the film.

Learner example:
As a central character, Piggy works both as a real boy and a symbol.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>centre</th>
<th>ˈsen.tər</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Word family:
Nouns: centre
Adjectives: central

NOUN

be the centre of attention
[C2] to receive more attention than anyone or anything else

Dictionary example:
She loves to be the centre of attention.

Learner example:
To sum it up, most celebrities love being the centre of attention and sometimes even ask for it.

POLITICAL
[C2] [NO PLURAL] (ALSO the centre) a political position with opinions that are not extreme

Dictionary example:
His political views are left of centre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>century</th>
<th>ˈsen.tʃər.i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

NOUN [C]

the turn of the century
[C2] the start of a new century

Dictionary example:
He was born at the turn of the century.
cereal /ˈsɪə.ri.əl/

NOUN [C or U]

PLANT
[C1] a plant that is grown to produce grain for food

Dictionary example:
cereal crops

Learner example:
During this part you can see cereal crops, mainly wheat.

certain /ˈsɜː.tən/

Word family:
Nouns: certainty, uncertainty
Adjectives: certain, uncertain
Adverbs: certainly

ADJECTIVE

a certain
[B2] used before a noun when it is difficult to describe something exactly or give its exact amount

Dictionary example:
He's got a certain charm.

Learner example:
There was still that gleam and a certain kind of pride which let me assume once she must have been a strong lady.

know/say for certain
[C1] to know something without doubt

Dictionary example:
We don’t know for certain whether she’s coming.

Learner example:
The rules may be considered a bit too strict, the teaching methods too "old–fashioned", but I know for certain that this course gives very good preparation in [Busi]ness English.
certainly /ˈsɜː.tən.li/

Word family:
Nouns: certainty, uncertainty
Adjectives: certain, uncertain
Adverbs: certainly

ADVERB

certainly not
[C1] used after an adverb in short, negative replies

Dictionary examples:
"She's not exactly poor, is she?" "Certainly not."
"Will you be taking her there?" "Certainly not!"

Learner example:
Are all young people lazy and unable to participate in any form of sport? Certainly not!!!

certainty /ˈsɜː.tən.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: certainty, uncertainty
Adjectives: certain, uncertain
Adverbs: certainly

NOUN

BEING SURE
[B2] [u] when you are completely sure about something

Dictionary example:
I'm unable to answer that question with any certainty.

Learner example:
I can say with certainty that this town is just a treasure of Polish culture.

SURE THING
[C2] [c] something that is very likely to happen or cannot be doubted

Dictionary example:
There are no absolute certainties in life.

Learner example:
The Book is a Hitchcockian sequence of chases, shaken certainties, mistaken identities, masquerades and escapes.
### chain  /ˈtʃeɪn/

**NOUN**

**EVENTS**

[B2] [c] a series of things that happen one after the other

**Dictionary examples:**
- a chain reaction
- His arrival set off a surprising chain of events.

**Learner example:**
- The problem began to increase because all her friends knew her secret. It was like a "chain reaction".

### challenge  /ˈtʃæl.ɪndʒ/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** challenge
- **Verbs:** challenge
- **Adjectives:** challenging

**NOUN**

**DISAGREEMENT**

[C2] [c] an expression of disagreement with ideas, rules, or someone's authority

**Dictionary example:**
- a challenge to the authority of the President

**Learner example:**
- The one occasion in which Jack seems childish is when his challenge to Ralph's leadership fails and he weeps with humiliation.

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to express disagreement with ideas, rules, or someone's authority

**Dictionary example:**
- Children challenge their parents' authority far more nowadays than they did in the past.

**Learner example:**
- His daughter had just challenged him and he was struggling for a decision.

### champion  /ˈtʃæm.pi.ən/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** champion, championship
NOUN [C]

SUPPORT

[C2] someone who supports, defends, or fights for a person, belief, or principle

Dictionary example:

a champion of human rights

Learner example:

What this argument attempts to show is that too much emphasis on them, perhaps accelerated by commercial interests, has let them act as if they were the champions of personal virtues.

chance /tʃaːnts/

NOUN

RISK

[B2] [c] a risk

Dictionary examples:

I'm delivering my work by hand. I'm not taking any chances.
There's a chance of injury in almost any sport.

Learner example:


(the) chances are

[C2] it is likely

Dictionary examples:

Chances are that he'll refuse.
If we plan a picnic, the chances are that it'll rain.

Learner example:

This was the case in London this summer, and with England's failing electricity system, chances are that this winter we will experience a similar situation.

stand a chance

[C2] to have a chance of success or of achieving something

Dictionary examples:

He stands a good chance of winning the election.
These kids don't stand a chance of getting an education.

Learner example:

If this measure were taken, the outcome would be of fundamental importance for the currently unemployed because they will stand a chance of finding a job and making a living.
by any chance [C2] used to ask in a polite way whether something is possible or true

Dictionary example:
You’re not Spanish by any chance, are you?

Learner example:
I pick up the phone "Hello, Nick have you by any chance got, or seen, my diary?"

No chance!/ Not a chance! [C2] used to emphasize that there is no possibility of something happening

Dictionary example:
"Do you think she’d go out with me?" "No chance!"

blow it/your chance(s) INFORMAL [C2] If you blow it or blow your chance, you lose an opportunity to do something by doing or saying the wrong thing.

Dictionary examples:
I blew it when I criticized the way she ran the office.
Tom blew his chances of getting the job by arriving late for the interview.

Learner example:
I’m giving you one last chance. If you blow it, you’ll be sent to an Institution which treats people like you.

chancellor /ˈtʃæn.ələr/ NOUN [C]

GOVERNMENT [C2] the leader of the government in some countries

Dictionary example:
the German chancellor

Learner example:
Besides the point that our current government has become very much immovable during the last decade, Chancellor Kohl ought to know very well about Germany’s historical development since he had passed his exam in history.

MONEY [C2] the person in the British government who makes decisions about taxes and government spending

Dictionary example:
He became chancellor in 2010.
Learner example:
[He] soon rose to be the First Secretary in the Department of Finance, directly under the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

change /tʃeɪndʒ/

Word family:
Nouns: change
Verbs: change
Adjectives: unchanged, changeable

VERB
change the subject
[B2] to start talking about a different subject

Dictionary example:
I'd tried to explain the situation, but he just changed the subject.

Learner example:
Well, changing the subject, I accidentally broke your beautiful vase. I'm really sorry, I'll try to find [another] vase that looks similar.

NOUN
a change of heart
[C2] If you have a change of heart, you change your opinion or feelings about something.

Dictionary example:
At first he said he wouldn't help us, but he seems to have had a change of heart.

Learner example:
The narrator didn't tell her big secret to Inder Lal and after a change of heart she decides to keep the baby.

changeable /ˈtʃeɪndʒə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: change
Verbs: change
Adjectives: unchanged, changeable

ADJECTIVE
[C1] often changing, or likely to change

Dictionary example:
The weather was very changeable last summer.
Learner example:
I must say that summers here are a bit mild and changeable.

channel /ˈtʃæn.əl/

Noun [C]
COMMUNICATION
[C2] a way of communicating with people or getting something done

Dictionary examples:
a channel of communication
Please make your request through the proper channels.

Verb
[C2] to use money or energy for a particular purpose

Dictionary example:
We've channelled all our resources into this project.

Learner example:
In the same way that it shouldn't take the place of more important matters, there shouldn't be so much money channelled into it, especially when we want to see it as sport rather than business, and when there are so many other much fairer ends for that money.

chaos /ˈkeɪ.ɒs/

Word family:
Nouns: chaos
Adjectives: chaotic

Noun [U]
[B2] a state of total confusion with no order

Dictionary examples:
Snow and ice have caused chaos on the roads.
Ever since our secretary walked out, the office has been in a state of total chaos.

Learner example:
There was chaos at the school.

chaotic /keɪˈɒt.ɪk/
ADJECTIVE

[C1] in a state of chaos

Dictionary example:
a chaotic situation

Learner example:
Consequently, in order to improve the chaotic traffic situation it is advisable to choose other means of transport as mentioned above.

chal ep /ˈtʃæp.əl/

NOUN [C]

[C2] ! a small church, or a room used as a church in a building

Dictionary example:
There is a small chapel in the grounds of the house.

Learner example:
On [one] occasion we were taken to a small chapel that was in such a state of dilapidation that it was not worth climb[ing] the stairs.

cha racter /ˈkær.ɪk.tə/

Word family:
Nouns: character, characteristic
Adjectives: characteristic

NOUN

INTERESTING QUALITIES

[B2] qualities that are interesting or unusual

Dictionary example:
a hotel of character

Learner example:
There [are] many very old house[s] with a lot of character and charm, [which are] just perfect for a photographer.

INTERESTING PERSON

[C1] [c] an interesting or funny person whose behaviour is different from most people's

Dictionary example:
Your granny's a real character.
Learner example:
Mr Brown is a great character.

**WRITING**

[C1] [c] a letter, sign, or number that you use when you are writing or printing

**Dictionary example:**
Chinese characters

**Learner example:**
However, [the] poems are written in old Japanese characters which are difficult to understand.

**PERSON**

[C2] [c] informal a particular kind of person

**Dictionary example:**
an unpleasant character

**Learner example:**
John was a gentle character, [rather] shy, but full of joy and happiness.

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**characteristic  /ˌkær.ɪk.təˈrɪs.tɪk/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** character, characteristic

**Adjectives:** characteristic

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a typical or noticeable quality of someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
Unfortunately a big nose is a family characteristic.
Sentimentality seems a characteristic of all the writers of that period.
The male bird displays several characteristics which distinguish him from the female.

**Learner example:**
Orwell gives the animals human characteristics and we can identify with them.

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] typical of someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
Grey stone is characteristic of buildings in that area.
With characteristic generosity, she offered to pay for us all.

**Learner example:**
But to be honest, food is the only feature which will stay as a characteristic aspect of a country.
charge /tʃaːdʒ/ 

VERB

ACCUSE
[B2] [T OFTEN PASSIVE] If the police charge someone, they accuse them officially of a crime.

Dictionary example:
She's been charged with murder.

Learner example:
While Jem is accused of a minor crime, Joss is charged with smuggling.

ATTACK
[B2] [I or T] to attack someone or something by moving forward quickly

Dictionary examples:
The bull lowered its horns and charged.
The violence began when the police charged at a crowd of demonstrators.

Learner example:
They had water bombs and water pistols at the ready. They started charging down the field towards the fire and once in range everyone threw their balloon as far as they could.

ELECTRICITY
[B2] [I or T] to put electricity into something

Dictionary example:
My mobile needs charging.

NOUN

take charge
[B2] to take control of or make yourself responsible for something

Dictionary example:
I was happy to let her take charge of the holiday arrangements.

Learner example:
I am 21 years old which means that I can take charge of school children.

CRIME
[C1] [c] a formal police statement saying that someone is accused of a crime

Dictionary examples:
The 19-year-old will be appearing in court on Thursday where she will face criminal charges. He has been arrested on a charge of murder. The police brought a charge of theft against him.
press charges
[C2] to complain officially about someone in a court of law

Dictionary example:
The family decided not to press charges against him.

Learner example:
He decided on the spot that if Paul was to return all the money he wouldn’t press charges so he called his parents and asked them to find out where he was.

charisma /kəˈrɪz.mə/

Word family:
Nouns: charisma
Adjectives: charismatic

NOUN [u]
[C2] a natural power which some people have to influence or attract people

Dictionary example:
He is a respected politician but he lacks charisma.

Learner example:
I admire people with heart and soul, with that real charisma which can only blossom in highly intelligent and spiritual people – this is what we call ‘intense personality’.

charismatic /ˌkær.ɪzˈmæt.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: charisma
Adjectives: charismatic

ADJECTIVE
[C2] having a natural power to influence and attract people

Dictionary example:
Her mother was a very charismatic woman.

Learner example:
Some charismatic people have a great influence on others, and they are highly respected or praised.
charity /ˈtʃær.ə.ti/

NOUN

KINDNESS

[C2] [u] kindness towards other people

Dictionary example:
an act of charity

Learner example:
It is undeniable that nowadays the whole world is suffering [from] the lack of good personalit[y] models to follow. Models that [ar]e able to show the importance of charity, humility and other qualities so old-fashioned in our age.

charm /tʃɑːm/

Word family:
Nouns: charm
Adjectives: charming

NOUN

QUALITY

[B2] [C or u] a quality which makes you like or feel attracted to someone or something

Dictionary examples:
a woman of great charm
The building has a certain charm.
I had to use all my charms to get them to lend us the hall.

Learner example:
It’s an extremely severe and rugged sort of landscape with its own very special charm.

LUCKY

[C2] [c] an object that you keep or wear because you believe that it is lucky

Dictionary example:
a lucky charm

Learner example:
Consequently, “the treasures” I took there were nothing but all the little gifts and lucky charms I had received from my boyfriend and friends.

VERB

[C2] to attract someone or persuade someone to do something because of your charm
**Dictionary example:**
We were charmed by his boyish manner.

**Learner example:**
She arrived in time for the ball held that night, and everybody was charmed by her looks and manners.

### chart /tʃɑːt/

**NOUN**

**DRAWING**

[B2] [c] a drawing which shows information in a simple way, often using lines and curves to show amounts

**Dictionary example:**
a sales chart

**Learner example:**
Now I can create special charts at home.

**the charts**

[B2] an official list of the most popular songs each week

**Dictionary example:**
They're currently at the top of the charts with their single 'Enough'.

**Learner example:**
She get[s] to the people's hearts by music and she is now [at] the top [of the] charts with the song "Love me".

### chase /tʃeɪs/

**VERB**

**RUN AFTER**

[B2] [I or T] to run after someone or something in order to catch them

**Dictionary examples:**
The dog was chasing a rabbit.
She was chasing after her two-year-old son.

**Learner example:**
I could feel that the man was chasing after me.

**chase sb/sth away/off/out, etc.**

[B2] to run after a person or animal to make them leave a place
Dictionary example:
I chased the cat away.

Learner example:
But one day, Napoleon said that his rival Snowball was a spy of the farmers and chased him away.

TRY
[C2] try very hard to get something

Dictionary example:
There are hundreds of graduates chasing very few jobs.

Learner example:
I was tired and for the first time I started to take notice of the smirks on peoples faces as I walked past them, the silent laughter and I saw myself through their eyes; I was an old fool, chasing a ridiculous, flimsy dream.

chat /tʃæt/

Word family:
Nouns: chat
Verbs: chat
Adjectives: chatty

VERB [I] (--tt--)

chat sb up or chat up sb PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to talk to someone in a way that shows them that you are sexually attracted to them

Dictionary example:
He spends hours in cafés, chatting up the waitresses.

Learner example:
Then he started to chat her up.

chatty /ˈtʃæt.i/

Word family:
Nouns: chat
Verbs: chat
Adjectives: chatty

ADJECTIVE

PERSON
[C1] liking to talk
Dictionary example:
My sister is very chatty.

Learner example:
Both Mr Brown and Peter are chatty and not afraid of [the] camcorder.

WRITING
[C1] A piece of writing that is chatty has a friendly and informal style.

Dictionary example:
a chatty letter/style

Learner example:
To be more specific, the articles will include events taken from our college life, written in a humorous, chatty way in order to help them see life in its positive aspect.

cheap /tʃiːp/

ADJECTIVE

LOW QUALITY
[C1] low in price and quality

Dictionary example:
I bought some cheap wine to cook with.

Learner example:
[The] "luxury hotel" from the advertisement happened to be a dirty, cheap hotel with no lift (notice that all the rooms were located on the 4th floor) and no service.

cheat /tʃiːt/

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to behave in a dishonest way in order to get what you want

Dictionary examples:
Anyone caught cheating will be immediately disqualified from the exam.
She was caught cheating in her French exam.
He cheats at cards.

Learner example:
She also didn't want to cheat during the exam because it wouldn't be fair to anyone.
check  /tʃek/

**VERB**

**ASK**

[B2] [i] to ask someone for permission to do something

**Dictionary example:**
I'd like to stay overnight, but I need to check with my parents.

**Learner example:**
I'll be there at 4.00 the next day which will be the 5th. Would you check with your neighbours again, please?

cheeky  /ˈtʃiː.ki/

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] slightly rude or showing no respect, but often in a funny way

**Dictionary examples:**
She's got such a cheeky grin.
Don't be so cheeky!

**Learner example:**
Don't get angry, but I think your husband is a very cheeky man!

cheer  /tʃɪər/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** cheerfulness

**Verbs:** cheer

**Adjectives:** cheerful

**Adverbs:** cheerfully

**VERB [i]**

[B2] to give a loud shout of approval or encouragement

**Dictionary examples:**
Everyone cheered as the winners received their medals.
He was cheering for the other side.

**Learner example:**
When she had finished, she felt satisfied and so did the audience who cheered for Louise.

**NOUN**

[C2] a shout of approval or encouragement
Dictionary example:
His speech was drowned out by cheers.

Learner example:
They were welcomed onto the stage in their home town by deafening cheers from their fans.

**cheerful** /ˈtʃɪər.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: cheerfulness
Verbs: cheer
Adjectives: cheerful
Adverbs: cheerfully

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] describes a place or thing that is bright and pleasant and makes you feel positive and happy

Dictionary example:
The doctor's waiting room was bright and cheerful with yellow walls and curtains.

Learner example:
We can have [a] mixed colour[ed] carpet to make the reception area more cheerful.

**cheerfully** /ˈtʃɪər.fəli/

Word family:
Nouns: cheerfulness
Verbs: cheer
Adjectives: cheerful
Adverbs: cheerfully

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a cheerful way

Dictionary example:
She walked down the road, whistling cheerfully.

Learner example:
But Mr Robertson recognised Jane and greeted her very cheerfully.
cheerfulness  /ˈtʃɪər.fəl.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: cheerfulness
Verbs: cheer
Adjectives: cheerful
Adverbs: cheerfully

NOUN [U]
[C2] the state of being happy or bright and pleasant to look at

Dictionary example:
His cheerfulness made us all feel better.

Learner example:
Bright colours are identified with cheerfulness and happiness and dark colours with sadness or feeling down.

Cheers! /ˈtʃɪəz/

EXCLAMATION

THANK YOU
[B2] used to mean 'thank you'

Dictionary example:
"I've bought you a drink." "Cheers, mate."

chemical  /ˈkem.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: chemical, chemist, chemistry
Adjectives: chemical

NOUN [C]
[B2] a basic substance that is used in chemistry or produced by chemistry

Dictionary examples:
The government has pledged to reduce the amount of chemicals used in food production. Each year, factories release millions of tonnes of toxic chemicals into the atmosphere.

Learner example:
There are a lot of chemicals and sewage in the river Dollmitz and the lakes, too.

ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to chemicals
Dictionary examples:
a chemical reaction
chemical weapons
The chemical industry produces such things as petrochemicals, drugs, paint and rubber.

Learner example:
In the latter many chemical reactions may be reproduced to show the students the final compounds generated.

cherry /ˈtʃer.i/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a small, round, soft red or black fruit with a single hard seed in the middle

Dictionary example:
cherry trees

Learner example:
There was a big cherry tree, and there, on the top, was Trouble [the cat]!

chest /tʃest/

NOUN [c]

BODY
[B2] the front part of your body, between your neck and your waist, containing your heart and your lungs

Dictionary examples:
He was shot in the chest.
Peter has a very hairy chest.
She went to the doctor complaining of chest pains.

Learner example:
She tried to get her weapon, but then a bullet hit her chest like a hammer.

get sth off your chest INFORMAL
[C2] to tell someone about something that you have been worried or angry about for a long time

Dictionary example:
Tell me what's wrong – you'll feel better if you get it off your chest.

Learner example:
Chris is always caring and lends you his ear if there's something you need to get off your chest.
BOX
[C2] a strong, usually wooden, container with a lid, used for keeping things in

Dictionary example:
a treasure chest

Learner example:
The woman opened a heavy wooden chest and produced the book, after trying to sweep off a little of the dirt.

chew /tʃuː/

VERB [I or T]

EAT
[B2] to crush food into smaller, softer pieces with the teeth so that it can be swallowed

Dictionary examples:
This meat is difficult to chew.
You don’t chew your food enough – that’s why you get indigestion.

Learner example:
Next, when you eat something, please chew [it] for a long time.

BITE
[B2] to repeatedly bite something without swallowing it

Dictionary examples:
She was chewing gum.
Our dog loves a bone to chew (on).
She sat in the dentist’s waiting room, nervously chewing (at) her nails.

Learner example:
Students couldn’t chew bubble-gum, smoke or eat swe[e]ties in school, but they do now.

chief /tʃiːf/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

MOST IMPORTANT
[B2] most important or main

Dictionary examples:
The chief problem we have in the area now is the spread of disease.
The weather was our chief reason for coming here.
Learner example:
This is the chief argument of those who do not agree with zoos.

HIGHEST IN RANK
[B2] highest in rank

Dictionary example:
He is the chief economic adviser to the government.

Learner example:
Bob Wilson, the chief accountant, had resigned.

NOUN [c]
[B2] the person in charge of a group or organization

Dictionary examples:
a police chief
A new chief of the security forces has just been appointed.

Learner example:
I saw her one day, and she [told] me that she had been promoted to chief of section.

childish /ˈtʃaɪld.ɪʃ/

Word family:
Nouns: child, childhood
Adjectives: childish

ADJECTIVE

SILLY
[B2] Childish behaviour is silly, like that of a small child.

Dictionary example:
Don't be so childish!

Learner example:
In comparison with other countries' tourists, they seem to be a little childish, just like a group of duckling[s] or chickens.

OF A CHILD
[B2] typical of a child

Dictionary example:
childish handwriting

Learner example:
I heard a childish voice saying to me "Take my hand."
chill  /tʃɪl/  

Word family:
Nouns: chill
Adjectives: chilly

VERB [I or T]

chill out  PHRASAL VERB  INFORMAL
[B2] to relax completely, or not allow things to upset you

Dictionary example:
Chill out, Dad – if we miss this train there’s always another one.

Learner example:
I just can’t wait to get there, grab some Coke and chill out!

NOUN

COLD
[C2] [NO PLURAL] a cold feeling

Dictionary example:
There’s a definite chill in the air.

FEAR
[C2] [C] a sudden frightened feeling

Dictionary example:
The scream sent a chill down my spine.

Learner example:
A chill went down my spine.

chilly  /ˈtʃɪl.i/  

Word family:
Nouns: chill
Adjectives: chilly

ADJECTIVE
[C1] unpleasantly cold

Dictionary example:
a chilly evening

Learner example:
Apart from everything mentioned, the worst thing was the fact that our coach broke down in the middle of nowhere on a chilly rainy day.
chimney /ˈtʃɪm.ni/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a hollow structure that allows the smoke from a fire inside a building to escape to the air outside

Dictionary example:
Factory chimneys belched dense white smoke into the sky.

Learner example:
The reason is half for my own health and fitness and half for the health of my town, which is polluted by lead, the smoke from chimneys and other artificial poisons.

chip /tʃɪp/

NOUN [c]

COMPUTER PART
[B2] a very small part of a computer that stores information

Dictionary example:
a silicon chip

Learner example:
Even in cars and wash[ing] machines there're computer chips.

have a chip on your shoulder INFORMAL
[C2] to blame other people for something bad that has happened to you and continue to feel angry about it

Dictionary example:
She’s always had a real chip on her shoulder because she didn’t go to university.

Learner example:
I suppose that I have a chip on my shoulder!

VERB

chip in (sth) PHRASAL VERB
[C2] INFORMAL If several people chip in, they each give money to pay for something together.

Dictionary example:
We all chipped in to buy our teacher a present.

Learner example:
If you say it’s on you they will offer to chip in and you can always say politely: “Sure, why not.”
**choir** /ˈkwaɪər/  

**NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]**  
[B2] a group of people who sing together, often in a church or a school  

*Dictionary examples:*  
He sings in the church choir.  
choir **practice**  

*Learner example:*  
I have sung in the church’s choir for three years, and I have had singing classes at school since first grade.

**cholesterol** /ˌkəˈles.tərl/  

**NOUN [U]**  
[C1] a type of fat in your body that can cause heart disease if you have too much  

*Dictionary example:*  
The doctor said I had high cholesterol.  

*Learner example:*  
Hong Kong people have become fatter and fatter due to the adoption of Western food which is rich in fat and cholesterol.

**chop** /tʃɒp/  

**VERB [T] (-pp-)**  
[B2] to cut something into pieces with an axe, knife, or other sharp instrument  

*Dictionary examples:*  
He was chopping wood in the yard.  
Add some fresh parsley, finely chopped.  
Chop (up) the onions and carrots roughly.  

*Learner example:*  
You would use them to chop vegetable[s].

**chore** /tʃɔr/  

**NOUN [C]**  
[C1] a boring job that you must do
Dictionary example:
I find cooking a real chore.

Learner example:
The speed of "modern" life has increased and we do not have enough time to do the chores like ironing any more.

chronic  /ˈkrɒn.ɪk/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] A chronic illness or problem continues for a long time.

Dictionary examples:
a chronic shortage of nurses
chronic back pain

Learner example:
The daily and nightly disturbance of our lives causes chronic fatigue and high levels of irritation among the people, thus creating a most unwanted situation which should be ended as soon as possible.

cinema  /ˈsɪn.ə.mə/

NOUN
ART
[C1] [U] the art or business of making films

Dictionary example:
an article about French cinema

Learner example:
In my opinion, this is a really fascinating film, not only for nature and wildlife lovers, but for everybody who likes good cinema.

circle  /ˈsɜː.kl/

Word family:
Nouns: circle, circulation
Verbs: circle
Adjectives: circular
NOUN [C]

GROUP
[B2] a group of people with family, work or social connections

Dictionary examples:
She's not one of my close circle of friends.
It's a technical term used in medical circles.

Learner example:
His name is Omar Naber and he has quite a big circle of fans in Slovenia, although most of them are kids.

VERB

MOVE
[C2] [ɪ or ɪ] to move in a circle, often around something

Dictionary example:
Birds circled above the trees.

Learner example:
Huge waves from the Atlantic were smash[ing] into the cliffs with a de[a]fening roar, while birds circled the sky high above us.

circuit ˈsɜː.kɪt/

NOUN [C]

TRACK
[C2] a path, route, or sports track that is shaped like a circle

Dictionary example:
There is a fitness circuit in the woods.

Learner example:
And so it was no wonder that I went to the Suzuka circuit where the F–1 Grand Prix was held, which had already become one of the biggest events at that time.

ELECTRIC
[C2] a complete circle that an electric current travels around

Dictionary example:
an electrical circuit

Learner example:
Apparently there was a short circuit to the elevator circuit, as we were to learn later from the store supervisor.
EVENTS

[C2] a regular series of places or events that people involved in a particular activity go to

Dictionary example:
the tennis circuit

Learner example:
Soon after, while he attended high school, he was already playing the New Jersey Club circuit, already showing traces of his persistence.

---

circular  /ˈsɜː.kjə.lər/  

Word family:
Nouns: circle, circulation
Verbs: circle
Adjectives: circular

ADJECTIVE

SHAPE

[B2] shaped like a circle

Dictionary example:
a circular rug

Learner example:
People who congratulate the marrying couple take a circular sweet.

ARGUMENT

[C2] used to describe an argument which keeps returning to the same points and is not effective

Dictionary example:
a circular argument/theory

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circulation  /ˌsɜː.kjəˈleɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:
Nouns: circle, circulation
Verbs: circle
Adjectives: circular

NOUN

BLOOD

[C2] the movement of blood around your body
**Dictionary example:**
Exercise improves your circulation.

**Learner example:**
This [is] a very unhealthy habit, because we could have some problems with our circulation and also we could suffer from pains in the joints.

**NEWSPAPERS**
[C2] the number of copies of a newspaper or magazine that are sold each day, week, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
The paper's circulation has fallen recently.

**Learner example:**
Being on top of the media world is something that has required hard work and competence and in a business where newspaper circulation depends on the political profile of the paper, he is not afraid of making a comment [on] current affairs.

---

**circumstance /ˈsɜː.kə.mənts/**

**NOUN [C USUALLY PLURAL]**
[B2] a fact or event that makes a situation the way it is

**Dictionary examples:**
I think she coped very well under the circumstances.
She died in suspicious circumstances.
We oppose capital punishment in/under any circumstances.
**Under no circumstances** should you approach the man.
The meeting has been cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control.

**Learner example:**
This party is being organised by my class for your husband's birthday, but there is something you should know, this party is a surprise so under no circumstances should you inform your husband about this.

---

**citizen /ˈsɪt.i.zən/**

**NOUN [C]**

**TOWN/CITY**
[B2] someone who lives in a particular town or city

**Dictionary example:**
The citizens of Moscow woke up this morning to find they had a new government.
Learner example:
I think that it is a really good idea to make a film about our town and its citizens.

LEGAL RIGHT

[B2] someone who has a legal right to live in a particular country

Dictionary example:
He applied to become an American citizen.

Learner example:
I'm an American citizen because my mother comes from Queens, New York.

civil /ˈsɪv.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: civilization, civilian
Adjectives: civil

ADJECTIVE
[C1] relating to the ordinary people or things in a country and not to military or religious organizations

Dictionary example:
They married in a civil ceremony.

Learner example:
The wedding will occur first in the church, and then in front of the Mayor, who will personally come [to] the castle for the civil wedding.

civilian /sɪˈvɪli.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: civilization, civilian
Adjectives: civil

NOUN [C]
[C2] someone who is not a member of a military organization or the police

Dictionary example:
Several civilians were killed in the attack.

Learner example:
Twenty peple were killed in an ambush on a UN convoy transfer[r]ing injured civilians to the country's central hospital.
civilization (also civilisation) /ˌsɪv.əˈl.iːz.ən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: civilization, civilian  
Adjectives: civil

NOUN

SOCIETY
[B2] [c or u] human society with its well developed social organizations, or the culture and way of life of a society or country at a particular period in time

Dictionary examples:  
Some people think that nuclear war would mean the end of civilization.  
Cuzco was the centre of one of the world's most famous civilizations, that of the Incas. ancient civilizations

Learner example:  
Since the beginning of civilization, man has been looking for comfort and better ways to do things.

WAY OF LIFE
[C1] [u] when people have an advanced and comfortable way of life

Dictionary example:  
modern civilization

Learner example:  
Even if this idea is idealistic, some think that they will take advantage of all the benefits of modern civilization.

claim /klɛm/  

VERB

SAY
[B2] [ɪ] to say that something is true or is a fact, although you cannot prove it and other people might not believe it

Dictionary examples:  
The company claims (that) it is not responsible for the pollution in the river.  
He claims to have met the President, but I don't believe him.  
An unknown terrorist group has claimed responsibility for this morning's bomb attack.  
All parties have claimed success in yesterday's elections.

Learner example:  
Bicycle supporters claim that it is silent and keeps owners fit.
DEMAND
[B2] [i or t] to ask for something because it belongs to you or you think you have the right to have it

Dictionary examples:
She claimed £1,500 in expenses.
Don't forget to claim (for) your travelling expenses after the interview.
The number of people claiming unemployment benefit has risen sharply this month.
If the shop won't give me a replacement TV, I'll claim my money back.

Learner example:
I also would like to claim [a] refund for the evening.

claim credit/responsibility/success, etc.
[C2] to say that you have done or achieved something

Dictionary example:
No one has claimed responsibility for yesterday's bomb attack.

NOUN [C]

DEMAND
[B2] a written request asking an organization to pay you a sum of money which you believe they owe you

Dictionary examples:
an insurance claim
a claim for compensation
I've made a claim on my insurance.

Learner example:
This wasn't "my perfect evening out", and I [would like to] make a claim for half the money back.

STATEMENT
[C1] a statement that something is true or is a fact, although other people might not believe it

Dictionary examples:
She rejected claims that she had lied.
Can you give any evidence to support your claim?
He made wild claims about being able to cure cancer.

Learner example:
To correct your claims about our target figure and the result of the day, I enclose a sheet displaying an income pie [chart].
clap /klæp/

NOUN

a clap of thunder
[C2] a sudden, loud sound that is made by thunder

Dictionary example:
We heard a clap of thunder.

Learner example:
Suddenly, I heard a loud clap of thunder.

clarification /ˌklær.ɪ.fɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: clarification, clarity
Verbs: clarify

NOUN [C or U] FORMAL

[C1] an explanation which makes something clearer or easier to understand

Dictionary examples:
Please contact this office again if you require further clarification.
Our lawyer has advised us to seek clarification on the matter.

Learner example:
If any tricky questions come up you simply stay calm and ask for a clarification.

clarify /ˈklær.i.fai/

Word family:
Nouns: clarification, clarity
Verbs: clarify

VERB [T]

[C1] to make something easier to understand by explaining it

Dictionary example:
The law aims to clarify building regulations.

Learner example:
Could you clarify this situation for me, please?
**clarity** /ˈklær.i.ti/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** clarification, clarity
**Verbs:** clarify

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] the quality of being clear and easy to understand

**Dictionary example:**
She described the process with great clarity.

**Learner example:**
Jonathon, the eldest, is like his mother (and for that matter, like his father too!) a verbally very gifted person who already expresses himself with great clarity and a lot of understanding and afterthought as well as creativity.

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**clash** /klæʃ/

**VERB**

**FIGHT**
[C2] [i] to fight or argue

**Dictionary examples:**
Government troops clashed with rebel soldiers.
Many young people clash with their parents over what time they must be home at night.

**Learner example:**
From the very beginning their two characters clashed and the relationship had only been deteriorating.

**COLOUR**
[C2] [i] If colours or styles clash, they do not look good together.

**Dictionary example:**
You can't wear pink lipstick – it clashes with your dress.

**Learner example:**
She wore lemon green trousers and a pink top and she didn't seem to mind that those colours clashed.

**EVENT**
[C2] [i] If two events clash, they happen at the same time so that you cannot go to them both.

**Dictionary example:**
Emma's party clashes with my brother's wedding.
NOUN [C]

FIGHT
[C2] a fight or argument

Dictionary example:
There were violent clashes between the police and demonstrators.

Learner example:
Firstly, it has to be considered that Things fall apart is set in [the] 1890s and it portrays the clash between white colonialists and the indigenous Igbo people.

DIFFERENCE
[C2] when ideas or qualities are very different, and this causes problems

Dictionary example:
a clash of personalities

Learner example:
Since people's material interests are similar, having competitiveness as the only measurement for personal virtue only creates an endless competition that eventually will lead to a clash of interests.

class  /klɑːs/

NOUN

ECONOMIC GROUP
[B2] [C or U] a group of people within society who have the same economic and social position

Dictionary examples:
The Labour Party has lost a lot of support among the working class.
We live in a middle class neighbourhood.
She belonged to the rich American upper class.

Learner example:
The second film is called "Upper class first" and it describes how rich people live.

VERB

class sb/sth as sth
[C1] to put someone or something in a particular group according to their qualities

Dictionary example:
The tower is classed as a historic monument.

Learner example:
All things considered, the Day could be classed as a success.
classic /ˈklæs.ɪk/  

ADJECTIVE  

[B2] A classic book, film, etc. is one that has been popular for a long time and is considered to be of a high quality.  

Dictionary example:  
a classic film/novel/story  

Learner example:  
I am fond of reading different books, especially classic literature.

NOUN [C]  

[B2] a piece of writing, a musical recording or a film which has been popular for a long time and is considered to be of a high quality  

Dictionary examples:  
Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' is a classic of English literature. Many of the Rolling Stones' records have become rock classics.

Learner example:  
Wuthering Heights [is] a classic, which everybody knows about.

classical /ˈklæs.ɪ.kəl/  

ADJECTIVE  

TRADITIONAL  

[C2] traditional in style  

Dictionary example:  
classical and modern dance  

Learner example:  
Marie discovered South Indian classical dance at the age of 30, which is quite late.

classification /ˌklæs.ɪ.fɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: classification  
Verbs: classify  

NOUN [C or U]  

[C2] the process of putting people or things into groups by their type, size, etc., or one of these groups
Dictionary example:
the classification of plants

Learner example:
Cinema attendance between 1990 and the present, with projections to 2010, is reported with the classification of four age groups: (i) 14–24 years old (ii) 25–34 years old (iii) 35–49 years old (iv) over 50 years old respectively.

classify /ˈklæs.ɪ.fai/

Word family:
Nouns: classification
Verbs: classify

VERB [T]
[C1] to put people or things into groups by their type, size, etc.

Dictionary examples:
A third of the population has been classified as poor.
The books are classified by subject.

Learner example:
The paintings will be classified according to their subject and our guests will have the chance to see them and talk with the creators.

clause /klə:z/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a group of words containing a subject and a verb, that is usually only part of a sentence

Dictionary examples:
In the sentence 'I can't cook very well but I make quite good omelettes', both 'I can't cook very well' and 'I make quite good omelettes' are main clauses.
In the sentence 'I'll get you some stamps if I go to town', 'if I go to town' is a subordinate clause.

clean /kliːn/

Word family:
Nouns: cleaner
Adjectives: clean
ADJECTIVE

NO CRIME

[C2] showing that you have not done anything illegal

Dictionary example:
a clean driving licence

Learner example:
Of course, it is a strain to portray a clean image and avoid scandals.

VERB [r]

clean sth out or clean out sth PHRASAL VERB

[C2] to take everything out of a room, car, container, etc. and clean the inside of it

Dictionary example:
I cleaned out the fridge this morning.

Learner example:
The owner, an almost illiterate woman, claimed to have come across the diary as she was cleaning out the attic.

clean (sth/sb) up PHRASAL VERB

MAKE CLEAN

[C1] to make a person or place clean and tidy

Dictionary example:
We have to clean up before we leave.

Learner example:
During our accommodation there, nobody came to clean up the room and the staff was not very friendly.

REMOVE POLLUTION

[C1] to remove pollution from somewhere

Dictionary example:
They are developing processes to clean up polluted rivers.

Learner example:
I can also help by distributing leaflets which contain information on how to start cleaning up the environment.

cleaner /ˈkliː.nər/

Word family:
Nouns: cleaner
Adjectives: clean
NOUN [c]

the cleaner’s
[C1] a shop where clothes are cleaned with chemicals

Dictionary example:
I took my dress to the cleaner’s.

clear /klɪər/

Word family:
Verbs: clear
Adjectives: clear, unclear
Adverbs: clearly

ADJECTIVE

NOT BLOCKED
[C1] not covered or blocked by anything

Dictionary examples:
a clear road
a clear desk

Learner example:
While banning the private cars brings with it less congestion, less air pollution and clear roads, it also carries major concerns [for] people’s travelling needs. Should there not be a proper transport infrastructure in place in the city?

crystal clear
[C1] extremely clear

Dictionary example:
crystal clear water

Learner example:
You will be amazed by the crystal clear water of the shallow sea and the multitude of colourful fish which you will see as you [are] exploring the bottom of the sea.

crystal clear
[C2] very easy to understand

Dictionary example:
She made it crystal clear that she was in charge.

Learner example:
They do learn something of course, but it is crystal clear that they need some help from you to develop their ability, creativity, sensitivity and so on.
VERB

clear the air
[C2] If an argument or discussion clears the air, people feel less angry or upset after it.

Dictionary example:
It was an unpleasant argument, but at least it cleared the air.

Learner example:
I rushed into the room [to] cheer them up and clear the air, although I knew it was too late.

NOUN

in the clear
[C2] not in a difficult situation or having problems any more

Dictionary example:
We have had money problems but we should be in the clear by next year.

Learner example:
"You’re in the clear, you don’t have to be afraid any more", it said.

ADVERB

steer clear of sb/sth
[C2] to avoid someone or something because they are unpleasant or dangerous

Dictionary example:
Steer clear of Tony this morning – he’s in a bad mood.

Learner example:
Eating healthily doesn’t mean starving, eating plants or steering clear of meat.

cliché /ˈkliː.ʃeɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: cliché
Adjectives: clichéd

NOUN [C]
[C2] something that is said or done too often, so that it becomes boring or without meaning

Dictionary example:
Her writing is full of clichés.

Learner example:
Prejudices and clichés are part of our state of mind, they travel with us [and] we won’t avoid them by going abroad.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Pronunciation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>clichéd</strong> /ˈkliː.ʃeɪd/</td>
<td>ADJECTIVE</td>
<td>[C2] said or done too often and therefore boring or without real meaning</td>
<td>He made some clichéd remark about the birth of his first child completely changing his life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dictionary example:</td>
<td>Suddenly everything clicked and I realized where I'd met him.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Learner example:</td>
<td>Now it all clicked into place... Those flimsy excuses he gave her: &quot;No, this Saturday I can't make it.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>click</strong> /klɪk/</td>
<td>VERB</td>
<td>IDEA [C2] [i] INFORMAL to suddenly understand something</td>
<td>The door clicked shut behind him.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dictionary example:</td>
<td>The back-door key clicked when I unlocked the door.</td>
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<td>Learner example:</td>
<td>She went to a house party and they met there. They clicked immediately and the next day they were calling each other or at least that['s] what my mum said to me.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**client** /ˈklaɪ.ənt/  
NOUN [c]  
[B2] someone who pays someone else for services or advice  

**Dictionary example:**  
We're losing a lot of our clients.  

**Learner example:**  
The motto of the staff there is: "the client is always right."

---

**climate** /ˈklær.mɪt/  
NOUN  
SITUATION  
[C2] [c] the situation, feelings, and opinions that exist at a particular time  

**Dictionary examples:**  
the political/social climate  
Terrorism creates a climate of fear.  

**Learner example:**  
Hence the Narrator lives in a more peaceful period than Olivia’s and only in this context could Olivia’s experiences be regarded as more stimulating because they are inevitably involved with the unstable political climate.

---

**climate change** /ˈklær.mɪtˌtʃeɪndʒ/  
NOUN [u]  
[B2] the way the Earth's weather is changing  

**Dictionary example:**  
Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today.

---

**climb** /klɑːm/  
Word family:  
Nouns: climbing  
Verbs: climb
VERB

climb into/out of/through, etc.
[B2] to move into or out of a small space, often with difficulty or effort

Dictionary examples:
The baby had managed to climb out of his cot.
They climbed into the truck and drove away.

Learner example:
I went to my car, climbed into it and wanted to drive, but nothing happened.

MOVE HIGHER

[B2] [i] to go up, or to go towards the top of something

Dictionary examples:
The plane climbed quickly to a height of 30 000 feet.
As it leaves the village, the road climbs steeply up the mountain.
The sun climbed higher in the sky.

cling /klɪŋ/

VERB [i] (clung)

HOLD TIGHT
[C2] to hold someone or something tightly, especially because you are frightened

Dictionary examples:
She was found clinging to the ledge.
I clung on to his hand in the dark.

Learner example:
I [had] clung to my father ever since I was born.

clinical /ˈklin.ɪk.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: clinic
Adjectives: clinical

ADJECTIVE

MEDICAL
[C1] relating to medical treatment and tests

Dictionary example:
clinical trials/research
Learner example:
Doctors, for example, travel to get better qualifications, new medical skills and clinical experience.

NO EMOTION

[C2] only considering facts and not influenced by feelings or emotions

Dictionary example:
a clinical approach/attitude

Learner example:
Nowadays in Sweden nurser[ie]s ("dagis") are common, but in the 1950s they were a new invention. "Kindergarten" was the somewhat clinical name. And clinical they were.

clock /klɒk/

NOUN [c]
around/round the clock

[C1] all day and all night

Dictionary example:
Rescue teams are working round the clock to search for survivors of the earthquake.

Learner example:
It is undeniable that people are working around the clock in order to earn a living.

close

Word family:
Nouns: closure
Verbs: close
Adjectives: closed

VERB /kləʊz/

STOP OPERATING

[B2] [I or T] If a business or organization closes, or if someone or something closes it, it stops operating.

Dictionary examples:
The factory closed over ten years ago.
A lot of restaurants/shops are closing because they can't afford to pay the rent.

Learner example:
In addition, I would like you to know that the Hotel Astrid closed last year.
[C2] to end, or to end something

Dictionary example:
She closed the meeting with a short speech.

Learner example:
That's how you should close the exhibition: with a question. How much further can Arnold go?

ADJECTIVE /kləʊs/

RELATIONSHIP
[B2] seeing or communicating with someone a lot

Dictionary examples:
I'm still in close contact with my school friends.
Our school has close links with a school in China.

Learner example:
Being in close touch with me for such a long time, you should have known everything about the band.

SIMILAR
[C1] having only a small difference

Dictionary examples:
The election results were so close they had to vote again.
He came second in the race, but it was very close.
The youngest boys are so close in age they look like twins.

Learner example:
The over-grazing, the deforestation and the over-cultivation [seem] to be the main causes of the degradation of the agricultural land, the percentages being quite close in value.

be/come close to doing sth
[C1] to almost achieve or do something

Dictionary example:
We are close to reaching an agreement.

Learner example:
We were very close to reaching our objective.

be close to sth
[C1] If someone or something is close to a particular state, they are almost in that state.

Dictionary example:
She was close to tears.

Learner example:
'Do you love me?' 'Of course I do. I've always loved you.' Adrian answered. He was close to tears.
CAREFUL

[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] looking at or listening to someone or something very carefully

Dictionary examples:
On close inspection, you could see that the painting was a fake.
Keep a close watch on the children.

Learner example:
If the parents keep a close watch on their children's activities and friends and advi[s]e them what is right or wrong, this will prevent them from indulging in bad activities.

closed /kləʊzd/

Word family:
Nouns: closure
Verbs: close
Adjectives: closed

ADJECTIVE

NOT ACCEPTING IDEAS
[C2] not wanting to accept new ideas, people, customs, etc.

Dictionary example:
a closed mind

Learner example:
But if we travel with a closed mind, we will be contrasting everything, always having in mind that our things are the best.

behind closed doors
[C2] privately and not in public

Dictionary example:
Most of the deals were done behind closed doors.

Learner example:
Decisions which affect the whole world are made behind closed doors and are top secret.

closely /ˈkləʊ.sli/

Word family:
Adjectives: close
Adverbs: closely
ADVERB

CONNECTED
[B2] in a way that is directly connected or has a strong relationship

Dictionary examples:
English and German are closely related.
Both politicians have been closely associated with the movement for some time.
We are working closely with the police.

Learner example:
The main reason I am applying for this job is that this job would be very rewarding on a personal level and would give me useful experience closely related to my field of study.

VERY NEAR
[C1] in a way that is very near in distance, time, or position

Dictionary example:
Elke came into the room, closely followed by her children.

Learner example:
According to statistical figures, Germany is better off as compared to [the] USA and closely followed by Spain in the management of Government spending.

CAREFULLY
[C1] carefully and paying attention to details

Dictionary examples:
Pollution levels are closely monitored.
If you look closely, you can see where he painted over his signature.

Learner example:
I think that working for High Travel as its inte[r]preter would be a great experience if the company decides to look closely at the conditions of its employees and of its travellers.

closeness /ˈklaʊs.nəs/

NOUN [U]

NEAR
[C1] the state of being close in distance, time, or position

Dictionary example:
We bought the house because of its closeness to my office.

Learner example:
To resize and relocate the coffee bar and the sauna are excellent ideas – a larger coffee bar provides us with a better relaxing area and the closeness of the sauna to the swimming pool saves us from walking a long way from the pool when we are all wet and cold.
RELATIONSHIP
[C1] the quality of knowing someone very well and liking them a lot

Dictionary example:
A special closeness is said to exist between twins.

Learner example:
Fred resented the closeness of the sisters, he wanted Susan for himself.

closure /ˈkləʊ.zə/  
Word family:  
Nouns: closure  
Verbs: close  
Adjectives: closed

NOUN
[C2] when a business, organization, etc. stops operating

Dictionary examples:  
factory closures  
The company announced the closure of its Paris office.

Learner example:  
A supermarket with a multi-stor[e]y car park would lead to the closure of other smaller supermarkets and shops like the greengrocer\'s and consequently many people would lose their jobs.

cloth /klɒθ/  
NOUN
MATERIAL
[B2] [u] material made from cotton, wool, etc. and used, for example, to make clothes or curtains

Dictionary example:  
a piece/length of cloth

Learner example:  
We [will] probably be wearing dresses made of synthetic cloth in 2100.

FOR CLEANING
[B2] [c] a small piece of material used for cleaning or drying things

Dictionary example:  
a washing-up cloth
clothing /ˈkləʊ.ðɪŋ/

NOUN [u]
[B2] clothes, especially of a particular type

Dictionary examples:
Protective clothing must be worn at all times.
You can only take three articles/items of clothing into the changing room.

Learner example:
Nowadays the aim in clothing is not just for covering and protecting ourselves.

cloud /klaʊd/

Word family:
Nouns: cloud
Verbs: cloud
Adjectives: cloudy

NOUN

SMOKE/DUST
[B2] [c] a mass of something such as dust or smoke that looks like a cloud

Dictionary example:
A huge cloud of smoke from burning oil tanks stretched across the sky.

Learner example:
Some of them leave behind a large cloud of smoke and it damage[s] our health.

be on cloud nine INFORMAL
[C2] to be extremely happy and excited

Dictionary example:
After I heard I'd got the job, I was on cloud nine!

Learner example:
But now, after the promise in which both said "yes", she was on cloud nine.

VERB
[C2] [T] to make someone confused, or make something harder to understand

Dictionary example:
to cloud someone's judgment/vision

Learner example:
Having their judgment somewhat clouded by hormones should not take precedence over all other concerns.
**clue** /ˈkluː/

**NOUN [c]**

**SIGN**

[B2] a sign or some information that helps you to solve a problem or answer a question

**Dictionary examples:**
Police are searching the area for clues to the murder.
Police are still looking for clues in their search for the missing girl.
I'm never going to guess the answer if you don't give me a clue.

**Learner example:**
They found it and they started looking for more clues.

**not have a clue**

[B2] *informal* to be completely unable to guess, understand, or deal with something

**Dictionary example:**
I haven't a clue what you're talking about.

**Learner example:**
I haven't a clue about it.

**clumsiness** /ˈklʌm.zi.nəs/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** clumsiness
**Adjectives:** clumsy

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the quality of being clumsy

**Dictionary example:**
The accident was caused by her clumsiness.

**Learner example:**
Then I wanted to skip with her and the girls but my clumsiness made me flush and I left the rope and returned to my boys' games.

**clumsy** /ˈklʌm.zi/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** clumsiness
**Adjectives:** clumsy
ADJECTIVE

[B2] Clumsy people move in a way that is not controlled or careful enough, and often knock or damage things.

Dictionary example:
That's the third glass you've smashed this week – you're so clumsy!

Learner example:
I was cleaning the house, and as you know, I'm very clumsy, so I was dusting the table, and, accidentally, I dropped the vase.

clutch /klʌtʃ/

VERB [T]

[C2] to hold something tightly

Dictionary example:
She clutched a coin.

Learner example:
It doesn't matter if you want to be an author, an actress clutching an Oscar or a farmer with a lot of chickens.

NOUN

ENGINE

[C1] [c] the part of a car or truck that you press with your foot when you change gear

Dictionary example:
I put my foot on the clutch.

Learner example:
I can remember very well when my father explained to me how to release the clutch and to press the accelerator very slowly and carefully: easy to say but...

sb's/sth's clutches

[C2] If you are in someone or something's clutches, they control you, often in an evil way.

Dictionary example:
Keep your children out of his clutches.

Learner example:
However one must admit that living longer and evading the clutches of death has always been one of man's dreams.
**coach** /kəʊtʃ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: coach, coaching  
Verbs: coach  

VERB [I or T]  
[B2] to teach someone so they improve at a sport, skill, or in a school subject  

Dictionary example:  
She coaches students in French, usually for exams.  

Learner example:  
I have also been coaching a girls team for 3 years.

---

**coaching** /ˈkəʊtʃ.ɪŋ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: coach, coaching  
Verbs: coach  

NOUN [U]  
[B2] additional teaching of a sport, a skill or a school subject  

Dictionary example:  
She has extra coaching in maths.  

Learner example:  
In Poland basketball is getting more and more popular and we feel the lack of coaching.

---

**coal** /kəul/  

NOUN  
FUEL  
[C1] [U] a hard, black substance that is dug from under the ground and burnt as fuel  

Dictionary example:  
a lump of coal  

Learner example:  
Mining for gold, coal or oil is an option [for] our economy.
**coastal** /ˈkəʊ.stəl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** coast
**Adjectives:** coastal

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] situated on, or relating to the coast

**Dictionary example:**
a coastal town

**Learner example:**
I love to spend time at the beach and that is the reason why I live in a coastal area.

---

**coastline** /ˈkəʊst.laɪn/

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C2] the part of the land along the edge of the sea

**Dictionary example:**
a rocky coastline

**Learner example:**
These buildings, which haven't been looked after and maintained for many years, give the coastline around Land's End an almost ghostlike atmosphere.

---

**code** /kəʊd/

**NOUN**

**SECRET MESSAGE**
[B2] [C or U] a system of words, letters or signs which is used to represent a message in secret form

**Dictionary examples:**
The message was written in code.
She managed to break/crack the code.

**Learner example:**
Everyone had already heard of me getting the secret access code for the 'Secret Society' organisation.

**RULES**
[C1] [C] a set of rules on how to behave or how to do things
Dictionary examples:
a code of conduct/practice
The club has a strict dress code.

Learner example:
Most of their manners, dress code, personal conduct and their general well-being is taught at school.

coherence  /kəʊˈhɪə.rənts/

Word family:
Nouns: coherence
Adjectives: coherent

NOUN [u]

CLEAR
[C2] the state of being clear and easy to understand

Dictionary example:
Her argument lacks any coherence.

SHARED BELIEFS/PURPOSE
[C2] the feeling that you share the beliefs or purpose of others in a group

Dictionary example:
There is no sense of coherence within the group.

Learner example:
Family gatherings can offer the individual a sense of warmth, of belonging and of coherence.

coherent  /kəʊˈhɪə.rənt/

Word family:
Nouns: coherence
Adjectives: coherent

ADJECTIVE

CAREFUL THOUGHT
[C2] A coherent argument, plan, etc. is clear, and each part of it has been carefully considered.

Dictionary example:
We need to put forward a coherent plan.
Learner example:
In addition to the achievement of high academic status and a coherent identity, young people have to make friends, have love affairs and abide by social rules.

UNDERSTAND
[C2] If someone is coherent, you can understand what they say.

Dictionary example:
She was so upset, she was barely coherent.

Learner example:
Once she was fairly calm, Anne tried to get a coherent story out of Louise, but Louise simply burst into tears afresh.

**coin /ˈkɔɪn/**

VERB
[C2] to be the first person who uses a new word or phrase

Dictionary example:
The Czech playwright, Capek, coined the word 'robot'.

Learner example:
S. Czernick coined a term for such type of poetry - authenticism.

**coincide /ˌkəʊ.ɪnˈsaɪd/**

Word family:
Nouns: coincidence
Verbs: coincide

VERB [i]

HAPPEN TOGETHER
[C2] to happen at the same time as something else

Dictionary example:
The band's American tour coincided with the release of their second album.

Learner example:
This moment is of great significance for both characters and it coincides with the event which happens in the house.

BE THE SAME
[C2] When people's opinions or ideas coincide, they are the same.

Dictionary example:
Luckily, our views coincided.
Learner example:
I have become curious to know more about different cultures, I have learnt to respect opinions which may not coincide with mine.

coincidence /kəʊˈɪn.sɪ.dənt/

Word family:
Nouns: coincidence
Verbs: coincide

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] when two very similar things happen at the same time but there is no reason for it

Dictionary examples:
You chose exactly the same wallpaper as us – what a coincidence!
Just by coincidence, I met my old school-mate again fifty years later.
It was pure coincidence that we met.

Learner example:
What a coincidence, don’t you think so?

cold /kəʊld/

Word family:
Nouns: cold, coldness
Adjectives: cold

ADJECTIVE

In cold blood
[C2] in a cruel way, without showing any emotion

Dictionary example:
He shot three policemen in cold blood.

Learner example:
Returning to the story, when I arrived, I went directly to Hillton Avenue where I should have met 005, but when I arrived at the meeting point I found him lying on the floor with two shots in his back; he had been murdered in cold blood.

NOUN

make your blood run cold
[C2] If something makes your blood run cold, it frightens you very much.

Dictionary example:
I heard a tapping on the window which made my blood run cold.
Learner example:
This thought scared me and made my blood run cold.

coldness /ˈkɑːld.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: cold, coldness
Adjectives: cold

NOUN [u]

TEMPERATURE
[C2] the state of having a low temperature

Dictionary example:
I was distracted by the coldness of my feet.

Learner example:
Firstly, there was an atmosphere of calm and happiness round: the ground was covered with snow, so that it made your steps quiet and the whole town seemed asleep under its white coat; besides it was so cold that you could actually smell the coldness in the air and it made you feel strong...

CHARACTER
[C2] when someone is unfriendly or does not show their feelings

Dictionary example:
I was shocked by his father’s coldness.

Learner example:
Contrary to this experience, I had experienced my mother’s coldness through the other episode.

collaborate /kəˈlæbə.rət/

Word family:
Nouns: collaboration
Verbs: collaborate

VERB [i]
[C1] When two or more people collaborate, they work together to create or achieve the same thing.

Dictionary example:
Didn’t you collaborate with him on one of your books?

Learner example:
Even if the staff they collaborated with were quite friendly and cheerful, all of them would prefer the jobs related with computers and new technolog[y].
collaboration /ˌkəˌlæb.əˈreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: collaboration
Verbs: collaborate

NOUN
[C1] [c or u] when two or more people work together to create or achieve the same thing, or a product of this

Dictionary example:
The show was a result of collaboration between several museums.

Learner example:
On the other hand, we encourage competition on the basis of team collaboration, to optimize the HR resources in the group, and maximize [the] individual's potential.

collapse /kəˈlæps/

VERB [i]

OBJECT
[B2] to fall down suddenly because of pressure or having no strength or support

Dictionary examples:
Thousands of buildings collapsed in the earthquake.
The chair collapsed under her weight.

Learner example:
Then a sudden wave of fire made their heads explode and many buildings collapsed instantly.

PERSON
[B2] If someone collapses, they fall down, usually because they are ill or weak.

Dictionary example:
He collapsed and died of a heart attack.

Learner example:
He desperately tried to keep the stalking sharks at bay, but he couldn't succeed, for the long fight exhausted him and he collapsed.

FAIL
[C2] to fail to work or succeed

Dictionary example:
The peace talks have collapsed.

Learner example:
So, in the long run, the whole social system may collapse due to people's longer life.
NOUN [C or U]
[B2] the sudden failure of a system, organization, business, etc.

Dictionary examples:
A poor economy has caused the collapse of thousands of small businesses.
Negotiations between the two countries are on the brink/verge of collapse.
He suffered a mental collapse after ten years’ teaching.

Learner example:
After your nervous collapse last year I really worry about you.

collar /ˈkɒlər/

NOUN [C]
ON AN ANIMAL
[B2] a strap made of leather or other strong material which is put around the neck of an animal, especially a dog or cat

Dictionary examples:
a dog collar
I grabbed the dog by its collar and dragged it out of the room.

collect /kəˈlekt/

Word family:
Nouns: collection, collector
Verbs: collect

VERB
MONEY
[B2] [I or T] to ask people to give you money for something, for example a charity

Dictionary examples:
I’m collecting on behalf of Oxfam.
We’re collecting (money) for the homeless.

Learner example:
And I think it’s a perfect way to collect money for our poor people.

collect yourself/your thoughts
[C2] to get control over your feelings and thoughts

Dictionary example:
I’ll give you a moment to collect your thoughts.
Learner example:
I had [...] about 20 minutes so it would be plenty of time to collect my thoughts and calm down.

collection /kəˈlek.fən/

Word family:
Nouns: collection, collector
Verbs: collect

NOUN

TAKING AWAY

[B2] [u] when something is taken away from a place

Dictionary example:
rubbish collection

Learner example:
We need a different organisation for the waste collection.

collector /kəˈlek.tər/

Word family:
Nouns: collection, collector
Verbs: collect

NOUN [c]

[B2] someone who collects objects because they are interesting or beautiful

Dictionary examples:
a collector of modern art
a stamp collector

Learner example:
Anne has been a collector for many years and she knows almost everything about Swedish stamps.

collocation /ˌkɒ.ləˈkeɪ.ʃən/

NOUN [c]

[B2] a word or phrase that sounds natural or correct when it is used with another word or phrase, or the combination formed when two or more words are frequently used together in a way that sounds natural
Dictionary example:
'Heavy traffic' is a collocation.

colon /ˈkəʊ.ən/

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] a mark (:) used before a list, an example, an explanation, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
There's a colon missing in that sentence.

colour /ˈkʌl.ər/

Word family:
**Nouns:** colour
**Adjectives:** colourful

**NOUN**

**with flying colours**
[C1] with a very high score or with great success

**Dictionary example:**
He passed the entrance exam with flying colours.

**Learner example:**
I worked intens[ive]ly on the course and I passed with flying colours.

**INTEREST**
[C2] [u] interesting or exciting qualities or parts

**Dictionary example:**
We added your story for a bit of local colour.

**Learner example:**
For an uncomplicated meal and a spot of local colour, choose the Lion's Arms at 15, Heather Lane.

**SKIN**
[C2] [u] the colour of a person's skin, which shows their race

**Dictionary example:**
I don't care what colour her boyfriend is.

**Learner example:**
Since coming to England, I have been fortunate enough to meet so many people from all over the world. At first you try to see [someone] as a typical example of the country she is from, but as you get to know her better, you do not think about her race or colour any longer: it is her personality and human qualities that you are attracted to.
VERB [T]

AFFECT

[C2] to affect what someone does, says, or feels

Dictionary example:
Her views are coloured by her own bad experiences.

colourful /ˈkʌl.ə.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: colour
Adjectives: colourful

ADJECTIVE

UNUSUAL

[B2] interesting and unusual

Dictionary example:
a colourful character

Learner example:
Computers make our modern life more colourful.

column /ˈkɒl.əm/

NOUN [C]

PRINTING

[B2] one of the blocks of print into which a page of a newspaper, magazine, or dictionary is divided

Dictionary example:
I didn't have time to read the whole article – just the first column.

Learner example:
To the editor, I am puzzled by the report which appeared on yesterday's page 2, second column, concerning the Westfield Music Festival.

BUILDING

[B2] a tall, solid, usually stone post which is often used to support a roof or as decoration in a building

Dictionary examples:
The roof of the temple was held up by a row of thick stone columns.
Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square
**Learner example:**
There are a lot [of] columns outside and inside the restaurant, in Doric [style].

**NUMBERS/WORDS**

[C1] any block of numbers or words written one under the other

**Dictionary examples:**
the left-hand/right-hand column
Choose an adjective from Column A to use with a noun in Column B.
Put your expenditure in column B.

**Learner example:**
At the end of the course I had to complete a student questionnaire in which we had to tick in three columns, and the points were: good, adequate, needs improvement.

**combat /ˈkɒm.bæt/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C2] a fight, especially during a war

**Dictionary example:**
The aircraft was shot down in combat.

**Learner example:**
Gaza is accessible only by car and because of the terrorists setting ambushes against any car, it is very difficult to supply the villages round the combat zone with food and medication.

**VERB [T] (combatting, combatted, combating, combated)**

[C2] to try to stop something unpleasant or harmful from happening or increasing

**Dictionary example:**
new measures to combat the rise in crime

**Learner example:**
Another way of combating the problem is to create recreational centres in which unemployed people can spend their time.

**combination /ˌkɒm.biˈneɪ.ʃən/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** combination
**Verbs:** combine

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] the mixture you get when two or more things are combined
Dictionary examples:
Strawberries and cream – a perfect combination.
A combination of tiredness and boredom caused me to fall asleep.
This drug can be safely used in combination with other medicines.
Her experience and energy are a winning combination in business.

Learner example:
It has the winning combination of adventure in strange, far-off places, scientific discovery and humour.

**combine** /kəmˈbain/

Word family:
Nouns: combination
Verbs: combine

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to become mixed or joined, or to mix or join things together

Dictionary examples:
My wages combined with your savings should just about pay for it.
The band combines jazz rhythms and romantic lyrics.

Learner example:
Boys wear jeans or longer shorts than girls, combined with patterned, cotton shirts.

**come** /kʌm/

VERB [I] (came, come)

Happen
[B2] to happen

Dictionary examples:
Spring has come early.
The worst problems are still/yet to come.
The announcement came at a bad time.

Learner example:
But worse was yet to come!

come easily/easy/naturally
[C1] to be very easy for someone

Dictionary example:
Singing came naturally to Louise.
Learner example:
After a while, it came naturally: I could use words I had never seen written, just because I had picked them up in a conversation or watching a video programme.

come first
[C1] to be the most important person or thing

Dictionary example:
Her career always comes first.

Learner example:
They do not take the time to sit down and enjoy being with their family. The work comes first, and the family next.

come to mind
[C1] If an idea comes to mind, you think of it.

Dictionary example:
I was thinking about who might be suitable for this job, and your name came to mind.

Learner example:
Positives did come from that crisis – more efficient engines, lighter vehicles and lead–free petrol are just some of the examples that come to mind.

when it comes to \textit{sth/doing sth}   
[C1] used to introduce a new idea that you want to say something about

Dictionary example:
When it comes to baking cakes, she's an expert.

Learner example:
But when it comes to computers, they just impose some knowledge on students, without any interaction.

how come\textsuperscript{ INFORMAL} 
[C1] used to ask why or how something has happened

Dictionary example:
How come you didn't go to the party?

Learner example:
Off the record: How come that your reporter can print such lies when knowing they are perhaps hurting certain people in this important matter?

come to think of it
[C2] used to say that you have just thought of something

Dictionary example:
Come to think of it, I've got two batteries that you can have upstairs.

Learner example:
Come to think of it, it really is quite difficult to say.
**come to do sth**
[C2] to start to do something or to reach a state after a period of time

**Dictionary examples:**
I have come to rely on acupuncture.
This place has come to be known as 'Pheasant Corner'.

**Learner example:**
All the things she had been believing in until then had come to mean [no]thing, as gold turns into coal.

**come apart/off, etc.**
[C2] to become separated or removed from something

**Dictionary examples:**
The book came apart in my hands.
The handle came off.
My shoelaces have come undone.
The door came open.

**come into being**
[C2] to start to exist

**Dictionary example:**
The new law comes into being next month.

**Learner example:**
Only with knowledge of the written word were villages able to organise themselves in larger forms of government, leading from local to regional to national levels, [and] finally leading to transnational structures as they came into being mostly during the last 100 years.

**come to light**
[C2] If information about something bad comes to light, it is discovered.

**Dictionary example:**
She knew that the fraud would eventually come to light.

**Learner example:**
Eventually, their "liaison" comes to light and Leo blames himself for the disastrous outcome of the events throughout his life.

**come under fire**
[C2] to be criticized

**Dictionary example:**
The government has come under fire for closing the hospital.

**come to the/ sb's rescue**
[C2] to help someone who is in a difficult situation

**Dictionary example:**
I forgot my purse but Anna came to the rescue and lent me some money.
take *sth as it comes*

[C2] to deal with something as it happens, without planning for it

**Dictionary example:**
With an illness like this you just have to take every day as it comes.

**Learner example:**
We should, for once, put our [jealousy] aside, start to appreciate what we have and take life as it comes.

come to terms with *sth*

[C2] to accept a sad situation

**Dictionary example:**
He still hasn't come to terms with his brother's death.

**Learner example:**
She had, at last, come to terms with her loss and although she still, deep in her heart, grieved for Michael she now knew that she could move on.

comeback /ˈkʌm.bæk/  

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a successful attempt to become powerful, important, or famous again

**Dictionary example:**
She's made a comeback with her first new album for twenty years.

**Learner example:**
He made a comeback and what a comeback!

comedian /ˈkəˌmiːdi.ən/  

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** comedian, comedy

**NOUN**

[B2] someone who entertains people by telling jokes

**Dictionary example:**

**Learner example:**
Then, he went to London to become a comedian and now he is one of the [most] famous stars [in] that field.

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comfort /ˈkʌm.fət/

Word family:
Nouns: comfort, discomfort
Verbs: comfort
Adjectives: comfortable, uncomfortable, comforting
Adverbs: comfortably, uncomfortably

NOUN

NO PAIN

[B2] [u] a pleasant feeling of being relaxed and free from pain

Dictionary examples:
She evidently dresses for comfort.
It's a little too hot for comfort.
Now you can watch the latest films in the comfort of your own room.

Learner example:
When the weather is bad, I need the comfort of my car.

PLEASANT THING

[C1] [c] something that makes your life easy and pleasant

Dictionary examples:
home comforts
Good chocolate is one of life's little comforts.

Learner example:
Have you ever thought how our grandparents lived in their villages without extra home comforts?

ENOUGH MONEY

[C2] [u] when you have a pleasant life with enough money for everything that you need

Dictionary example:
He can afford to retire and live in comfort for the rest of his life.

Learner example:
Even when people sympathise with them, they always bear in mind that they are often rich children, who live in comfort.

FOR SADNESS

[C2] [u] when you feel better after being worried or sad

Dictionary example:
What she said brought me great comfort.

Learner example:
If I had been a "bad boy" and rec[e]ived a spanking I would seek comfort in my brothers or sister and they would do the same.
VERB [r]
[C2] to make someone feel better when they are anxious or sad

Dictionary example:
The family of the dead are being comforted by friends.

Learner example:
He kept close to Sandra and comforted her, saying this was the only choice they had and that things would be fine.

**comfortable /ˈkʌmfortəbl/**

Word family:
Nouns: comfort, discomfort
Verbs: comfort
Adjectives: comfortable, uncomfortable, comforting
Adverbs: comfortably, uncomfortably

ADJECTIVE

**WITHOUT WORRIES**

[B2] If you are comfortable in a situation, you do not have any worries about it.

Dictionary example:
I don’t feel comfortable about leaving the children here alone.

Learner example:
Those children maybe they don’t feel comfortable away from home.

**MONEY**

[C2] having enough money for everything that you need

Dictionary example:
a comfortable retirement

Learner example:
Certainly, there are part-time jobs, but they are mostly not [so] well-paid that it would be enough for somebody to lead a comfortable life.

**comfortably /ˈkʌmfortəblɪ/**

Word family:
Nouns: comfort, discomfort
Verbs: comfort
Adjectives: comfortable, uncomfortable, comforting
Adverbs: comfortably, uncomfortably
ADVERB
[B2] in a comfortable way

Dictionary example:
We slept very comfortably that night.

Learner example:
I was sitting comfortably on the couch watching TV when suddenly all the lights went out, [and] everything became silent.

comforting /ˈkʌmfə.tɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: comfort, discomfort
Verbs: comfort
Adjectives: comfortable, uncomfortable, comforting
Adverbs: comfortably, uncomfortably

ADJECTIVE
[C2] making you feel better when you are anxious or sad

Dictionary example:
He said a few comforting words.

Learner example:
Furthermore, it is always very comforting to know that someone has the same or even worse problems than we do.

command /kəˈmɑːnd/

Word family:
Nouns: command, commander

NOUN

ORDER
[B2] [c] an order to do something, especially one given by a soldier

Dictionary examples:
He hated being in the army because he had to obey commands.
When I give the command, fire!

Learner example:
Under the red lights of his command room, the first question that the captain wanted to ask was to know if the boat was safe.

KNOWLEDGE
[B2] [u] knowledge of a subject, especially a language
Dictionary example:
She **had a good** command of Italian.

Learner example:
Besides, I have a good command of French and I speak English fluently, which might be useful during the voyage around the world.

**COMPUTER**

[C1] [c] an instruction to a computer

Dictionary example:
It's worth learning the shortcuts for some of these commands.

Learner example:
Program list. 1. System commands MAIN console programs. 2. Review of LINUX Sys. console 3. Server commands. 4. ADD ONs for LINUX OS. 5. LINUX INTERFACE. 6. USER PROFILE.

**CONTROL**

[C2] [u] control over someone or something and responsibility for them

Dictionary examples:
The soldiers were **under the** command of a tough sergeant-major.
Jones was **in** command.

Learner example:
Suddenly, [there] comes an insurrection of armed militia with generals in command.

**commander** /kəˈmɑːn.də/  

Word family:
Nouns: command, **commander**

NOUN [c]

[C2] an officer who is in charge of a military operation, or an officer of middle rank in the navy

Dictionary example:
He was a naval commander.

Learner example:
The best part is when the commander forces the troops to kill themselves to prove their loyalty.

**commemorate** /kəˈmem.ər.eɪt/  

VERB [r]

[C2] to do something to show you remember an important person or event in the past with respect
Dictionary example:
A ceremony to commemorate the battle

Learner example:
As requested I am submitting the following proposal in order to recommend Melina Merkouri as a famous person whose achievements should be commemorated.

commence  /kəˈmens/

VERB [I or T] FORMAL

[C2] to begin something

Dictionary examples:
Building work will commence in the autumn.
Shall we let the meeting commence?

Learner example:
The sitting commenced and after just a quarter of an hour – as the members of the council were familiar with the subject – a decision was made and with a solemn countenance the chairman announced: “Let’s give these eager young people the possibility [of] mak[ing] their dreams come true!”

comment  /ˈkɒment/

NOUN [C]

No comment.

[C2] used to say that you do not want to answer someone’s question

Dictionary example:
‘Will you be standing for leader?’ ‘No comment.’

VERB [I or T]

[B2] to make a comment

Dictionary examples:
My mum always comments on what I’m wearing.
He commented that the two essays were rather similar.
The official refused to comment on the matter.

Learner example:
I will only comment on some points, the others may be viewed as agreed upon.
commerce  /ˈkɒm.ɜːs/

Word family:
Nouns: commerce, commercial
Adjectives: commercial

NOUN [u]
[B2] the activities involved in buying and selling things

Dictionary example:
the world of commerce and industry

Learner example:
In the old days, when the only mean[s] of transport were horses, there were many difficulties in communication between people, in commerce, [and] in life generally.

commercial  /kəˈmɜː.ʃəl/

Word family:
Nouns: commerce, commercial
Adjectives: commercial

NOUN [c]
[B2] an advertisement on the radio, on television, etc.

Dictionary example:
I tend to switch off during the commercials.

Learner example:
Nearly every one of us has to confess that on some days it is simply relaxing to sit in front of the TV just watching without using the brain at all, but we have to wonder if television is also able to educate us, especially regarding the senseless commercials.

ADJECTIVE

BUYING AND SELLING
[B2] related to buying and selling things

Dictionary examples:
a commercial organization/success
The commercial future of the company looks very promising.

Learner example:
Unfortunately, as long as their private life is interesting for ordinary people and it brings commercial gain to publishers, journalists and photographers, famous people will just have to get use[d] to this living "under a microscope".

FOR PROFIT
[C2] making money from advertising
Dictionary example:
commercial television

Learner example:
These days, in all commercial television, they show advertisement[s] in every hour of the day.

commit /kəˈmɪt/ (-tt-)

Word family:
Nouns: commitment
Verbs: commit
Adjectives: committed

VERB [T]

DO
[B2] to do something that is considered wrong, or that is illegal

Dictionary examples:
He was sent to prison for a crime that he didn't commit.
to commit suicide
to commit a crime/an offence/murder

Learner example:
She is willing to be [a] witness for the prosecution and states that her husband [was] not with her at the time the crime was committed.

DECISION
[C2] to make a firm decision that you will do something

Dictionary example:
He committed himself to helping others.

Learner example:
Doctor Gregorio Alvarez was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the early 1910s and graduated as a doctor at an early age. [...] He worked his entire life [in] the public hospital in Neuquen, which was the most developed city at that time, but he committed himself to exploration on a permanent basis.

commitment /kəˈmɪt.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: commitment
Verbs: commit
Adjectives: committed
LOYALTY
[B2] [c or u] when you are willing to give your time and energy to something that you believe in, or a promise or firm decision to do something

Dictionary examples:
She is known chiefly for her commitment to human rights.
I'd like to thank the staff for having shown such commitment.

Learner example:
I really admire your stamina, your commitment and your eagerness to pursue a career as one of the youngest vice presidents ever in the company (and the only female I guess), but is it really worth it?

ACTIVITY
[B2] [c] something that you must do or deal with that takes your time

Dictionary examples:
family/work commitments
I've got too many commitments at the moment to do an evening class.

Learner example:
Please tell me also the terms of the possible job so I can plan my future work commitments.

committed /ˈkɒmɪt.ɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: commitment
Verbs: commit
Adjectives: committed

ADJECTIVE
[C2] loyal and willing to give your time and energy to something that you believe in

Dictionary examples:
a committed Christian
She’s committed to the job.

Learner example:
All in all, Mr Schmidt is a very committed and hard–working person.
committee /kaˈmɪt.i/

NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]
[B2] a small group of people chosen to represent a larger organization and either make decisions or collect information for it

Dictionary examples:
She is on the school’s development committee.
The local council have just set up a committee to study recycling.

Learner example:
I’m pleased to help and to present these films to the club committee.

commodity /kəˈmɒd.ə.ti/

NOUN [C]
[C1] a product that you can buy or sell

Dictionary example:
The country’s most valuable commodities include tin and diamonds.

Learner example:
Not just that, it will have a domino effect on prime commodities as well.

common /ˈkɒm.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: common
Adjectives: common, uncommon
Adverbs: commonly

ADJECTIVE

common knowledge
[B2] something that a lot of people know

Dictionary example:
It’s common knowledge that he spent time in jail.

Learner example:
It is common knowledge that such attention [in the mass-media] inevitably tells on relationships in the family.

ORDINARY
[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] not special in any way
Dictionary example:
The herbs all have common *names* and Latin names.

Learner example:
The fashion of the common people and the average worker had to be practical and had to be worn for longer than just half a year.

**find common ground**

[C2] to find shared beliefs, interests or ideas

Dictionary example:
It's difficult for me to find any common ground with my dad.

Learner example:
The bottom line is we have to find some common ground and some balance between development and nature...

**NOUN**

**in common with sb/sth**

[C1] in the same way as someone or something

Dictionary example:
In common with many working mothers, she feels guilty about leaving her children.

Learner example:
In common with many city dwellers, I do not think this is a wise decision and it could have negative effects on the city residents' daily lives.

**commonly /ˈkɒm.ən.li/**

Word family:
Nouns: common
Adjectives: common, uncommon
Adverbs: commonly

**ADVERB**

[C1] often or usually

Dictionary example:
These caterpillars are commonly found on nettles.

Learner example:
It is commonly acknowledged that, these days, mobile phones have become an important [accessory].
communicate /kəˈmjuː.nɪ.kət/  

Word family:  
Nouns: communication  
Verbs: communicate  
Adjectives: communicative  

VERB  

BE UNDERSTOOD  
[B2] [I] to be understood by someone when you tell them about your feelings and thoughts  

Dictionary example:  
He can't communicate with his parents.  

Learner example:  
I think I can communicate with children and make them happy.

communicative /kəˈmjuː.nɪ.kə.tɪv/  

Word family:  
Nouns: communication  
Verbs: communicate  
Adjectives: communicative  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] open and willing to talk to people  

Dictionary example:  
She's never very communicative in the morning.  

Learner example:  
First of all, I would like to say I am a very communicative person and I enjoy being surrounded by many people.

community /kəˈmjuː.nə.ti/  

NOUN [C]  

IN ONE AREA  
[B2] the people living in one particular area  

Dictionary examples:  
a rural/small community  
He's well–known in the local community.  
Drug trafficking is a matter of considerable concern for the entire international community.
Learner example:
He supported some projects in our community.

GROUP OF PEOPLE
[B2] [+ SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] a group of people with the same interests, way of life, nationality, job, etc.

Dictionary examples:
the black/white/Chinese/Jewish community
the business community

Learner example:
As a member of our academic community, and a representative of [the] student's senate, I'm very glad to hear that our college will have a surplus in its annual budget.

**commute** /kəˈmjuːt/

VERB [i]
[C1] to regularly travel between work and home

Dictionary example:
He commutes to London every day.

Learner example:
People who work in the centre will have to commute from the suburbs which will be a waste of time for them.

**companion** /kəˈpæn.jən/

NOUN [C]
[B2] someone you spend a lot of time with or go somewhere with

Dictionary examples:
a travelling companion
Dan has been her constant companion these past ten years.

Learner example:
Jane and her companion felt absolutely foolish and muttered something about a wrong address.
company /ˈkʌm.pə.ni/

NOUN

OTHER PEOPLE
[B2] [u] when you are with a person or people, or the person or people you are with

Dictionary examples:
I just enjoy his company.
Do you want company or would you rather go on your own?
I didn't realize you had company.
Margot came to stay for a week as company for my mother while I was away.

Learner example:
Fortunately a friend of mine came with me for company.

keep sb company
[B2] to stay with someone so that they are not alone

Dictionary example:
Come and keep me company, Isabel.

Learner example:
Usually I went with him to keep him company and because I liked it.

be good company
[C1] to be a pleasant or interesting person to spend time with

Dictionary example:
Ann and Charles are always good company.

Learner example:
He is a bit narrow-minded and at first he'll drive you crazy, but once you get to know him he'll be good company.

comparable /ˈkɒm.pərə.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: comparative, comparison
Verbs: compare
Adjectives: comparable, comparative
Adverbs: comparatively

ADJECTIVE
[C1] similar in size, amount, or quality to something else

Dictionary examples:
Our prices are comparable to those in other shops.
The two experiences are not comparable.
Learner example:
Recent surveys revealed that the gap in salary between men and women doing comparable jobs increased within the last years.

**comparative** /kəmˈpær.ə.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: comparative, comparison
Verbs: compare
Adjectives: comparable, comparative
Adverbs: comparatively

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] comparing similar things

Dictionary example:
a comparative study of two poems

Learner example:
In a comparative study we see [the] work force is increasing in Japan, whereas it is declining in U.S.

**comparative comfort/freedom/silence, etc.**
[C2] a situation which is comfortable/free/silent, etc. when compared to another situation or to what is usual

Dictionary example:
I enjoyed the comparative calm of his flat after the busy office.

Learner example:
Uruguay has exploited its comparative advantages orienting its economy towards tourism, whereas Argentina has made use of the river to promote the export of domestic products.

**comparatively** /kəmˈpær.ə.tɪv.li/

Word family:
Nouns: comparative, comparison
Verbs: compare
Adjectives: comparable, comparative
Adverbs: comparatively

**ADVERB**
comparatively cheap/easy/little, etc.
[C1] cheap/easy/little, etc. when compared to something else or to what is usual

Dictionary example:
The climb was comparatively easy.
Learner example:
Although I am not a professional interpreter, please notice that my earnings are comparatively low.

**compare** /ˈkəmpɪər/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** comparative, comparison  
**Verbs:** compare  
**Adjectives:** comparable, comparative  
**Adverbs:** comparatively  

**VERB**  
compared to/with *sb/sth*  
[B2] used when saying how one person or thing is different from another  

**Dictionary examples:**  
This road is quite busy compared to ours.  
Children seem to learn more interesting things compared with when we were at school.  

**Learner example:**  
To my surprise it was very cheap compared with other restaurants.

**compare notes**  
[C1] If two people compare notes, they tell each other what they think about something that they have both done.  

**Dictionary example:**  
We compared notes about our experiences in China.  

**Learner example:**  
In conclusion, regular meetings between parents and school teachers [...] help both parties to compare notes, acting in the best interest[s] of the children.

**comparison** /kəmˈpær.i.ʃən/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** comparative, comparison  
**Verbs:** compare  
**Adjectives:** comparable, comparative  
**Adverbs:** comparatively  

**NOUN [C or U]**  
[B2] when two or more people or things are compared
Dictionary examples:
They made a comparison of different countries’ eating habits.
By/In comparison with the French, the British eat far less fish.
I always drink fresh coffee, not instant. There’s no comparison.

Learner example:
Nowadays we can see a very different world from the one our grandparents were living in.
Whereas they used to talk about how their daily life had changed in comparison with previous generations’, we remain astonished [at] how our [l]ives are changing frenetically.

compatible /ˈkɒməpætəbl/ ADJECTIVE

EQUIPMENT
[C1] compatible equipment can be used together

Dictionary example:
This keyboard is compatible with all of our computers.

Learner example:
Actually it is compatible with the newest 3DFX technology, which gives [an] extremely realistic [look] and the possibility to interact with the game.

PEOPLE
[C2] If people are compatible, they like each other and are happy to spend time together.

Dictionary examples:
After they got married, they soon found out that they weren’t compatible.
My new job’s going well, and my colleagues seem to be compatible.

Learner example:
The personalities of my parents were very different but at the same time they were a very compatible couple.

IDEAS
[C2] compatible ideas or situations can exist together

Dictionary example:
Such policies are not compatible with democratic government.

Learner example:
My aim here is not to criticize this point of view but to show it is hardly compatible with the idea of giving work less importance.
**compel** /kəmˈpel/

**VERB** FORMAL (compelling, compelled)

*feel compelled to do sth*
[C1] to feel that you should do something

**Dictionary example:**
He felt compelled to resign from his job.

**Learner example:**
As a member of the International Student's Sports Club, I felt compelled to write this article in answer to the previous article about how today's youth is putting sports and healthy activities aside.

---

**compensate** /ˈkɒm.pən.sət/

**VERB**

**MONEY**
[C1] [ɪ] to pay someone money because you are responsible for injuring them or damaging something

**Dictionary example:**
Victims of the crash will be compensated for their injuries.

**Learner example:**
I would like to be compensated for the extra work I have done to please the guests from the last stay.

**MAKE BETTER**
[C2] [ɪ] or [ɪ] to reduce the bad effect of something, or make something bad become something good

**Dictionary example:**
Nothing will ever compensate for his lost childhood.

**Learner example:**
Yet, it seems obvious that money cannot compensate for [a] lack of affection.

---

**compete** /kəmˈpiːt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** competition, competitor

**Verbs:** compete

**Adjectives:** competitive
VERB [i]

SUCCESS

[B2] to try to be more successful than someone or something else

Dictionary examples:
It's difficult for a small supermarket to compete against/with the big supermarkets. Both girls compete for their father's attention.

Learner example:
Most small cities like ours think that we have to compete with big cities by building new houses and shopping centres.

competence  /ˈkɒm.pɪ.tən ts/

Word family:
Nouns: competence
Adjectives: competent

NOUN [u]

[C1] the ability to do something well

Dictionary example:
Her competence as a teacher is unquestionable.

Learner example:
This report aims to outline the present state of our library's archives as well as to recommend another book or newspaper for those interested in improving their competence in Greek.

competent  /ˈkɒm.pr.tənt/

Word family:
Nouns: competence
Adjectives: competent

ADJECTIVE

[C1] able to do something well

Dictionary examples:
a competent teacher/swimmer
I wouldn't say he was brilliant but he is competent at his job.

Learner example:
As the game develops, the creatures and tasks get more and more complicated and by the end of the game, you will be expected to become a competent shooter.
competition /ˌkɒm.pəˈtɪʃ.n/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** competition, competitor  
**Verbs:** compete  
**Adjectives:** competitive

**NOUN**

**BUSINESS/JOBS**  
[B2] [u] when someone, or a company, is trying to win something or be more successful than someone else

**Dictionary examples:**  
Competition for jobs is intense.  
There's a lot of competition between computer companies.  
The two companies are in competition with each other.

**Learner example:**  
Different opening times mean[s] competition between the shops.

competitive /kəmˈpet.ə.tɪv/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** competition, competitor  
**Verbs:** compete  
**Adjectives:** competitive

**ADJECTIVE**

**SITUATION**  
[B2] involving competition

**Dictionary examples:**  
competitive sports  
a highly competitive industry

**Learner example:**  
Nowadays people live in [a] very competitive society.

**PERSON**  
[B2] wanting very much to win or be more successful than other people

**Dictionary example:**  
She's very competitive.

**Learner example:**  
I think that I am a very competitive player.
PRICES/SERVICES
[B2] as good as or better than other prices, services, etc.

Dictionary example:
They offer good quality goods at competitive prices.

Learner example:
I stayed at Riverside Hotel which is great value because of the food and the competitive prices they offer.

**compile** /kəmˈpail/  
**VERB [T]**  
[C1] to collect information and arrange it in a book, report, list, etc.

Dictionary example:
We’re compiling some facts and figures for a documentary on climate change.

Learner example:
The aim of this report is to compile the findings and thereby outline the main reasons why our branch did not get the contract, in order to prevent future failures.

**complaint** /kəmˈpleint/  
**Word family:**
Nouns: complaint
Verbs: complain

**NOUN**

ANNOYING THING
[C1] [C] something that makes you complain

Dictionary example:
My only complaint was the lack of refreshments.

Learner example:
My only complaint about the teaching staff is that they did not allow enough time for individual tuition and help when needed.
**completion** /kəmˈpliʃən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: completion  
Verbs: complete  
Adjectives: complete  
Adverbs: completely  

**NOUN [u]**  
[C1] when something that you are doing or making is finished  

**Dictionary examples:**  
The stadium is due for completion in 2008.  
They will be paid on completion of the job.  

**Learner example:**  
After the completion of the work at the newly–built part of the airport and its opening for service, the formerly quiet part of the town has become a victim of the above mentioned kind of noise, even more than the parts which have had this problem for [a] long [time].

---

**complex** /ˈkɒm.plɛks/  

Word family:  
Nouns: complexity  
Adjectives: complex  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] involving a lot of different but connected parts in a way that is difficult to understand  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a complex network of roads  
a complex procedure  
The film’s plot was so complex that I couldn’t follow it.  

**Learner example:**  
It took us two weeks to modify the results in a very complex operation.  

**NOUN**  
BUILDINGS  
[C1] a group of buildings or rooms that are used for a particular purpose  

**Dictionary example:**  
a sports/housing complex  

**Learner example:**  
A visit to any local shopping complex suggest[s] people between 14 to 35 years of age are the [most] frequent shoppers.
MENTAL
[C2] a mental problem which makes someone anxious or frightened about something

Dictionary example:
an inferiority complex

Learner example:
He began to feel like that character in "Psycho", afraid that the hotel manager would turn out to be some kind of maniac with an Oedipus complex.

complexion /kəmˈpleks.ʃən/

NOUN [c]
[C2] the colour and appearance of the skin on someone's face

Dictionary example:
a clear complexion

Learner example:
She had a fair complexion framed with red hair which reminded me of a witch.

complexity /kəmˈplek.sə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: complexity
Adjectives: complex

NOUN [u]
[C2] when something is complex

Dictionary example:
a problem of great complexity

Learner example:
Will this system of planting and exploiting new values, styles and icons actually collapse under its own weight and complexity?

complicate /ˈkɒm.plɪ.kət/

Word family:
Nouns: complication
Verbs: complicate
Adjectives: complicated
VERB [v]
[C1] to make something more difficult to deal with or understand

Dictionary example:
These new regulations just complicate matters further.

Learner example:
My friend, I hope I didn't complicate things for you with my appraisal of the situation.

complication /ˌkɒm.plɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: complication
Verbs: complicate
Adjectives: complicated

NOUN [n]
DIFFICULTY
[C1] something which makes a situation more difficult

Dictionary example:
We want to sign the contract, but there are several complications.

Learner example:
As you have already correctly mentioned in your memorandum, we indeed face some complications in our resort.

MEDICAL PROBLEM
[C2] a new medical problem that develops when you are already ill

Dictionary example:
Eye problems can be a complication of diabetes.

Learner example:
Disregarding recommendations given by nutrition experts can pose a great threat to our longevity, namely because of cardio-vascular complications.

compliment

Word family:
Nouns: compliment
Verbs: compliment
Adjectives: complimentary
noun /ˈkɒmplɪˌment/  
Praise  
[C2] [C] something that you say or do to show praise or admiration for someone  
Dictionary example:  
My colleague told me I had a firm manner and I took it as a compliment.  
Learner example:  
I take that as a compliment, giving me hope to excel as well as he did.  

Pay sb a compliment  
[C2] to tell someone that you admire something about them  
Dictionary example:  
He paid her several compliments about her painting.  
Learner example:  
His companions always pay him compliments on his [piano] playing.  

With the compliments of sb formal  
[C2] used by someone to express good wishes when they give you something free, for example in a restaurant  
Dictionary example:  
Please accept this champagne with the compliments of the manager.  
Learner example:  
The guest can also choose from a selection of wonderful desserts such as mousse au chocolat with fresh raspberries before finishing his/her meal with a rose liqueur – with the compliments of the house (and the bill).  

Verb [T] /ˈkɒmplɪˌment/  
[C1] to praise or express admiration for someone  
Dictionary example:  
He complimented me on my writing.  
Learner example:  
Firstly, I must compliment you on lowering your prices and adding new destinations to choose from.  

Complimentary /ˌkɒmplɪˈmen.tə.rɪ/  
Word family:  
Nouns: compliment  
Verbs: compliment  
Adjectives: complimentary
ADJECTIVE

PRAISING
[C2] praising or expressing admiration for someone

Dictionary example:
a complimentary report

FREE
[C2] given free, especially by a business

Dictionary example:
a complimentary glass of wine

Learner example:
It may be easy to obtain complimentary copies from publishers without any cost to the library.

comply /kəmˈplai/  

VERB [i]
[C1] to obey an order, rule, or request

Dictionary example:
The pilot complied with instructions to descend.

Learner example:
To comply with even the highest security standards, WEB–DMS features cutting-edge encryption and access control technologies.

component /kəmˈpəʊ.nənt/  

NOUN [c]

MACHINE
[C1] one of the parts of a machine or piece of equipment

Dictionary example:
Our company makes components for aircraft engines.

Learner example:
Since both the hardware and software components used by the employees of this department are not in a good state, there is a need of brand new and more powerful computers and of updated software.

FEATURE
[C1] one of the parts or characteristics of something or someone
Dictionary example:
The course has four distinct components.

Learner example:
These components are present in everyone, whether you are rich or poor, thus it is wrong to be biased with one kind of people purely based on beliefs not support[ed] by solid evidence.

**compose** /kəmˈpəʊz/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** composer, composition  
**Verbs:** compose  

**VERB**  

**BE MADE OF**  
[B2] [T OFTEN PASSIVE] to be the parts that something consists of  

**Dictionary example:**  
The committee was composed of elected leaders and citizens.  

**Learner example:**  
It is composed of more than 50 members and they have various taste[s] [in] film: old and modern, comedy, action and so on.  

**MUSIC**  
[B2] [I or T] to write a piece of music  

**Dictionary example:**  
Who composed the music for the film?  

**Learner example:**  
I've been composing music on a computer for over five years and I have a lot of knowledge when it comes to hardware.

**composer** /kəmˈpəʊ.zə/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** composer, composition  
**Verbs:** compose  

**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] someone who writes music  

**Dictionary example:**  
a famous composer
Learner example:
I also met a lot of famous composers, singers and even my favourite violin player, Ann Sophie Mutter, because I had to interview them.

composition /ˌkɒm.pəˈzɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: composer, composition
Verbs: compose

NOUN

MUSIC
[B2] [c] a piece of music that someone has written

Dictionary example:
This concerto is one of her later compositions.

Learner example:
He sang Schubert’s "Die Winterreise" although it's already Spring – this composition [can be heard in] every season.

PARTS
[C2] [u] the parts, substances, etc. that something consists of

Dictionary example:
the composition of the atmosphere

Learner example:
The eating procedure takes approx. 3 hrs, as each course is introduced by a detailed description of its preparation and composition.

ARRANGEMENT
[C2] [u] the way that people or things are arranged in a painting or photograph

Dictionary example:
The composition of the painting was perfect.

Learner example:
The study of acting, directing, and generally speaking of the scene has always demanded a certain degree of visual composition, a sense of image and of that which is immediately seen (or not seen).

WRITING MUSIC
[C2] [u] the process or skill of writing music

Dictionary example:
He taught composition at Yale.
Learner example:
He finished music composition at the University in Cracow, [and] he soon became the professor of composition at the same school of music.

**comprehensive** /ˌkɒm.prɪˈhen.t.sɪv/

Word family:
**Adjectives:** comprehensive
**Adverbs:** comprehensively

ADJECTIVE
[C1] including everything

Dictionary example:
a comprehensive study of the subject

Learner example:
Presentations on making a career in media, finance and IT could have been more comprehensive.

**comprehensively** /ˌkɒm.prɪˈhen.t.sɪv.li/

Word family:
**Adjectives:** comprehensive
**Adverbs:** comprehensively

ADVERB
[C1] completely

Dictionary example:
We were comprehensively beaten in the final.

Learner example:
However enjoyable and relaxing, driving needs [your] full attention. Therefore, it should be learnt comprehensively and being experienced shouldn't be relied on.

**comprise** /kəmˈprɑːz/

VERB [T] FORMAL

CONSIST
[C1] to consist of particular parts or members

Dictionary example:
The orchestra was comprised of amateur and professional musicians.
Learner example:
It comprises only twelve single and six double bedrooms, which will provide the intimacy we need.

FORM
[C1] to form part of something, especially a larger group

Dictionary example:
Women comprise 15% of the police force.

Learner example:
According to [a] survey carried out in 1997, the urban population comprises 71% of the total population in Pakistan.

compromise  /ˈkɒm.prə.mai/  

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] when you agree to something which is not exactly what you want

Dictionary examples:
It is hoped that a compromise will be reached in today's talks.
You've both got to be willing to make compromises.
In a compromise between management and unions, a 4% pay rise was agreed in return for an increase in productivity.

Learner example:
I hope that we'll find a compromise.

VERB

AGREE
[B2] [I] to agree to something that is not exactly what you want

Dictionary examples:
In a relationship, both people have to compromise.
I'm not going to compromise on quality.

Learner example:
The famous stars and the journalists should compromise and respect each other's rights.

HARM
[C2] [T] FORMAL to have a harmful effect on something

Dictionary example:
The trial has been seriously compromised by sensational media coverage.

Learner example:
Sportsmen are usually under an enormous amount of pressure, because the slightest failure could compromise their career.
**compulsive** /kəmˈpʌl.si:v/

**ADJECTIVE**

**HABIT**

[C2] A compulsive habit is something that you do a lot because you want to so much that you cannot control yourself.

**Dictionary example:**
a compulsive eating disorder

**Learner example:**
However, the centre has a potential to affect shoppers, rendering them more compulsive.

**INTERESTING**

[C2] so interesting or exciting that you cannot stop reading, playing, or watching it

**Dictionary example:**
This documentary about life in prison makes compulsive viewing.

**compulsory** /kəmˈpʌl.səri/

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] If something is compulsory, you must do it because of a rule or law.

**Dictionary examples:**
Wearing seat belts in cars is compulsory by law.
Swimming was compulsory at my school.

**Learner example:**
We have asked participants to wear a typical traditional dress/suit from their country – of course, this is not compulsory but everyone is warmly invited to do so.

**conceal** /kənˈsiːl/

**VERB** [T]

[C2] to hide something

**Dictionary examples:**
The listening device was concealed in a pen.
She could barely conceal her irritation.

**Learner example:**
She had managed to conceal her dark secret from everybody.
concede /kənˈsiːd/

Word family:
Nouns: concession
Verbs: concede

VERB

ADMIT

[C2] to admit that something is true, even though you do not want to

Dictionary example:
Even the company chairman concedes that the results are disappointing.

Learner example:
As a frequent user of the town library, I had to concede that the article was telling the truth.

GIVE

[C2] to allow someone to have something, even though you do not want to

Dictionary example:
The government will not concede to rebel demands.

Learner example:
"It's wonderful, isn't it, how you always get what you pray for." This quote, Milly's reaction when her father concedes to buying her a horse, is a good illustration of her general attitude towards religion and life.

conceited /kənˈsiːtɪd/

ADJECTIVE

[C2] too proud of yourself and your actions

Dictionary example:
I find him very conceited.

Learner example:
This is not to say that the successful person must be smug, conceited or bumptious; but he has to be convinced of his own skills and abilities.

conceive /kənˈsiːv/

Word family:
Nouns: concept, conception
Verbs: conceive
Adjectives: inconceivable
VERB

IDEA

[C2] [ɪ] to think of an idea or plan

Dictionary example:
The original idea for the novel was conceived in Rome.

Learner example:
I wonder what kind of person conceived this terrible and ignorant idea.

IMAGINE

[C2] [ɪ or ɪ] to be able to imagine something

Dictionary example:
I cannot conceive of anything more horrible.

Learner example:
You cannot conceive of any other way of existence than the one you know.

BABY

[C2] [ɪ or ɪ] to become pregnant

Dictionary example:
She had been trying for years, but never managed to conceive.

Learner example:
By then she had everything she could ask for but for some reason she did not conceive for 2 years. [ɪ]hen she conceived but had two miscarriages.

concentrate /ˈkɒn.tɛn.treɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: concentration
Verbs: concentrate

VERB [ɪ]

(be) concentrated around/in/on, etc.

[C1] to be present in large numbers or amounts in a particular area

Dictionary example:
Most of the fighting was concentrated in the mountains.

Learner example:
However it might imply a shift from large stores, concentrated in a few areas within or outside the city, to more local services.
concentration /ˈkɒnt.sənˈtreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: concentration
Verbs: concentrate

NOUN

THOUGHT
[B2] [u] the ability to think carefully about something you are doing and nothing else

Dictionary examples:
The noise outside made concentration difficult.
There was a look of intense concentration on her face.
I find that yoga improves my powers of concentration.
I found it hard to follow what the teacher was saying, and eventually I lost concentration.

Learner example:
First of all, in my opinion, watching a film is more relaxing, because you don't have to concentrate too much on it. You only have to watch the screen, while books require more concentration.

LARGE AMOUNT
[C2] [c or u] a large number or amount of something in the same place

Dictionary example:
high concentrations of minerals

Learner example:
Again, we may need to think about [the] implementation of more strict regulations related to the concentration of toxic chemicals in exhausts.

concept /ˈkɒn.sept/

Word family:
Nouns: concept, conception
Verbs: conceive
Adjectives: inconceivable

NOUN [C]
[B2] a principle or idea

Dictionary examples:
the concept of free speech
I failed to grasp the film's central concept.

Learner example:
I had been trying very hard to get the point of the concept.
conception /ˈkənˈsep.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: concept, conception
Verbs: conceive
Adjectives: inconceivable

NOUN
[C2] [c or u] an idea about what something is like or a way of understanding something

Dictionary example:
They have no conception of how ordinary people live.

Learner example:
Therefore, unless we stretch the conception of personality to cover conformity with practice and social norms, economic decisions, and the choice of identities we aspire [to], the clothes that people wear may not reflect their personality, as [this] can be conditioned by many contingencies.

clearance /ˈklɛr.əns/
Dictionary example:
What really concerns me is her lack of experience.

Learner example:
The fact that the coach only had broken safety belts concerned me a great deal.

NOUN [C or U]

WORRY

[B2] when you feel worried or nervous about something, or something that makes you feel worried

Dictionary examples:
Concern for the safety of the two missing teenagers is growing.
There's a lot of public concern about/over dangerous toxins recently found in food.
The situation has been causing concern for some time now.
My concern is that you're not getting enough work done.
There's a matter of some concern that I have to discuss with you.

Learner example:
All those days I put aside all my concerns about my studies.

IMPORTANT THING

[B2] something that is important to you, or when something is important

Dictionary example:
Our primary concern is safety.

Learner example:
My concern is what present to buy for Mr Brown.

concerned /kənˈsɜːnd/

Word family:
Nouns: concern
Verbs: concern
Adjectives: concerned

ADJECTIVE

WORRIED

[B2] worried

Dictionary examples:
He's very concerned about her health.
I'm concerned that sales figures haven't improved
Concerned parents have complained about the dangerous playground.

Learner example:
We are getting more and more concerned about our health and how to get and keep fit nowadays.
as far as sb is concerned
[B2] used to say what someone's opinion is

Dictionary examples:
As far as I'm concerned, feng shui is a load of rubbish.
As far as our customers are concerned, price is the main consideration.

Learner example:
As far as Laura was concerned, he was the most disgusting man in the world.

as far as sth is concerned
[B2] used to say what you are talking about

Dictionary example:
As far as money is concerned, we're doing very well.

Learner example:
First of all, I think the Majestic Hotel would be the right location, but I have doubts as far as the costs are concerned.

be concerned with sth
[C1] to be about a particular subject

Dictionary examples:
The programme was more concerned with politics than the history of the place.
This field of linguistics is concerned with language acquisition.

Learner example:
This report is concerned with finding the best accommodation for the three-day trip in north-west England.

AFFECTED
[C2] [NEVER BEFORE NOUN] involved in something or affected by it

Dictionary example:
A letter will be sent out to everyone concerned.

Learner example:
The amount of refund is to be negotiated with everyone concerned separately.

concerning /ˈkənˌsɜːnɪŋ/
PREPOSITION FORMAL
[B2] about

Dictionary example:
I've had a letter from the tax authorities concerning my tax payments.
Learner example:
I am writing in reply to your letter concerning the prize I won in your competition, which is two weeks at Camp California in the U.S.A.

concession /kənˈseʃ.n/

Word family:
Nouns: concession
Verbs: concede

NOUN [C]

AGREEMENT
[C2] something that you agree to do or give to someone in order to end an argument

Dictionary example:
Both sides will have to make concessions.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, I still have the impression that some concessions have to be made and from personal experience, I can say it is very different to base your choice on a single criterion.

LOW PRICE
[C2] a reduction in the price of a ticket for a particular group of people such as students, people without a job, or old people

Dictionary example:
We offer concessions to students.

Learner example:
At the moment, people are not very motivated to use the public transport and only children, students and pensioners get a concession card.

conclude /kənˈkluːd/

Word family:
Nouns: conclusion
Verbs: conclude
Adjectives: conclusive
Adverbs: conclusively

VERB

DECIDE
[C1] [I] to decide something after studying all the information about it very carefully
Dictionary example:
The report concluded that the drug was safe.

Learner example:
It is because of this apparent pattern that we can conclude that as people grow older, they tend to visit the cinema less frequently.

[C1]  I or T  FORMAL to end something such as a meeting, speech, or piece of writing by doing or saying one last thing

Dictionary examples:
The concert concluded with a firework display.
I would like to conclude by thanking you all for attending.

Learner example:
To conclude, I would like to underline one more time how crucial the setting up of a library would be for our college.

Conclusion /ˈkənˌkluːʒən/

Word family:
Nouns: conclusion
Verbs: conclude
Adjectives: conclusive
Adverbs: conclusively

Noun

In conclusion
[B2] used to introduce the last part of a speech or a piece of writing

Dictionary examples:
In conclusion, I would like to thank our guest speaker for her fascinating talk. In conclusion, swimming is an enjoyable form of exercise and an excellent way to keep fit.

Learner example:
In conclusion, music, TV and clothes are very important in a young person’s life and can reflect each person’s character.

Jump to conclusions
[C2] to guess the facts about a situation without having enough information

Dictionary example:
He saw them talking together and jumped to conclusions.

Learner example:
I think, before jumping to conclusions, we should first try to analyze the situation.
[C2] [c] the final part of something

Dictionary examples:
the dramatic conclusion of the film
The case should finally be brought to a conclusion this week.

Learner example:
When it comes to the crunch, he is patient and persistent enough to carry a project to a successful conclusion.

lead sb to a conclusion
[C2] to cause you to think that something is probably true

Dictionary example:
So you thought I was leaving, did you? What led you to that conclusion?

Learner example:
These results lead us to the conclusion that only people with "minds tough enough" will survive.

conclusive /kənˈkluː.sɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: conclusion
Verbs: conclude
Adjectives: conclusive
Adverbs: conclusively

ADJECTIVE
[C2] proving that something is true

Dictionary example:
conclusive evidence/proof

Learner example:
Although there is no conclusive evidence of the influence of food on people's behaviour, we can observe certain patterns of behaviour depending on what kind of food people eat.

conclusively /kənˈkluː.sɪv.li/

Word family:
Nouns: conclusion
Verbs: conclude
Adjectives: conclusive
Adverbs: conclusively

ADVERB
[C2] in a way that proves that something is true
**Dictionary example:**
It is possible to prove conclusively that he was at home at the time.

**Learner example:**
This undeniable fact implies advantages that were unthinkable in the past, yet we cannot prove conclusively that the gains outweigh the losses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>concrete /ˈkɒŋ.kriːt/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] a very hard building material made by mixing together cement, sand, small stones and water

**Dictionary examples:**
reinforced concrete
a concrete floor/path
a grey concrete building

**Learner example:**
Some of our children, brought up in modern cities, in a world of concrete, cars, motorways and supermarkets, when asked: "What is a fish?" are only able to answer: "a square piece of white flesh we take from the freezer".

**ADJECTIVE**

**CERTAIN**

[C1] certain or based on facts

**Dictionary examples:**
They think she killed her husband, but they have no concrete evidence/proof.
We've got a general idea of what we want, but nothing concrete at the moment.

**Learner example:**
Another piece of concrete evidence to suggest that children from a poorer background cannot cope with social problems properly compared to the other group is the fact that they are more inclined to be the troublemakers themselves.

**REAL**

[C2] existing in a real form that can be seen or felt

**Dictionary examples:**
concrete achievements/actions
concrete objects

**Learner example:**
In order to turn it into a feasible concept, this process of learning should be applied to concrete situations.
condemn /kənˈdem/  

**VERB [T]**  
[C2] to say very strongly that you think something is wrong or very bad  

*Dictionary example:*  
The Prime Minister was quick to condemn the terrorists.  

*Learner example:*  
At first these needs were satisfied by different religions, but as we are living in a material world that does not care about spiritual things any more, we created our own idols whom we can look at, judge, admire or condemn – celebrities.

condition /kənˈdɪʃ.ən/  

**Word family:**  
*Nouns:* condition  
*Verbs:* condition  
*Adjectives:* unconditional  

**NOUN**  

**ILLNESS**  
[B2] [c] an illness  

*Dictionary examples:*  
a medical condition  
He suffers from a rare heart condition.  

*Learner example:*  
Besides, all the fats we eat every day plus the accumulated stress of a job, makes us the perfect candidates [for] a heart condition.  

**on condition that**  
[B2] only if  

*Dictionary example:*  
I'll come with you on condition that we're back before midnight.  

*Learner example:*  
I would like to do this on condition that you will not mention my name [on] the website.

**AGREEMENT**  
[C1] [c] something that must happen or be agreed before something else can happen  

*Dictionary example:*  
One of the conditions of the contract is that we can't keep pets.
Learner example:
Now I want you to pay for that as it was agreed between us and according to the terms and conditions of the contract.

**VERB**

[C2] to make a person or animal behave in a particular way by influencing the way they think

**Dictionary example:**
The boys were conditioned to be aggressive.

**Learner example:**
We are then conditioned, somehow, to choose among a restricted range of offers and products, the ones they place before our very eyes on the telly.

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**conduct** /kənˈdʌkt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** conductor
**Verbs:** conduct

**VERB**

**ORGANIZE**

[B2] [ɪ] to organize and perform a particular activity

**Dictionary examples:**
We are conducting a survey to find out what our customers think of their local bus service. The experiments were conducted by scientists in New York.

**Learner example:**
This is based on a questionnair[e] conducted in the school and our English department's investigation.

**MUSIC**

[B2] [ɪ] or [t] to stand in front of a group of musicians and control their performance

**Dictionary example:**
The orchestra was conducted by Charles Miller.

**Learner example:**
The o[r]chestra conducted by Mr Miller was just superb.

**conduct yourself**

[C2] to behave in a particular way

**Dictionary example:**
She conducted herself with great dignity.
Learner example:
The qualities I admire most in other people are, first of all, the ability to hide your own feelings – being a little reserved – and at the same time the ability to conduct yourself in such a way so that other people are influenced by you.

**conductor /kənˈdʌk.tə/**

Word family:
Nouns: conductor
Verbs: conduct

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] someone who stands in front of a group of musicians or singers and controls their performance

**Dictionary example:**
a famous conductor

**Learner example:**
I am fifty five years old and have experience [as] a conductor of a choir.

**confess /kənˈfes/**

Word family:
Nouns: confession
Verbs: confess

**VERB [I or T]**

[B2] to admit that you have done something wrong or something that you feel guilty or bad about

**Dictionary examples:**
She confessed to her husband that she had sold her wedding ring.
He has confessed to the murder.
He confessed to sleeping through most of the film.
I have to confess, I was a little confused at first.
I found it all very confusing, I must confess.

**Learner example:**
I must confess I've put on four kilos in the last three months and the bicycle will help me to become fitter.
confession /kənˈfeʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: confession
Verbs: confess

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] when you admit that you have done something wrong or illegal

Dictionary examples:
He made a full confession to the police.
I have a confession to make – I've lost that book you lent me.

Learner example:
I also have a confession to make.

certainty /ˈkɒn.fɪ.dəntʃi/
Dictionary example:
I'm sorry, she told me that in confidence.

Learner example:
His real name isn’t Piggy but he told Ralph in confidence that they called him that in school because of his appearance.

**confident** /ˈkɒnfɪ.dənt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** confidence, self-confidence
**Adjectives:** confident, self-confident
**Adverbs:** confidently

**ADJECTIVE**

**CERTAIN**
[B2] being certain that something will happen

**Dictionary examples:**
Are you confident that enough people will attend the event?
They don’t sound confident about the future of the industry.

**Learner example:**
All in all, I’m confident that a solution will be found and our town will soon regain its former attractive look.

**confidential** /ˌkɒnfɪˈden.ʃəl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** confidence
**Adjectives:** confidential

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] secret, especially in an official situation

**Dictionary example:**
These documents are strictly confidential.

**Learner example:**
Remember, you are under no obligation to do anything and of course we will treat the confidential information you give us with discretion and respect.
confidently /ˈkɒn.fɪ.dənt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: confidence, self-confidence
Adjectives: confident, self-confident
Adverbs: confidently

ADVERB
[B2] with confidence or in a confident way

Dictionary example:
Try to act confidently, even if you feel nervous.

Learner example:
I am quite [a] hard worker and I can confidently say that I am quite [a] reliable person.

confine /kənˈfaɪn/

VERB [T]
[C2] to prevent someone from leaving a place or to prevent something from spreading

Dictionary example:
He was confined to a prison cell for several days.

Learner example:
Being Portuguese, I was confined to this small rectangle until I was a 15-year-old boy.

confirm /kənˈfɜːm/

Word family:
Nouns: confirmation
Verbs: confirm

VERB
PROVE TRUE
[B2] [T] to say or show that something is true

Dictionary examples:
His wife confirmed that he had left the house that morning.
The leader’s speech was impressive and confirmed her faith in the party.

Learner example:
Besides, it was confirmed by scientists that consum[er]ism may develop into a compulsion.
confirmation /ˌkɒn.fəˈmer.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: confirmation
Verbs: confirm

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a statement, often written, that an arrangement or meeting is certain

Dictionary examples:
a letter of confirmation
We've only had five confirmations for the conference so far.
We will send you written confirmation of our offer shortly.

Learner example:
I look forward to receiving your confirmation.

conflict /ˈkɒn.flɪkt/ 

NOUN [C or U]
DISAGREEMENT
[B2] serious disagreement between people with opposing opinions or principles

Dictionary examples:
There was a lot of conflict between the two parties.
The Government was in conflict with the unions over pay.
It was an unpopular policy and caused a number of conflicts within the party.

Learner example:
As you know I was in conflict with myself, should I buy a computer or a bicycle?

FIGHTING
[B2] fighting between two or more groups of people or countries

Dictionary example:
armed conflict

Learner example:
In these years, Europe was in conflict with China, which meant war.

a conflict of interest
[C2] a situation where someone cannot make fair decisions because they are influenced by something

Dictionary example:
She resigned from the committee because of a conflict of interest.
Learner example:
It could become a conflict of interest, but he never lets it.

**confront** /kənˈfrʌnt/

Word family:
**Nouns:** confrontation
**Verbs:** confront

**VERB [T]**

**ACCUSE**
[C2] to tell someone something, or show them something to try to make them admit they have done something wrong

**Dictionary example:**
Confronted with the evidence, she broke down and confessed.

**Learner example:**
We had bills coming in our door, old ones which weren't paid and whenever I confronted him, he told me he would take care of it.

**be confronted by/with *sth***
[C2] to be in a difficult situation, or to be shown something which may cause difficulties

**Dictionary example:**
We are confronted by the possibility of war.

**Learner example:**
Youngsters are confronted with a lot of difficulties and dangers and are often bound to collapse psychologically from the hard pressure on them.

**DEAL WITH**
[C2] to see that a problem exists and try to deal with it

**Dictionary example:**
First, they must confront their feelings of anger.

**Learner example:**
His inability to confront Ethan's death, as well as his being too methodical, cause[s] his wife Sarah to reconsider their marriage.

**confrontation** /ˌkɒn.frʌnˈteɪʃən/

Word family:
**Nouns:** confrontation
**Verbs:** confront
NOUN [C or U]
[C2] a fight or argument

Dictionary example:
She witnessed a confrontation between the two men.

Learner example:
There, he finds himself in a direct confrontation with Captain Beatty, the head of the fire station, who represents everything that's evil, as he knows about books but still willingly destroys them.

confuse /kənˈfjuːz/

Word family:
Nouns: confusion
Verbs: confuse
Adjectives: confused, confusing

VERB [T]

NOT THINK CLEARLY
[B2] to make someone unable to think clearly, or to make something difficult to understand

Dictionary examples:
You're confusing him! Tell him slowly and one thing at a time.
Stop confusing the issue!

Learner example:
When the corpse was found he – successfully – tried to confuse Mrs. Marple, Scotland Yard and the members of the family where he was the doctor.

THINK ONE IS ANOTHER
[B2] to think that one person or thing is another person or thing

Dictionary examples:
I think you're confusing me with my sister – we look quite similar.
It's easy to confuse his films, because he tends to use the same actors.

Learner example:
I had confused the two words, "uvas", which means grapes, and "huevos", which means eggs and said "huevas", which unfortunately means testicles, instead...

confused /kənˈfjuːzd/

Word family:
Nouns: confusion
Verbs: confuse
Adjectives: confused, confusing
ADJECTIVE

NOT CLEAR
[B2] not clear

Dictionary example:
The witnesses gave confused accounts of what happened.

Learner example:
What can a child [think], hearing such confused explanations about animals that don't live where they s[h]ould live, that don't live how they should live.

confusion /kənˈfjuː.ʒən/

Word family:
Nouns: confusion
Verbs: confuse
Adjectives: confused, confusing

NOUN

NOT UNDERSTAND
[B2] [c or u] when people do not understand what is happening, what they should do or who someone or something is

Dictionary example:
There seems to be some confusion about/over who is actually giving the talk.

Learner example:
This caused some confusion because the courses were not completely prepared.

SITUATION
[B2] [u] a situation, often with a lot of activity and noise, in which people do not know what to do

Dictionary example:
In the confusion after the bomb blast, I lost my bag.

Learner example:
In the confusion someone pushed her against the wall and she hurt her shoulder.

THOUGHT
[B2] [u] a feeling of not being able to think clearly

Dictionary example:
He could see the confusion on Marion's face.

Learner example:
Then I thought he recognised my confusion; therefore, he opened the box, picking up something from [it].
congestion /kənˈdʒes.ʃən/

NOUN [u]
[C1] when something is full or blocked, especially with traffic

Dictionary example:
traffic congestion

Learner example:
The traffic congestion in Belo Horizonte is an issue that can't be ignored.

congratulate /kənˈɡræt.ju.leɪt/

VERB [t]
[B2] to tell someone that you are happy because they have done something good or something good has happened to them

Dictionary example:
I was just congratulating Ceri on winning her race.

Learner example:
Needless to say, everybody congratulated her and she spent all evening answering questions such as: "Why did you choose water jumping?" or "Isn't it difficult for a teenager to train five hours a day and to study?"

conjunction /kənˈdʒʌŋk.ʃən/

NOUN [c]

GRAMMAR
[B2] a word such as 'and', 'but', 'while' or 'although' that connects words, phrases and clauses in a sentence

in conjunction with sth/sb
[C2] working, used, or happening with something or someone else

Dictionary example:
Our librarians use their knowledge in conjunction with the computer network.

Learner example:
Therefore if the banning of private cars takes place in conjunction with development in the public transport system in that city, this whole development will [have] more advantages despite some slight difficulties at the start.
**connect**  /ˈkəˈnekt/  

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** connection  
**Verbs:** connect

**VERB**

**INVOLVE**

[C2] [ɪ] to see or show that two or more people or things are involved with each other

**Dictionary example:**
There is no evidence to connect him with the crime.

**Learner example:**
Happiness should not be defined as material access, it should be connected with one of the most basic human needs, love.

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**connection**  /ˈkəˈnekʃən/  

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** connection  
**Verbs:** connect

**NOUN**

**INVOLVEMENT**

[B2] [ɔr ʌ] when someone or something is involved with or related to someone or something else

**Dictionary examples:**
The connection between smoking and heart disease is well known.  
He has denied having any connection with the terrorists.  
They're sisters, are they? I knew their surname was the same, but I never made the connection.

**Learner example:**
If you are aware of the connection between food and health you can start changing your eating habits.

**in connection with sth**

[B2] used to say what something is about

**Dictionary examples:**
I am writing in connection with the above job advertised in The Daily Press on Monday 12th February.
A man has been arrested in connection with last month's murder.
Learner example:
Dear Mrs Brown, I am writing in connection with a surprise birthday party for your husband, Mr Brown.

TRAVEL
[B2] [c] a train, bus or aircraft that leaves a short time after another arrives, so people can continue their journey

Dictionary example:
The train was half an hour late and I missed my connection.

Learner example:
Because of bad bus connections it's not easy to get there.

conquer /ˈkɔŋ.kər/

VERB
[C1] [i or ɪ] to take control of a country or to defeat people by war

Dictionary example:
The English were conquered by the Normans in 1066.

Learner example:
However, following imperialistic politics, the Persian King Darios wanted to expand his Kingdom in Europe, so he had to conquer Greece.

conscience /ˈkɒn.səns/

Word family:
Nouns: conscience
Adjectives: conscientious

NOUN
[C2] [c or u] the part of you that makes you feel guilty when you have behaved badly

Dictionary examples:
a guilty conscience
My conscience is clear because I've done nothing wrong.

Learner example:
Young people have pangs of conscience and are invariably hit by pestering anxiety but they adamantly refuse to admit it.
conscientious /ˌkɒn.ʃiˈen.ʃəs/

Word family:
Nouns: conscience
Adjectives: conscientious

ADJECTIVE
[C1] always doing your work with a lot of care

Dictionary example:
a conscientious student

Learner example:
She is conscientious and hardworking.

conscious /ˈkɒn.tʃəs/

Word family:
Nouns: consciousness
Adjectives: conscious, unconscious, self-conscious
Adverbs: subconsciously, unconsiously

ADJECTIVE
be conscious of/that
[B2] to know that something is present or that something is happening

Dictionary examples:
The tooth doesn't exactly hurt, but I'm conscious of it all the time.
I think she's very conscious of being the only person in the office who didn't have a university education.
I'm very conscious of the fact that a lot of people disagree with me.

Learner example:
We have to be conscious that we are destroying the world where we are living.

AWAKE
[C1] awake and able to think and notice things

Dictionary example:
He's still conscious but he's very badly injured.

a conscious decision/choice/effort, etc.
[C2] a decision/choice/effort, etc. that you make intentionally

Dictionary example:
Did you make a conscious decision to lose weight?
Learner example:
The fairly recent possibilities of birth control allow you to make a conscious decision about having children and you can postpone that decision until well after 30.

consciousness  /ˈkɒn.tʃə.snəs/  

Word family:
Nouns: consciousness
Adjectives: conscious, unconscious, self-conscious
Adverbs: subconsciously, unconsciously

NOUN

AWAKE  
[B2] [u] when someone is awake and can think and notice things

Dictionary examples:
He lost consciousness for several minutes.
He never regained consciousness after the accident.

Learner example:
He lost consciousness and lay there on the floor just in front of me.

AWARE  
[C1] [NO PLURAL] when someone knows about something

Dictionary example:
There's a growing consciousness about environmental issues among young people.

Learner example:
It also springs up out of a pleasure of playing the game and a consciousness that their health matters and being fit is an important element of it.

consecutive  /kənˈsekkju.tɪv/  

ADJECTIVE

[C2] Consecutive events, numbers, or periods of time come one after the other.

Dictionary example:
the third consecutive day of rain

Learner example:
Complaints from students have been increasing for the second consecutive year, tape players are repeatedly reported not fun[c]tioning.
**consensus** /kənˈsen.ˌsæs/  

**NOUN [U NO PLURAL]**  
[C2] when all the people in a group agree about something  

**Dictionary examples:**  
to reach a consensus  
The general consensus is that we should wait and see what happens.  

**Learner example:**  
In addition, as the general consensus is that young people enjoy communicating through radio programmes, I suggest there is a time when messages sent by listeners are read.

**consent** /kənˈsent/  

**NOUN [U]**  
[C1] permission for someone to do something  

**Dictionary example:**  
You can't come without your parents' consent.  

**Learner example:**  
The role of the council is to organise things [well] and to do so with the consent of people living in the city.  

**VERB [I]**  
[C2] to agree to do something, or to allow someone to do something  

**Dictionary example:**  
They eventually consented to let us enter.  

**Learner example:**  
Fascism is regarded as one of the worst manifestations of human nature, for it was not only a man or even a larger group of men who committed the crimes against mankind that will long remain in our minds, but a whole nation who consented in silence.

**consequence** /ˈkɒn.ˌsɪ.kwənts/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** consequence  
**Adverbs:** consequently  

**NOUN [C]**  

**RESULT**  
[B2] the result of a particular action or situation, especially a bad result
Dictionary examples:
The ship sank with disastrous consequences.
Excessive drinking can have serious consequences for a person's health.
If you neglect your relationships like that, you'll suffer the consequences.

Learner example:
My work was the best because I drew a big drawing about [the] consequences of us not caring [for the] environment.

**as a consequence** FORMAL
[C1] used to talk about one thing that is the result of another

Dictionary example:
A lot of birds died as a consequence of the oil spill.

Learner example:
The influence from Italy is very strong and, as a consequence, pasta with different s[a]uces is common in Slovenia, especially among students.

**of little/no consequence** FORMAL
[C1] not important

Dictionary example:
The money was of little consequence to Tony.

Learner example:
Second, the downpour of rain which was mentioned was in fact nothing more than a small shower, of no significant consequence for the dance display and horse show.

**consequently** /ˈkɒnt.sɪ.kwənt.lɪ/

Word family:
**Nouns:** consequence
**Adverbs:** consequently

**ADVERB**
[B2] as a result

Dictionary example:
I spent most of my money in the first week and consequently had very little to eat by the end of the holiday.

Learner example:
Because of their job or school, people are much more stressed. Consequently, they don't take [the] time to eat correctly.
**conservation** /ˌkɒn.seɪˈver.ʃən/

**NOUN [u]**

**NATURE**

[B2] the protection of nature

**Dictionary examples:**
- wildlife conservation
- conservation groups

**Learner example:**
I think that trying to save the wildlife in your area is a great aim because you don’t have conservation areas and people can easily go hunting without telling anyone and in that way they destroy the wildlife.

**NOT WASTE**

[C1] when you are careful not to waste energy, water, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
Our top priority is conservation of water.

**Learner example:**
As the issue of energy conservation is becoming more and more important, our company has decided to start doing something about it, as well.

**conservative** /kənˈsɜː.və.tɪv/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] not trusting sudden changes or new ideas

**Dictionary example:**
Older people tend to be very conservative.

**Learner example:**
However, some people, especially some youngsters, would say that she’s too conservative – I heard lots of people describing her as a ‘fuddy-duddy lady’.

**consider** /kənˈsɜːd.ər/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** consideration
- **Verbs:** consider, reconsider
- **Adjectives:** considerate, inconsiderate
**consider sb/sth (to be) sth**

[B2] to have a particular opinion about someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
I don't consider myself to be a great athlete.

**Learner example:**
I consider myself to be punctual, hard-working, reliable and responsible.

**FACTS**

[C1] [ɪ] to give attention to a particular subject or fact when making a decision or judging something else

**Dictionary examples:**
You've got to consider the time element when planning the whole project.
If you consider how long he's been learning the piano, he's not very good.
If you buy an old house, you have to consider the cost of repairs.

**Learner example:**
The only point we have to consider will be the price of food.

**MAY BE TRUE**

[C1] to think that something may exist or be true

**Dictionary example:**
Have you considered the possibility that he might be lying?

**Learner example:**
Many students this year refuse even to consider the possibility of going to one.

**all things considered**

[C1] used for saying that something is true in general if you think about all its aspects

**Dictionary example:**
The show was a great success, all things considered.

**Learner example:**
All things considered, it seems like "Kavanagh Catering Services" would be most suitable for the students.

**THINK OF OTHERS**

[C2] to care about or respect other people or their feelings or wishes

**Dictionary example:**
She never considers anyone but herself.

**Learner example:**
Firstly you should always consider other people in your group once you start working together in a group.
considerable /kənˈsɪd.ə.bl/  

Word family:  
Adjectives: considerable  
Adverbs: considerably  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] large or important enough to be noticed  

Dictionary examples:  
It's a considerable sum of money.  
The effect on the region has been considerable.  

Learner example:  
I have considerable experience as a worker on [a] farm, having worked on my father's farm from 1956 to 1986.

considerably /kənˈsɪd.ə.bli/  

Word family:  
Adjectives: considerable  
Adverbs: considerably  

ADVERB  
[B2] in a way that is large or important enough to be noticed  

Dictionary examples:  
Rates of pay vary considerably.  
He's considerably fatter than he was when I knew him.  

Learner example:  
The departures are at 8 am. and 10 a.m. daily, but I suggest that your group be there at the time of the first departure because it is considerably less crowded.

considerate /kənˈsɪd.ərət/  

Word family:  
Nouns: consideration  
Verbs: consider, reconsider  
Adjectives: considerate, inconsiderate  

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] showing concern for other people and their feelings  

Dictionary example:  
He is always a kind and considerate host.
Learner example:
As a colleague, I always found him thoughtful and considerate.

**consideration**  /kənˌsid.əˈrei.ʃən/

Word family:
**Nouns:** consideration
**Verbs:** consider, reconsider
**Adjectives:** considerate, inconsiderate

**NOUN**

CAREFUL THOUGHT

[B2] [u] when you think about something very carefully

Dictionary examples:
After *careful* consideration, we decided to offer her the job.
The whole matter needs to be *given* careful consideration.

Learner example:
Please give this your careful consideration.

take *sth* into consideration

[B2] when you think about a particular fact or detail and let it influence your decision

Dictionary example:
It may be cheap to buy, but you’ve got to take into consideration the money you’ll spend on repairs.

Learner example:
For the reasons I have stated and taking into consideration that I am an ambitious and sociable person, I think I am suitable for the job.

IMPORTANT FACT

[B2] [c] something that you have to think about when you make decisions or plans

Dictionary examples:
Safety is our *main* consideration.
Cost, of course, is another consideration.

Learner example:
The next consideration is the activities.

KINDNESS

[C2] [u] when you are kind to people or think about their feelings

Dictionary example:
They always treated me with consideration.
Learner example:
He is very friendly and sympathetic towards those who, like Ralph and the twins, treat him with consideration, accepting him as he is, in spite of his deficiencies as to his manual or hunting abilities.

considering /kənˈsid.ər.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: consideration
Verbs: consider, reconsider
Adjectives: considerate, inconsiderate

PREPOSITION; CONJUNCTION
[B2] used for saying that you have a particular opinion about something, because of a particular fact about it

Dictionary examples:
She did really well, considering how little experience she'd had.
Considering the weather, we got here quite quickly.

Learner example:
Considering all the above, I think that your article was completely misleading.

consistent /kənˈsɪst.ənt/

Word family:
Adjectives: consistent
Adverbs: consistently

ADJECTIVE

NOT CHANGING
[C2] always behaving or happening in a similar, usually positive, way

Dictionary example:
consistent effort/improvement

Learner example:
If you make a consistent effort you will improve your work at a very brisk pace.

consistent with sth FORMAL
[C2] having the same principles as something else, or agreeing with other facts

Dictionary example:
His account of events is entirely consistent with the video evidence.
Learner example:
An accurate selection of these categories of people should be made by the producers so [as] to offer to viewers the best possible models in a way which has to be consistent with the programme's title.

**consistently** /kənˈsɪstəntli/

Word family:
Adjectives: consistent
Adverbs: consistently

ADVERB

[C2] in a way that does not change, often a positive way

Dictionary examples:
He has consistently denied the rumours.
She performed consistently throughout the whole tournament.

Learner example:
It seems that international sports competitions have always tended to attract a great amount of interest on the part of the media and have consistently been popular with sports fans the world over.

**constant** /ˈkɒn.tɛnt/ 

Word family:
Adjectives: constant
Adverbs: constantly

ADJECTIVE

A LOT

[B2] happening a lot or all the time

Dictionary examples:
He's in constant trouble with the police.
These machines are in constant use.

Learner example:
As for me, constant practice in [the] English language is quite important, it is the essence of my life.

SAME LEVEL

[C2] staying at the same level

Dictionary example:
The temperature remained constant.
Learner example:
Spain had the highest average number of children (2.2) in 1980. [T]his figure took a dip downward to 1.6 in 1985, decreased steadily to 1.2 average number of children in 1995 and remained relatively constant afterwards.

constantly /ˈkɒnt.stənt.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: constant
Adverbs: constantly

ADVERB
[B2] all the time or often

Dictionary examples:
He’s constantly changing his mind.
She has the television on constantly.

Learner example:
I stood up and walked around the house, constantly bumping into things!

constitute /ˈkɒn.stɪt.juːt/

Word family:
Nouns: constitution
Verbs: constitute
Adjectives: constitutional

VERB [T]
[C1] to be or form something

Dictionary example:
This defeat constitutes a real setback for their championship hopes.

Learner example:
Women constitute nearly half (48%) of the university students, and in some departments (educational colleges, medicine schools) they are clearly the majority.

constitution /ˌkɒn.strɪˈtʃuːn/
NOUN [C]

LAWS
[C1] the set of laws and principles that a country’s government must obey

Dictionary example:
the US Constitution

Learner example:
This is to be seen as progress, although this development seems to start rather late as already in 1949, the German constitution indicated [at] men and women have equal rights.

HEALTH
[C2] the state of someone’s health

Dictionary example:
a strong/weak constitution

Learner example:
Another obvious feature of his character is his physical constitution: he is rather weak and needs glasses because he is short-sighted.

constitutio nal  /ˌkɒn.stɪˈtjuː.ʃən.əl/  

Word family:
Nouns: constitution
Verbs: constitute
Adjectives: constitutional

ADJECTIVE
[C2] relating to the constitution of a country

Dictionary example:
a constitutional crisis

Learner example:
Holidays should be a constitutional right of every worker, student and housewife in order to achieve a healthy, balanced life.

constrain  /kənˈstreɪn/  

Word family:
Nouns: constraint
Verbs: constrain

VERB [T]
[C2] to control something by limiting it
Dictionary examples:
regulations that constrain industry
I'm constrained by decisions made in the past.

Learner example:
It must be acknowledged that he is a man constrained by an imposed marriage, which is going to leave him without an heir.

**constraint** /kənˈstreɪnt/

Word family:
Nouns: constraint
Verbs: constrain

NOUN [C]
[C2] something that limits what you can do

Dictionary examples:
budget/financial constraints
There are constraints on the medicines doctors can prescribe.

Learner example:
Of course there are different preferences and priorities as well as constraints.

**construct** /kənˈstrʌkt/

Word family:
Nouns: construction, reconstruction
Verbs: construct, reconstruct
Adjectives: constructive

VERB [T]
[B2] to build something from several parts

Dictionary examples:
The building was constructed in 1930.
The walls are constructed of concrete.
You need this information to construct a basic sentence.

Learner example:
Using some wood, we constructed small seats and tables.
construction  /kənˈstræk.fən/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** construction, reconstruction

**Verbs:** construct, reconstruct

**Adjectives:** constructive

**NOUN**

**BUILDING WORK**

[B2] [u] the work of building something, especially houses, offices, bridges, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**

the construction industry

The next decade saw the construction of many more office blocks.

She works in construction.

This website is currently under construction.

**Learner example:**

It [is] worth mentioning that a huge gym is under construction.

**LARGE BUILDING**

[B2] [c] something that is built

**Dictionary example:**

a large steel construction

**Learner example:**

It would be a pity to build a modern construction there.

**WORDS**

[B2] [c] The construction of a sentence or phrase is the way the words are arranged.

**Dictionary example:**

Pay attention to sentence construction and check word order.

constructive  /kənˈstræk.tɪv/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** construction, reconstruction

**Verbs:** construct, reconstruct

**Adjectives:** constructive

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] helpful or useful

**Dictionary example:**

constructive advice/criticism
Moreover, I have quite often [asked] for the opinion of Mr. Walker on the making of our marketing plan and his comments were always very helpful and constructive.

consult /kənˈsʌlt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** consultant, consultation
**Verbs:** consult

**VERB [T]**

**GET INFORMATION**
[C1] to go to a particular person or book to get information or advice

**Dictionary example:**
For more information, consult your travel agent.

**Learner example:**
Even if I think I know what to write, I usually consult an interpreter and/or a lawyer.

**DISCUSS**
[C1] to discuss something with someone before you make a decision

**Dictionary example:**
Why didn’t you consult me about this?

**Learner example:**
As it is just after Christmas I had to consult my wife – that is why it took some time to write this reply.

consultant /kənˈsʌl.tənt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** consultant, consultation
**Verbs:** consult

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] someone who advises people on a particular subject

**Dictionary examples:**
a management/financial consultant
a firm of public relations consultants

**Learner example:**
I work in a bank as a consultant.
consultation /ˌkɒnsəˈlɛʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: consultant, consultation
Verbs: consult

NOUN

DISCUSSING
[C2] [u] when you discuss something with someone in order to get their advice or opinion about it

Dictionary example:
After consultation with his lawyers, he decided to abandon the case.

Learner example:
After full consideration and consultation of the three groups of people mentioned above, we come to the result that charity workers should [have the opportunity] to present the work they are doing on TV.

MEETING
[C2] [c] a meeting to discuss something or to get advice

Dictionary example:
a medical consultation

Learner example:
We also plan to employ 2 graduate students from the psychology department in giving free consultations to the children to help them cope with their concerns and worries.

consume /kənˈsjuːm/

Word family:
Nouns: consumer, consumption
Verbs: consume

VERB [T]

EAT OR DRINK
[B2] FORMAL to eat or drink something

Dictionary example:
People generally consume far too much sugar.

Learner example:
People who eat fresh vegetables and meat tend to have good digestion and tend to consume less salt.
USE RESOURCE
[C1] to use fuel, energy or time, especially in large amounts

Dictionary example:
Our high living standards cause our present population to consume 25 percent of the world's oil.

Learner example:
It did consume a lot of time, but it was very rewarding.

be consumed by/with sth
[C2] to have so much of a feeling that it affects everything you do

Dictionary examples:
a dancer consumed by ambition
He was consumed with jealousy.

Learner example:
Therefore, we find ourselves unable to enjoy a pleasant meal without being consumed by the deepest guilt.

---

**consumer /kənˈsjuː.mə/**

Word family:
Nouns: consumer, consumption
Verbs: consume

NOUN [c]
[B2] a person who buys goods or services for their own use

Dictionary examples:
The new telephone rates will affect all consumers including businesses.
consumer rights/advice

Learner example:
Some people might argue that this system is convenient for consumers as they can go shopping whenever they would like to, and it makes the shops more secure against burglary and vandalism since the shops are packed with people inside.

**consumption /kənˈsʌmpʃən/**

Word family:
Nouns: consumer, consumption
Verbs: consume

NOUN [u]
[C1] the amount of something that someone uses, eats, or drinks
Dictionary examples:
We need to reduce our energy consumption.
fuel/water consumption

Learner example:
One less obvious aspect of pollution is the surge in energy consumption caused by technological development.

contact /ˈkɒntækt/

NOUN

TOUCH
[C1] [u] when two people or things are touching each other

Dictionary examples:
She dislikes any kind of physical contact.
Wash your hands if they come into contact with chemicals.

Learner example:
I might even have become afraid of physical contact and of being face to face with others.

EYE
[C2] [C] (also contact lens) a small piece of plastic that you put on your eye to make you see more clearly

Dictionary example:
I wear contacts.

Learner example:
"Thank you," Jason said with delight, "You must know I am almost blind without my contacts."

eye contact
[C2] when people look at each other, for instance when they are talking to each other

Dictionary example:
There was very little eye contact between them.

Learner example:
I tried to avoid having eye contact with people just because of this humility.

contain /kənˈteɪn/

Word family:
Nouns: container
Verbs: contain
VERB [T]

PART

[B2] to have something as a part

Dictionary examples:
Does this drink contain alcohol?
Try to avoid foods which contain a lot of fat.
The allegations contained in this report are very serious.

Learner example:
[The] food was not wonderful, but it was healthy and contained a lot of vitamins.

EMOTION

[C2] to control your emotions

Dictionary examples:
He could barely contain his anger.
I could not contain myself any longer.

Learner example:
Without being able to contain himself and helped by the alcohol in his blood, he shouted and danced and kissed everyone around him, acting in an exceptional way.

container /'kæn.tər.nə/  

Word family:
Nouns: container
Verbs: contain

NOUN [C]

[B2] an object such as a box or a bottle that is used for holding something

Dictionary examples:
an airtight container
a plastic drinks container

Learner example:
As a result, a mountain of plastic containers and harmful chemical fluid is [ruin]ing mother earth.

contemplate /'kɒntə.mə.plert/  

VERB [T]

[C2] to think about something for a long time or in a serious way
Dictionary examples:
I’m contemplating changing my name.
He even contemplated suicide.

Learner example:
While the popular girl gets very drunk at parties, the other one sits alone in her room, contemplating suicide.

**contemporary /kənˈtem.pər.i/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] existing or happening now

**Dictionary examples:**
contemporary music/literature/art/fashion
Although it was written hundreds of years ago, it still has a contemporary feel to it.

**Learner example:**
I always read a lot of different magazines and know a lot about contemporary writers.

**contempt /kənˈtempt/**

**NOUN**
[C2] a strong feeling that you do not respect someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
He has utter contempt for anyone with power.

**Learner example:**
Being a compulsory subject at school, history inevitably arouses contempt, as anything mandatory [does].

**content**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** discontent
**Adjectives:** content

**ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN] /kənˈtent/**
[B2] pleased with your situation and not hoping for change or improvement

**Dictionary examples:**
He seems fairly content with life.
They’re content to socialize with a very small circle of people.
Learner example:
He looked really content and happy.

NOUN [NO PLURAL] /ˈkɒntent/

IDEAS
[B2] the ideas that are contained in a piece of writing, a speech or a film

Dictionary examples:
the content of the article
It's a very stylish and beautiful film, but it rather lacks content.
We've discussed the unusual form of the book – now, what about the content?

Learner example:
I suggest explaining the content of the film.

AMOUNT
[C2] the amount of a particular substance that something contains

Dictionary example:
Most soft drinks have a high sugar content.

Learner example:
To sum up, I think to eat what is and has been considered healthy for ages, to focus on variety rather than fat content and to do a lot of exercise is the best option.

contents /ˈkɒn.tents/

NOUN [PLURAL]

BOOK
[B2] a list in a book that tells you what different parts the book contains

Dictionary example:
a table of contents

contestant /kənˈtes.tənt/

Word family:
Nouns: contest, contestant

NOUN [C]

[C1] someone who competes in a contest

Dictionary example:
All the contestants are ready to begin.
Learner example:
The contestants have to sing in front of an audience and the jury.

c\textit{context} /ˈkɒn.tekst/

\textbf{NOUN [C or U]}

\textbf{FACTS}
[B2] all the facts, opinions, etc. relating to a particular thing or event

\textbf{Dictionary examples:}
This small battle is very important in the context of Scottish history.
It is important to see all the fighting and bloodshed in his plays in historical context.

\textbf{Learner example:}
It is interesting to see wild animals in their natural surroundings but for a number of reasons this is mostly impossible. In this context, I think a zoo is a good alternative.

\textbf{LANGUAGE}
[C1] other words that were said or written at the same time as the word or words you are talking about

\textbf{Dictionary examples:}
In this exercise, a word is blanked out and you have to guess what it is by looking at the context. Taken out of context, her remark sounded like an insult.

\textbf{Learner example:}
It’s not like studying new words from a textbook as you hear or use the words in real situations and an appropriate context.

\textit{continental} /ˌkɒn.tɪˈnen.təl/

\textbf{Word family:}
\textbf{Nouns:} continent
\textbf{Adjectives:} \textit{continental}

\textbf{ADJECTIVE}
[C2] relating to a continent

\textbf{Dictionary example:}
the continental US

\textbf{Learner example:}
To us from continental Europe it comes as a surprise if we see people on the streets with naked shoulders and naked legs at a temperature of 16 degrees celsius!
**continual** /kənˈtɪn.ju.əl/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** continuity
- **Verbs:** continue
- **Adjectives:** continuous, continual
- **Adverbs:** continuously, continually

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] happening again and again over a long period of time or happening without stopping

**Dictionary example:**
I can't work with these continual interruptions.

**Learner example:**
But, if you are seeking [a] developed city, Buenos Aires is your answer, as it is considered to be a city in continual improvement.

**continually** /kənˈtɪn.ju.ə.li/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** continuity
- **Verbs:** continue
- **Adjectives:** continuous, continual
- **Adverbs:** continuously, continually

**ADVERB**

[C1] again and again or without stopping

**Dictionary examples:**
Dad continually complains about money.
House prices have been rising continually for the last five years.

**Learner example:**
First of all I would like to mention that new blood is required in the club, as the membership is continually falling.

**continuity** /ˌkɒn.tɪˈnjuː.ə.ti/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** continuity
- **Verbs:** continue
- **Adjectives:** continuous, continual
- **Adverbs:** continuously, continually
NOUN [u]
[C2] the state of continuing for a long period of time without being changed or stopped

**Dictionary example:**
We are trying to provide continuity of care for these children.

**Learner example:**
It is the young who demonstrate that there is a sense of continuity in a family, and that was what I was looking for.

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**continuous** /ˈkənˌtɪn.ju.əs/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** continuity
- **Verbs:** continue
- **Adjectives:** continuous, continual
- **Adverbs:** continuously, continually

---

ADJECTIVE

**GRAMMAR**
[B2] being the form of a verb used to show that an action is continuing to happen

**Dictionary example:**
the present/past continuous

**Learner example:**
The lesson was about the present continuous form.

**WITHOUT STOPPING**
[B2] happening or existing without stopping

**Dictionary examples:**
continual pain
My computer makes a continuous low buzzing noise.
A continuous white line in the middle of the road means no overtaking.

**Learner example:**
Since the development of nuclear weapons, the Earth's fate has been in continuous danger.

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**continuously** /ˈkənˌtɪn.ju.əs.li/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** continuity
- **Verbs:** continue
- **Adjectives:** continuous, continual
- **Adverbs:** continuously, continually
ADVERB

[B2] without stopping

Dictionary example:
You can't work continuously for six hours without a break!

Learner example:
They continuously claim that [the] destruction of the environment is totally all human beings' responsibility.

contraception /ˌkɒn.trəˈsep.tʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: contraception, contraceptive

NOUN [u]

[C2] I methods that prevent a woman from becoming pregnant

Dictionary example:
What form of contraception do you use?

Learner example:
Should the Church have taken a more pro-active role in educating its followers on matters related to health care such as contraception, pregnancy and basic self care – perhaps we would not see such ap[...]lling numbers of [i]mpoverished large families living in [s]hanty towns.

contraceptive /ˌkɒn.trəˈsep.trv/

Word family:
Nouns: contraception, contraceptive

NOUN [c]

[C2] I a drug or object that prevents a woman from becoming pregnant

Dictionary example:
They were not using contraceptives.

Learner example:
The lack of contraceptives in her village (due to the religious pressure) in addition to the poor availability of information result in Maria's almost inevitable pregnancy.
### contract

**VERB** /kənˈtrækt/

**AGREEMENT**

[C2] [i or ɪ] to make a legal agreement with someone to do work or to have work done for you

**Dictionary example:**
He’s been contracted to perform in five shows.

**Learner example:**
We have contracted a famous lawyer who is ready to take the case [to] court if our demands are not [met] by the end of the year.

**DISEASE**

[C2] [ɪ] FORMAL to get a serious disease

**Dictionary example:**
She contracted malaria while living abroad.

**Learner example:**
We should be proud of ourselves that we are in a position to help and cure people who have contracted very complex diseases.

### contradict /ˌkɒn.trəˈdɪkt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** contradiction

**Verbs:** contradict

**Adjectives:** contradictory

**VERB**

**SAY SOMEONE IS WRONG**

[C1] [ɪ or ɜ] to say that what someone has just said is wrong

**Dictionary example:**
Nobody dared to contradict her.

**Learner example:**
Jane: Be pa[t]ient with her, she is a lovely lady, although she doesn’t like people to contradict her.

**DIFFERENT**

[C2] [ɪ] If two things that are said or written about something contradict each other, they are so different that they cannot both be true.
His account of the accident contradicts the official government report.

Although I strongly agree with you that people should enjoy their food I also think that you contradict yourself within your last statement.

Dictionary example: His account of the accident contradicts the official government report.

Learner example: Although I strongly agree with you that people should enjoy their food I also think that you contradict yourself within your last statement.

contradiction /ˌkɒn.trəˈdɪkʃən/  

Word family:
Nouns: contradiction  
Verbs: contradict  
Adjectives: contradictory  

NOUN  
[C2] [c] a big difference between two things that are said or written about the same subject, or between what someone says and what they do

Dictionary example: There is a clear contradiction between what she says and what she does.

Learner example: More often than not, however, such events will also give rise to all sorts of contradictions.

contradictory /ˌkɒn.trəˈdɪk.tər.i/  

Word family:
Nouns: contradiction  
Verbs: contradict  
Adjectives: contradictory  

ADJECTIVE  
[C2] If two statements about the same subject or two actions by the same person are contradictory, they are very different.

Dictionary example: The witness statements were contradictory.

Learner example: So parents need to be good role models and not behave in a contradictory way to what is being taught at school.
contrary /ˈkɒn.trər.i/  

NOUN  

**on the contrary**  
[B2] used to show that the opposite of what has just been said is true  

_Dictionary example:_  
"You're a vegetarian, aren't you?" "On the contrary, I love meat."

_Learner example:_  
As a result, it was not a perfect evening as the advertisement suggested – on the contrary, it turned out to be a miserable one.

**to the contrary**  
[C1] saying or showing the opposite  

_Dictionary example:_  
She claimed she hadn't been involved, despite evidence to the contrary.

_Learner example:_  
Despite claims to the contrary, young people [are] get[ting] more involved in sport[s] activities.

ADJECTIVE  

**contrary to** _sth_  
[C1] opposite to what someone said or thought  

_Dictionary example:_  
Contrary to popular belief, bottled water is not always better than tap water.

_Learner example:_  
Contrary to Mrs Jones' allegation, the exam results of our college are first-class and moreover, there is an extremely varied social programme.

OPPOSITE  

[C2] opposite or very different  

_Dictionary example:_  
a contrary _opinion/view_  

_Learner example:_  
It took them a week to conclude that, apparently, and as long as nobody came out with a contrary theory to theirs, they were right.
**contrast**

**NOUN [C or U]** \( /ˈkɒn.trɑːst/\)

**DIFFERENCE**

[B2] an obvious difference between two or more things

**Dictionary examples:**
The contrast **between** their lifestyles couldn't be greater.
The busy north coast of the island is **in** sharp contrast **to** the peaceful south.

**Learner example:**
The contrast between the wild mountains and the crowded but charm[ing] beach on the ocean shore would have pleased you.

**by/in contrast**

[B2] used to show that someone or something is completely different

**Dictionary examples:**
Their economy has expanded enormously, while ours, by contrast, has declined.
She’s quite short, in contrast **to** her tall sister.

**Learner example:**
TV, by contrast, is a more passive activity.

**VERB** \( /kənˈtrɑːst/\)

**DIFFERENCE**

[C2] [I] If one thing contrasts with another, it is very different from it.

**Dictionary example:**
The sharpness of the lemons **contrasts** with the sweetness of the honey.

**Learner example:**
Her pale expression contrasted with her long, dark hair that hung down beyond her shoulders.

**COMPARE**

[C2] [T] to compare two people or things in order to show the differences between them

**Dictionary example:**
If you contrast his early novels **with** his later work, you can see how his writing has developed.

**Learner example:**
Ruth Jhabvala’s "Heat and Dust" describes the growing attraction of two British women to India in two parallel stories skilfully interwoven to contrast two periods of time fifty years apart.
**contribute** /kanˈtrɪb.juːt/

Word family:
Nouns: contribution
Verbs: contribute

**VERB** [I or T]

**GIVE**

[B2] to give something, especially money, in order to provide or achieve something together with other people

Dictionary examples:
Are you going to contribute towards Jack's leaving present?  
Her family have contributed £50, 000 to the fund.  
Do come to the meeting if you feel you have something to contribute.

Learner example:
Furthermore, it is unfair to judge other performers as second-rate, as they did their best to contribute.

**WRITE**

[C1] to write articles for a newspaper, magazine, or book

Dictionary example:
She contributes to several magazines.

Learner example:
After a lot of thinking and discussing with our members and with people who would like to contribute to our magazine, I decided to suggest our well thought[-out] ideas.

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**contribution** /ˌkɒn.trɪˈbjuː.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: contribution
Verbs: contribute

**NOUN** [C or U]

[B2] something that you do or give to help produce or achieve something, or to help make something successful

Dictionary examples:
This invention made a major contribution to road safety.  
She didn't make much of a contribution at today's meeting, did she?  
All contributions, no matter how small, will be much appreciated.  
a generous contribution to charity

Learner example:
I am willing to make a significant contribution to the club.
control /kənˈtrəʊl/  

VERB [T] (–ll–)  

LIMIT  
[B2] to limit the number, amount or increase of something  

Dictionary examples:  
Fire crews struggled to control the blaze.  
No attempt was made to control the spread of the disease.  

Learner example:  
We have to control the [number of] cars, we can't allow as many car[s] as we drive [now].  

RULE  
[B2] to rule or govern an area  

Dictionary example:  
The whole area is controlled by rebel forces.  

Learner example:  
BRAVE NEW WORLD The part of the book I have read and I remember best is when John, the savage, comes into the New World [State] controlled by several World Controllers from the savage reservation.  

NOUN  

POWER  
[B2] [c or u] when you make someone or something do what you want, or the power to do this  

Dictionary examples:  
She's got no control over that child.  
He lost control of the vehicle.  
The police are in control of the situation.  

Learner example:  
Ap[p]arently he lost control of the wheel, so the car crashed into a tree.  

beyond your/out of control  
[B2] If something or someone is beyond control or out of control, you cannot influence, limit or direct them.  

Dictionary examples:  
The car skidded and went out of control, crashing into an oncoming truck.  
There's nothing we can do – the situation is beyond our control.  

Learner example:  
I had just driven through Piazza Duomo, when another car came round a corner much too fast, skidded, and went out of control.
**under control**
[B2] being dealt with successfully

**Dictionary example:**
Don't worry – everything's under control.

**Learner example:**
"Everything is under control," said the captain.

**EQUIPMENT**
[B2] [c] a switch or other device used to operate a machine such as a vehicle

**Dictionary examples:**
Where's the volume control on your stereo?
The main instruments are in the centre of the control panel.
The captain sat at the controls of the aircraft.

**Learner example:**
He touched a switch on the control panel and heard that characteristic hiss.

**take control**
[B2] to start to rule or govern an area

**Dictionary example:**
The dictator took control of the country in 1933.

**Learner example:**
In the first part of the story animals take control of a farm in England.

**LAW**
[B2] [c] a rule or law that limits something

**Dictionary example:**
He wants the government to impose strict controls on dog ownership.

**Learner example:**
[It is important] to find a way to regulate the information shown on the internet, because right now there is no control over the information.

**OFFICIAL PLACE**
[B2] [c or u] a place where something official, usually a document, is checked

**Dictionary example:**
passport/immigration control

**Learner example:**
I kissed my parents and went to passport control.

**CALM**
[C1] [u] the ability to be calm
Dictionary example:
It took a lot of control to stop myself hitting him.

Learner example:
If you think you [are doing] something wrong during your test you shouldn't [start] panic[k]ing and losing your control.

**controversial** /ˌkɒn.trəˈvɜː.ʃəl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** controversy
**Adjectives:** controversial

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] causing disagreement or discussion

**Dictionary examples:**
a controversial issue/decision/speech/figure
The book was very controversial.

**Learner example:**
From my point of view it is a very controversial issue.

**controversy** /ˈkɒn.trə.vɜː.si/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** controversy
**Adjectives:** controversial

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C1] a lot of disagreement and argument about something

**Dictionary example:**
There is a lot of controversy over mobile phone towers.

**Learner example:**
Travelling abroad to work has been a matter of controversy.

**convenience** /kənˈviː.nəns/
BEING EASY

[B2] [u] the quality of being convenient

Dictionary examples:
the convenience of credit cards
I like the convenience of living so close to the shops.

Learner example:
I think the first reason is its convenience. [...] Just by sitting in front of it, you can enjoy TV programs.

at your convenience FORMAL

[B2] at a time that is convenient to you

Dictionary example:
We can meet at your convenience.

Learner example:
I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

HELPFUL THING

[C1] [c] something that makes life easier

Dictionary example:
Fortunately, the house has every modern convenience.

Learner example:
Thus, we have many facilities and conveniences in comparison with the past.

conveniently /konˈviː.ni.ənt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: convenience
Adjectives: convenient, inconvenient
Adverbs: conveniently

ADVERB

[B2] in a way that is convenient

Dictionary example:
The house is conveniently situated near the station and the shops.

Learner example:
First of all, your group has been booked into the Palace Hotel, which is conveniently situated in the centre of Nymegen.
convention  /kənˈvent.ʃən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: convention  
Adjectives: conventional, unconventional  

NOUN  
MEETING  
[C1] [c] a large formal meeting of people who do a particular job or have a similar interest, or a large meeting for a political party  
Dictionary examples:  
the national Democratic convention  
Where are they holding their party convention?  
Learner example:  
Conference facilities: Being completely renovated, the historic building of Edessa's Cultural Association is the ideal place for a modern scientific convention.  

CUSTOM  
[C1] [c or u] a usual and accepted way of behaving or doing something  
Dictionary example:  
In many countries it is the convention to wear black at funerals.  
Learner example:  
Nowadays, people tend to avoid traditions and conventions.  

conventional  /kənˈvent.ʃən.əl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: convention  
Adjectives: conventional, unconventional  

ADJECTIVE  
TRADITIONAL  
[B2] traditional and ordinary  
Dictionary examples:  
conventional behaviour/attitudes/clothes  
conventional medicine/farming  
I find his art rather dull and conventional.  
Learner example:  
The accommodation wasn’t bad, however our rooms were quite small and conventional.
conventional wisdom
[C1] what most people believe

**Dictionary example:**
These ideas about childcare go against conventional wisdom on the subject.

**Learner example:**
Thus, against conventional wisdom, I think that while a lot of adult problems are caused by money or the lack of it, it is really the ability to deal with money and to see money as a means rather than an end.

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**conversation** /ˌkɒn.vəˈseɪ.ʃən/

**NOUN [C or U]**

**hold a conversation**
[C1] to have a conversation

**Dictionary example:**
I can just about hold a conversation in Italian.

**Learner example:**
I know the grammar and many different expressions, and I can hold a conversation with other people.

---

**conversion** /kənˈvɜːʒən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** conversion
**Verbs:** convert

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C2] when the appearance, form, or purpose of something is changed

**Dictionary examples:**
the country's conversion to democracy
Solar power is the conversion of the sun's energy into heat and electricity.

**Learner example:**
This 'magic' conversion of energy can be performed in several ways, which result in different degrees of 'dignity' or 'cleanness' for the resulting electrons, freely running through our cables.
**convert /kənˈvɜːt/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** conversion

**Verbs:** convert

**VERB [I or T]**

**CHANGE**

[B2] to change the appearance, form, or purpose of something

**Dictionary examples:**
Could we convert the small bedroom into a second bathroom?
What’s the formula for converting pounds into kilos?

**Learner example:**
Even some medieval castles have been converted into museums.

**RELIGION**

[C2] I to change to a new religion, belief, etc., or to make someone do this

**Dictionary example:**
When did he convert to Islam?

**Learner example:**
Frederica converted to Catholicism and devoted her life to mentally ill children.

**convey /kənˈver/**

**VERB [T]**

[C1] to communicate information, feelings, or images to someone

**Dictionary example:**
She always conveys a sense of enthusiasm for her work.

**Learner example:**
Being an Ambassador for Youth bears lot of responsibility, not only because the person must be an outstanding character and widely well-known, but also because they must behave accordingly and be able to convey a positive message.

**convict /kənˈvɪkt/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** conviction

**Verbs:** convict
VERB [T]
[C2] to decide officially in a court of law that someone is guilty of a particular crime

Dictionary example:
He was convicted of murder.

Learner example:
Consequently he was convicted of robbery and murder and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

**conviction** /kənˈvɪkʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: conviction
Verbs: convict

NOUN [C or U]

CRIME
[C2] when someone is officially found to be guilty of a particular crime

Dictionary examples:
He already had two convictions for burglary.
The conviction of all three protesters caused anger in the local community.

Learner example:
Besides, she had no previous convictions so nobody believed that such a pretty, intel[l]igent and polite woman could do any harm to anybody.

BELIEF
[C2] a strong opinion or belief

Dictionary examples:
religious/moral convictions
a deep/strong conviction

Learner example:
In spite of the fact that I respect their convictions, I totally disagree with this viewpoint.

**convinced** /kənˈvɪnst/
Dictionary examples:
My boyfriend says I'd enjoy a walking holiday, but I'm not convinced.
I'm convinced (that) she is lying.

Learner example:
I'm convinced that I would benefit from this experience in the future.

convincing /kənˈvɪn.ʃɪŋ/

Word family:
Verbs: convince
Adjectives: convinced, convincing

ADJECTIVE
[C1] able to make you believe that something is true or right

Dictionary examples:
a convincing argument/explanation
I didn't find the ending of the film very convincing.

Learner example:
The school didn't give us a real and convincing explanation for this.

cookie /ˈkʊk.i/

NOUN [C]
[C2] a piece of information stored on your computer which contains information about all the Internet documents you have looked at

Dictionary example:
You need to enable cookies to use this website.

cool /kuːl/

Word family:
Nouns: cool, coolness
Verbs: cool
Adjectives: cool

ADJECTIVE
CALM
[C1] calm and not emotional
Dictionary example:
She seemed cool and confident.

Learner example:
I remember saying to myself that “this little boy will survive” and after that I felt totally cool and calm and did what had to be done.

UNFRIENDLY

[C2] unfriendly

Dictionary example:
She was very cool towards us.

Learner example:
I encouraged him to tell me what was going on and I could hardly believe [it] when he explained the reason why he had been treating me in a cool manner.

keep a cool head

[C2] to remain calm in a difficult situation

Dictionary example:
To be successful in business, you need to keep a cool head in negotiations.

Learner example:
Kevin managed to keep a cool head and took over the navigation.

VERB [I or T]

[B2] to become less hot, or to make something become less hot

Dictionary example:
Allow the bread to cool before slicing it.

Learner example:
In the summer many people were delighted by fountains which cooled the air.

NOUN

keep your cool

[C1] to remain calm

Dictionary example:
You did well to keep your cool in all that panic.

Learner example:
Whatever the problem is, keep your cool, don’t panic.

lose your cool

[C2] to suddenly become very angry

Dictionary example:
She lost her cool and started shouting.
coolness /ˈkuːl.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: cool, coolness
Verbs: cool
Adjectives: cool

NOUN [u]

COLD
[C1] the quality of being cold

Dictionary example:
the coolness of the breeze

Learner example:
The coolness of the coach made me ill.

CALM
[C2] the quality of being calm

Dictionary example:
He was admired for his coolness under pressure.

Learner example:
Finally, a successful person should have [their] own style and opinion to distinguish from other people, enough patience to wait for important opportunities, a certain coolness to "survive" critical situations, and last but not least, a good deal of luck, which often decides whether you are successful or not.

UNFRIENDLY
[C2] the quality of being unfriendly

Dictionary example:
He was a little insulted by her coolness towards him.

Learner example:
James eyed her with a mixture of contempt and admiration for her coolness.

cooperate (also co-operate) /koʊˈɒpər.eɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: cooperation
Verbs: cooperate
Adjectives: cooperative
VERB [i]

WORK TOGETHER

[B2] to work together with someone in order to achieve the same aim

Dictionary examples:
The Spanish authorities cooperated with the British police in finding the terrorists.
Several companies are cooperating in the relief effort.

Learner example:
Lime has become a sort of monster, with no consideration for life any more, and Martins decides to cooperate with the police to catch and kill him.

HELP

[B2] to help someone or do what they ask

Dictionary example:
I find it very hard to dress my two-year-old when she refuses to cooperate.

Learner example:
Moreover, I am in favour of rules at school because it is very important for children to learn how to cooperate with others.

cooperation (also co–operation) /kəʊˌɒp.əˈreɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: cooperation
Verbs: cooperate
Adjectives: cooperative

NOUN [u]

[B2] when you work together with someone or do what they ask you

Dictionary examples:
This documentary was made with the cooperation of Rails UK.
There’s very little cooperation between the two countries.
We thank you in advance for your cooperation.
The clubs work in close cooperation with the Football Association.

Learner example:
Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this respect.

coop–erative /kəʊˈɒp.ə.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: cooperation
Verbs: cooperate
Adjectives: cooperative
ADJECTIVE
[B2] willing to help or do what people ask

Dictionary example:
I found them very cooperative.

Learner example:
You can rely on me – I love children and I am energetic and cooperative.

cope /kəʊp/

VERB [I]
[B2] to deal successfully with a difficult situation

Dictionary examples:
How does she cope with three small children and a job?
It was too stressful and eventually he just couldn't cope.
Tyres generally don't cope well on wet roads.

Learner example:
Moreover she can't cope with life.

copper /ˈkɒp.ər/

NOUN [U]
[B2] a reddish–brown metal used especially for making wire and coins, or the reddish brown colour of this metal

Dictionary examples:
copper wire/pipes
Rosie's hair shone like copper in the sunlight.

Learner example:
Its domes are made of pure copper, inside there's a big bell called "Zygmunt".

copy /ˈkɒp.i/

VERB
CHEAT
[B2] [I or T] to cheat by looking at and using someone else's work

Dictionary example:
He was always copying from/off other children, but never got caught.
Learner example:
I’m certain she thought we had copied in the test.

BEHAVE
[B2] [T] to behave like someone else

Dictionary example:
He tends to copy his brother in the way he dresses.

Learner example:
He has to eat salads now, in [the] hope [that] the kids’ll copy his attitudes and eat fresh and healthy food instead of sweets and unhealthy stuff.

NOUN [C]

SINGLE ONE
[B2] a single book, newspaper, etc. of which many have been produced

Dictionary example:
Over a million copies of the book have been sold.

Learner example:
The single with her new song sold more than 15 million copies, now she was a powerful star.

coral /ˈkɔːr.əl/

NOUN [U]

[C2] a hard, usually pink or white substance produced by a type of very small sea animal

Dictionary example:
a coral reef

Learner example:
The main [attraction] of the place is scuba diving, due to the excellent visibility of the water and the impressive coral reefs which surround the island.

core /ˈkɔːr.əl/

NOUN

IMPORTANT PART
[C2] [NO PLURAL] the most important part of a system or principle

Dictionary examples:
core values
Better health care was at the core of the senator’s campaign.
The aim of this paper is to respond to a call for proposals from a TV company which is planning to launch a programme called "Making the World a Better Place" and to select the group of people which represents the core idea of this programme.

**FRUIT**

[C2] [c] the hard, central part of certain fruits, such as apples, which contains the seeds

**Dictionary example:**
Peel the apples and remove the cores.

**Learner example:**
So there it was, hidden in nature, occasionally trampled by a stray dog with no other companion than old cans and apple cores.

---

**corner** /ˈkɔːrnər/

NOUN [c]

**around/round the corner**
[C2] going to happen soon

**Dictionary example:**
Christmas is round the corner and I still haven't bought any presents.

**Learner example:**
With the FIFA World Cup just around the corner, there certainly is a lot of excitement buzzing in the air.

**PLACE**

[C2] a part of a larger area, often somewhere quiet or far away

**Dictionary example:**
He lives in a beautiful corner of northern California.

**Learner example:**
Special buses and trams were allocated to give people a lift to the shopping centre practically from any corner of the city.

**a tight corner**
[C2] a difficult situation

**Dictionary example:**
She had been in a tight corner before and had always managed to cope.

**Learner example:**
It is a great pressure, requiring a lot of effort and sense of humour but does work in most cases, helping to find the best way out of a tight corner.
### corporate /ˈkɔː.pər.ət/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** corporation

**Adjectives:** corporate

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[C1] relating to a large company or group

**Dictionary example:**
corporate finance

**Learner example:**
This proposal highlights advisable amendments to the ABC Company's management structure, namely the marketing department, in view of unforeseen corporate losses.

### corporation /ˌkɔː.pərˈeɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** corporation

**Adjectives:** corporate

**NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]**

[B2] a large company or group of companies that is controlled together as a single organization

**Dictionary examples:**
a multinational corporation
the British Broadcasting Corporation
She didn't want to work for a big corporation where everything was so impersonal.

**Learner example:**
Since I was a child, I've always dreamed about being a car designer in a large and powerful corporation like Ferrari, Porsche, Mercedes-Benz, etc.

### corpse /ˈkɔːps/

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] a dead person's body

**Dictionary example:**
There were several corpses in the building.

**Learner example:**
Evian and I just stood there and gazed at the corpse for a few hours.
**correct**  /kəˈrekt/

Word family:
- **Nouns**: correction
- **Adjectives**: correct, incorrect
- **Adverbs**: correctly

**VERB**

SHOW MISTAKE
[B2] to show someone the mistakes in something they have said or written

- **Dictionary example**: Our teacher normally corrects our pronunciation.
- **Learner example**: Until now, I have never had someone really teaching me and correcting my mistakes.

MAKE RIGHT
[B2] to make a mistake or problem right or better

- **Dictionary example**: The new software finds and corrects any errors on the hard disk.
- **Learner example**: For example if I have to write a formal letter or something like this, I use my 'PC' because the paper looks nicer and [the] computer corrects my mistakes.

**correspond**  /ˌkɔr.iˈspənd/

Word family:
- **Verbs**: correspond
- **Adjectives**: corresponding

**VERB [i]**

BE SIMILAR
[B2] to be the same or very similar

- **Dictionary examples**: The money I've saved corresponds roughly to the amount I need for my course. The American FBI corresponds to the British MI5. His story of what happened that night didn't correspond with the witness's version.

- **Learner example**: Therefore, I would like to ask you for my entrance fee, as this evening did not correspond to your advertisement.

WRITE
[B2] to communicate with someone by writing letters
Dictionary example:
They had corresponded ever since the war.

Learner example:
Dear Tom It would be wonderful to see you because we've been corresponding for a long time but I've never had [the] pleasure [of meeting] you.

corresponding  /ˌkɒr.iˈspɒn.dɪŋ/

Word family:
Verbs: correspond
Adjectives: corresponding

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] similar or related

Dictionary example:
Draw a line between the words with corresponding meanings.

Learner example:
In terms of the consequences for society as a whole, an increase in life expectancy might pose problems if the percentage of old people increases without being accompanied by a corresponding increase in the birth rate.

corridor  /ˈkɒr.i.dɔːr/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a long passage in a building or train

Dictionary example:
Her office is at the end of the corridor.

Learner example:
The invigilator left the room and walked down the corridor looking for some help.

corrupt  /kəˈrʌpt/

Word family:
Nouns: corruption
Verbs: corrupt
Adjectives: corrupt

ADJECTIVE
[C1] dishonest or illegal
Dictionary example:
a corrupt government

Learner example:
I am not saying he is corrupt – I don't believe that – but he com[m]ands many corrupt people.

VERB [r]
[C1] to make someone or something become dishonest or immoral

Dictionary example:
He became corrupted by power and money.

Learner example:
Maybe wealth can corrupt people’s mind[s] and make people weak.

corruption /kəˈrʌp.tʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: corruption
Verbs: corrupt
Adjectives: corrupt

NOUN [u]

BAD BEHAVIOUR
[C1] dishonest or immoral behaviour, usually by people in positions of power

Dictionary example:
He was arrested for corruption and bribery.

Learner example:
I think that both have lost respect because of corruption.

MAKE DISHONEST
[C1] when you cause someone or something to become dishonest or immoral

Dictionary example:
the corruption of innocent young children

Learner example:
The contrast between those two groups was getting bigger and bigger and it ended up [in] a destructive war, destructive doesn’t refer only to deaths and city damage but also to the corruption of morals.

cosmopolitan /ˌkɒz.məˈpɒl.ɪ.tən/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] consisting of people and things from many different countries
Dictionary example:
London is a very cosmopolitan city.

Learner example:
I chose London because it’s a cosmopolitan city, and very near to the other European countries.

cost /kɒst/

NOUN

THING GIVEN

[B2] [U NO PLURAL] something that you give or lose, in order to get or achieve something else

Dictionary examples:
He rescued four people at the cost of his own life.
She finally got the job she wanted, but at great personal cost.
It’s not worth getting into an argument with Tim, as I learned to my cost.

Learner example:
We wanted to travel by car and, to my cost, my friend began to drive the car.

at all costs

[B2] If something must be done at all costs, it is very important that it is done.

Dictionary example:
We have to succeed at all costs.

Learner example:
One thing was sure: he was convinced [he had] to save Anne’s life at all costs.

VERB [T] (cost, cost)

LOSE

[B2] to cause someone to lose or destroy something valuable

Dictionary examples:
Drinking and driving costs lives.
His affairs cost him his marriage.

Learner example:
However, many people are talking about car accidents which cost human lives.
costume /ˈkɒs.tjuːm/

NOUN [C or U]

PARTY/FILM/PLAY
[B2] a set of clothes worn in order to look like someone else, especially for a party or a film or play

Dictionary examples:
- actors in costume
- a clown costume
- The children were dressed in Halloween costumes.

Learner example:
- Everything becomes alive with music and dancing, and everybody wears amazing costumes.

TYPICAL OF COUNTRY
[B2] the set of clothes typical of a particular country or period of history

Dictionary example:
- Japanese national costume

Learner example:
- You also can take some terrific [ph]otographs of national costumes, hear music and take part in dances.

could /kʊd/

MODAL VERB

could have
[B2] used to talk about things that possibly happened in the past or might possibly have happened by some time in the future

Dictionary examples:
- She could have been killed.
- Let’s go to the coast anyway – the rain could have stopped by the time we get there.

Learner example:
- Then they thought about the situation and tried to [develop] a theor[y] about what could have happened with the dead body and who could be the murderer.

couldn’t have
[B2] used to express certainty that something in the past was impossible or didn’t happen
Dictionary examples:
He couldn't have damaged your bike – he was with me all evening.
That book couldn't have been on sale last week – it's only come out today!

Learner example:
The blood froze in our veins, and we were all sure that it couldn't have been anything but a ghost!

I/he, etc. couldn't care less INFORMAL
[C1] used to emphasize that someone is not interested in or worried about something or someone

Dictionary example:
I couldn't care less what people think.

Learner example:
There was hunger, there was poverty and the king couldn't care less about his people['s] well-being.

council /ˈkaʊn.tʃəl/

NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]
[B2] the group of people elected to govern a particular area, town or city, and organize services for it

Dictionary examples:
Edinburgh City Council
The local council has/have decided not to allocate funds for the project.
The town/city council is/are responsible for keeping the streets clean.

Learner example:
Rubbish collecting needs to be arranged more regularly by the city council.

counselling /ˈkaʊn.səlɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: counselling, counsellor

NOUN [u]
[C2] the job or process of listening to someone and giving them advice about their problems

Dictionary example:
a counselling service
Learner example:
As well as providing [a] speci[a]list counselling service by experienced social work[er]s, each member of the society needs to create [a] warm welcoming atmosphere for those who once were [rejected by] the society.

counsellor /ˈkaʊn.ələ/

Word family:
Nouns: counselling, counsellor

NOUN [C]
[C2] someone whose job is to listen to people and give them advice about their problems

Dictionary example:
I saw a counsellor to help me with my anxiety.

Learner example:
It is a burden to society, which has to find a way to create jobs, to employ counsellors to help problem unemployed and to watch out for the safety of the society.

count /kaʊnt/

Word family:
Verbs: count
Adjectives: countless

VERB

BE IMPORTANT
[B2] [I] to be important

Dictionary examples:
I've always believed that happiness counts more than money.
My opinion doesn't count for anything around here.

Learner example:
It wasn't romantic, there were no flowers but Carla knew that what counts is in the h[e]art.

CONSIDER
[C2] [T] to think of someone or something in a particular way

Dictionary examples:
She counted Tim as her closest friend.
You should count yourself lucky you weren't hurt.

Learner example:
In a way, I think I should count myself very lucky.
BE ACCEPTED
[C2] [ɪ] to be accepted or allowed as part of something

Dictionary example:
I've been to sixteen different countries, but I only spent half an hour in Luxembourg, so that doesn't really count.

INCLUDE
[C2] [ɪ] to include something or someone in a calculation

Dictionary example:
There are 1500 people at my school, counting teachers.

Learner example:
It was not until I married Paul that I began to receive a bunch of telephone calls from my closest relatives, not counting my mother because she had [already] become a part of our house.

NOUN

lose count
[C2] to forget how many of something there is

Dictionary example:
I've lost count of the number of times she's arrived late.

Learner example:
I lost count of how often I heard this sentence when I used to work for a drug company.

NUMBER
[C2] [c] when you count something, or the total number you get after counting

Dictionary example:
At the last count there were 410 club members.

Learner example:
[At the] last count they still had 5 thousand dollars and one night to spend it.

counter /ˈkaʊn.tə/

NOUN [c]

SURFACE
[B2] a long flat narrow surface or table in a shop, bank, restaurant, etc. at which people are served

Dictionary example:
There was nobody at/behind the counter when I went into the bank, and I had to wait to be served.
Learner example:
When I was at the counter, I put down my bags and paid for the serviettes.

DISC
[C2] a small disc used in some games that are played on a board

Dictionary example:
Move the counter forwards two squares.

ADVERB
be/run counter to sth
[C2] to have the opposite effect to something else

Dictionary example:
The new road plans run counter to the government's aim of reducing pollution.

Learner example:
The saying goes "money can't buy happiness". However, he seems to run counter to these tenets since he leads quite a pleasant life.

counterpart /ˈkaʊntər.pɑːt/

NOUN [c]
[C1] someone or something that has the same job or position as someone or something in a different place or organization

Dictionary example:
I had a meeting with my counterpart in our other branch.

Learner example:
I feel much more confident at work in terms of both my English and the ability to negotiate with my counterparts.

countless /ˈkaʊnt.ləs/

Word family:
Verbs: count
Adjectives: countless

ADJECTIVE [always before noun]
[C1] very many

Dictionary example:
The song has been played countless times on the radio.
Learner example:
We had to spend countless hours in the cold coach waiting for a bus that could take us to the hotel in Edinburgh.

country /ˈkʌn.tri/

NOUN

the country
[C2] the people who live in a country

Dictionary example:
The country was shocked by the President's decision.

Learner example:
The country was partying for two weeks.

county /ˈkaʊn.ti/

NOUN [c]
[B2] the largest political division of a state or country

Dictionary examples:
County Antrim
Westchester County

A county usually consists of several cities and towns and the rural areas surrounding them.
Rutland used to be the smallest county in England, but in 1974 it became part of Leicestershire.
Texas is divided into 254 counties.

Learner example:
Since my family originates from the county of Dalarna, where "Dal" paintings are both very popular and common, I have started to paint a little on my own.

coup /kuː/

NOUN [c]
[C2] when a group of people suddenly takes control of a country using force

Dictionary example:
a military coup
Learner example:
The government of the country was formed three years ago after a military coup and is constituted primarily by the nephews of General Tomba, who headed the rebellious troops during the coup.

courage /ˈkær.ɪdʒ/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** courage  
**Adjectives:** courageous

NOUN [u]  

BRAVE  
[B2] the ability to deal with a dangerous or difficult situation without being frightened

Dictionary examples:  
I wanted to talk to him, but I didn't have the courage.  
People should have the courage to stand up for their beliefs.

Learner example:  
He [had] wanted to do it for a long time but never had the courage.

pluck up (the) courage (to do sth)  
[C2] to decide to do something that you were too frightened to do before

Dictionary example:  
Gerhard finally plucked up the courage to ask Nicole for a date.

Learner example:  
Although she had tried a lot she wasn't able to make any changes and it was that day she plucked up courage and left home.

courageous /ˈkær.i.əs/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** courage  
**Adjectives:** courageous

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] brave

Dictionary example:  
a courageous decision

Learner example:  
The people were very courageous and showed an extraordinary sense of calm.
course /kɔːs/  

NOUN

in due course
[B2] at a suitable time in the future

Dictionary example:
The results will be sent to you in due course.

Learner example:
I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

course of action
[C1] something that you can do in a particular situation

Dictionary example:
I think the best course of action would be to write to him.

Learner example:
However, I believe that the best course of action in this case is to give our student a refund.

during/in/over the course of sth
[C1] during a particular time or activity

Dictionary example:
In the course of the interview she mentioned her previous experience.

Learner example:
During the course of my studies and internship, I worked not only with people suffering from certain disorders, but also with people who faced problems in interpersonal relationships.

a matter of course
[C1] If something happens as a matter of course, it always happens as part of the normal process or system.

Dictionary example:
Babies were tested for the disease as a matter of course.

Learner example:
The transform[ation] has succeeded so far and caused enormous changes in ordinary life as a matter of course, including eating habits.

DEVELOPMENT
[C2] [NO PLURAL] the way something develops, usually over a long time

Dictionary example:
Nuclear weapons have changed the course of modern history.

Learner example:
Civilizations have appeared changing the course of history and they have also disappeared, but they have all left something as a heritage or a legacy.
court /kɔːt/

NOUN

LAW

[B2] [c or u] the place where a judge decides whether someone is guilty of a crime

Dictionary examples:
He's due to appear in court again on Monday.
Please describe to the court exactly what you saw.
the European Court of Human Rights
The lack of evidence means that the case is unlikely to go to court.

Learner example:
Two days after, I went to the law court as a witness.

courteous /ˈkɜː.ti.əs/

Word family:
Nouns: courtesy
Adjectives: courteous

ADJECTIVE

[C2] polite and showing respect

Dictionary example:
We received a very courteous reply.

Learner example:
The library staff deserve congratulations: they are all very courteous and helpful.

courtesy /ˈkɜː.tə.si/

Word family:
Nouns: courtesy
Adjectives: courteous

NOUN [u]

[B2] polite behaviour

Dictionary examples:
Hotel staff must at all times treat guests with courtesy.
He could at least have had the courtesy to say sorry.

Learner example:
On balance, I think McDonalds should improve the courtesy of members of staff, as well as keeping up the speedy service.
cover /ˈkʌvər/

Word family:
Nouns: cover, coverage
Verbs: cover, uncover

VERB [T]

DISTANCE
[B2] to travel a particular distance

Dictionary example:
We covered 700 km in four days.

Learner example:
Secondly, travelling by car is a very effective way of saving time – for instance you cannot cover long distances with your bicycle.

AREA
[B2] to be a particular size or area

Dictionary example:
The town covers an area of 15 square kilometres.

Learner example:
The other suggestion is the flower market, which is very famous for tourists because it covers 2 acres and there are plenty of flowers to buy.

REPORT
[C1] to report the news about a particular important event

Dictionary example:
She’s covering the American election for BBC television.

Learner example:
Should you have your company’s channel cover the [event], your profits from the advert[s] will be innumerable.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION
[C1] to provide financial protection if something bad happens

Dictionary example:
travel insurance that covers accident and injury

MONEY
[C1] to be enough money to pay for something

Dictionary example:
£100 should cover the cost of the repairs.
Learner example:
This means that only 15% was allocated to cover the cost of entertainment and administration costs.

NOUN

FINANCIAL
[C1] [u] financial protection so that you get money if something bad happens

Dictionary example:
The policy provides £50,000 accidental damage cover.

Learner example:
A mere 2% went on insurance cover.

FROM WEATHER/ATTACK
[C1] [u] protection from bad weather or an attack

Dictionary example:
They took cover under some trees until the rain stopped.

Learner example:
The bodyguards immediately reacted, shooting at the window through which Paul had fired, while the judge took cover under a near car.

coverage /ˈkʌv.ər.i.dʒ/

Word family:
Nouns: cover, coverage
Verbs: cover, uncover

NOUN [u]

REPORT
[C1] the way a newspaper, television programme, etc. reports an event or subject

Dictionary example:
There is live coverage of the game on cable TV.

Learner example:
Jos is very well known among people who love Formula 2 autoracing and I know there are a lot of them all over the world because of the intense media coverage.

coward /ˈkau.əd/ DISAPPROVING

Word family:
Nouns: coward
Adjectives: cowardly
NOUN [C]
[B2] someone who is not brave and tries to avoid dangerous or difficult situations

Dictionary example:
You didn’t talk to her? You coward!

Learner example:
Instead of behaving like a wise grown-up, I behaved like a coward.

cowardly /ˈkau.əd.li/

Word family:
Nouns: coward
Adjectives: cowardly

ADJECTIVE
[B2] behaving in a way that shows you are not brave

Dictionary example:
This was a particularly brutal and cowardly attack.

Learner example:
Bernard was usually weak, depressed, cowardly and pessimistic, but, on the other hand, when he became popular and famous by taking advantage of John, he was so boastful.

crab /kræb/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a sea creature with ten legs and a round, flat body covered by a shell, or the meat from this animal

Dictionary example:
crab salad

Learner example:
Children can look at live fis[h], crabs and lobsters.

crack /kræk/

VERB [I or T]

BREAK
[B2] to break something so that very thin lines appear on its surface but it does not separate, or to become broken in this way
Dictionary examples:
A stone hit the window and cracked the glass.
I cracked my tooth when I fell.
The walls cracked and the roof collapsed in the earthquake.

Learner example:
The bottom tank cracked and the sea-water poured into the tank and further into the engine-room.

crack a joke
[C1] to tell a joke

Dictionary example:
He seemed very relaxed, laughing and cracking jokes.

Learner example:
Many members will get the chance to show their talent and we will get to crack some jokes too!

NOUN

LINE
[C2] [c] a line on the surface of something that is damaged

Dictionary example:
Several cups had cracks in them.

Learner example:
Behind the glass doors you could see a Chinese tea-set totally unsuitable for tea drinking as all the cups had cracks but I wasn't allowed to throw [it] away because it had been presented by some relative and that was enough to turn it into an everlasting treasure.

the crack of dawn
[C2] very early in the morning

Dictionary example:
He gets up at the crack of dawn.

Learner example:
From the crack of dawn until bed time citizens have to breathe all kinds of gas coming out of cars, bikes or [factor]ies.

crackdown  /ˈkræk.dən/

NOUN [c]
[C2] when bad or illegal behaviour is dealt with in a very severe way, in order to stop it happening

Dictionary example:
The police are having a crackdown on speeding.
### craft /krɑːft/

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] an activity in which you make something using a lot of skill, especially with your hands

**Dictionary examples:**
- the craft of furniture-making/boat-building
- rural/ancient/traditional crafts

**Learner example:**
You will find some interesting Swedish craft work [there] and get the best shots of the local people.

### crash /kræʃ/

**VERB**

**COMPUTER**

[B2] [I] If a computer or computer system crashes, it suddenly stops working.

**Dictionary example:**
My computer keeps crashing.

**Learner example:**
Will the computers crash after New Year?

**MONEY**

[C1] [I] If a financial market crashes, prices suddenly fall by a large amount.

**Dictionary example:**
They lost all their savings when the market crashed.

**NOUN [C]**

**LOUD NOISE**

[B2] a sudden, loud noise made when something falls or breaks

**Dictionary example:**
I heard a crash and hurried into the kitchen.

**Learner example:**
A loud crash disturbed the silence of the night.

**BUSINESS**

[C1] when the value of a country's businesses suddenly falls by a large amount
Dictionary example:
He lost a lot of money in the stock market crash of 1929.

Learner example:
Regarding the economy of the globe, this intensiv[e] trad[ing] may lead to a worldwide crash.

crave /ˌkriːv/  

Word family:  
Nouns: craving  
Verbs: crave  

VERB [T]  
[C2] to want something very much  

Dictionary example:  
a child who craves affection  

Learner example:  
These people tend to forget the essence of man's heart, which craves only for love, and kindness, and friendship, and loyalty.

craving /ˈkriːvɪŋ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: craving  
Verbs: crave  

NOUN [C]  
[C2] a strong feeling that you want or need something  

Dictionary example:  
She had a craving for chocolate.  

Learner example:  
It's a well–known fact that many women of all ages sometimes have a craving for chocolate.

crawl /ˈkroʊl/  

VERB [I]  
HANDS AND KNEES  
[B2] to move on your hands and knees
Dictionary examples:
The child crawled across the floor.
The injured soldier crawled to safety.

Learner example:
I crawled out from under the bed and stood [u]p.

INSECT

[C2] If an insect crawls, it uses its legs to move.

Dictionary example:
There's an ant crawling up your leg.

Learner example:
She is sort of dusting off her legs and skirt. We can't actually see what is happening. We get there to find out that tens of big red ants are crawling on to her.

be crawling with sb/sth

[C2] to be full of insects or people in a way that is unpleasant

Dictionary example:
The kitchen's crawling with ants.

NOUN

SPEED

[C1] [NO PLURAL] a very slow speed

Dictionary example:
Traffic slowed to a crawl.

Learner example:
Every morning traffic w[as] reduced to a crawl.

SWIMMING

[C] a style of swimming in which you move your arms over your head and kick with straight legs

Dictionary example:
front/back crawl

Learner example:
I can already swim breaststroke and crawl but I am unable to swim backstroke and the dolphin-like style.

craziness  /ˈkreɪ.zi.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: craziness
Adjectives: crazy
### crazy

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the state of being crazy

**Dictionary example:**
I couldn't stand the craziness of their household.

**Learner example:**
My home might, for an outsider, give the feeling of complete disorder, not to say craziness but I can assure you that it was not true at all.

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**Word family:**

**Nouns:** craziness

**Adjectives:** crazy

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**ADJECTIVE**

**ANGRY**

[B2] annoyed or angry

**Dictionary examples:**
The constant noise drove me crazy.
Dad went crazy when I told him what had happened.

**Learner example:**
Be careful because you know computers drive me crazy.

**like crazy** **INFORMAL**

[C1] doing something a lot or in a fast way

**Dictionary example:**
We worked like crazy to get everything finished.

**Learner example:**
My heart was beating like crazy and when the ski-boat started its journey along the blue waves of the sea...

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### cream

**NOUN**

**the cream of sth**

[C1] the best people or things in a particular group

**Dictionary example:**
the cream of Milan’s designers
Learner example:
Last but not least, many Japanese style hotels and restaurants now have square holes in tatami (straw mat) rooms so that foreign visitors can comfortably stretch their legs under the low table without having to be seated on folded legs like Zen monks! Thus you will find it easier to enjoy the cream of Japanese hospitality without tears.

creation /kriˈɛr.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: creation, creativity
Verbs: create
Adjectives: creative
Adverbs: creatively

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] the act of creating something, or the thing that is created

Dictionary examples:
the creation of a new political party
Their policies are all towards the creation of wealth.
This 25-foot–high sculpture is her latest creation.
The fashion magazines were full of the latest Paris creations.

Learner example:
First of all, since the creation of the virtual world internet, computers [have been] used to communicate very quickly from [one] computer to another.

creatively /kriˈer.trɪ.li/

Word family:
Nouns: creation, creativity
Verbs: create
Adjectives: creative
Adverbs: creatively

ADVERB
[B2] in a creative way

Dictionary example:
We have to think creatively about this problem.

Learner example:
I think that our college should have some of this kind of activities, so that students can spend their time creatively.
creativity /ˌkriː.ə'tɪv.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: creation, creativity
Verbs: create
Adjectives: creative
Adverbs: creatively

NOUN [u]
[B2] the ability to produce new ideas or things using skill and imagination

Dictionary example:
I admire her creativity.

Learner example:
Realistic stories thus, develop our imagination and creativity, which are essential in our lives.

credibility /ˌkred.əˈbɪl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: credibility
Adjectives: incredible
Adverbs: incredibly

NOUN [u]
[C2] when someone can be believed and trusted

Dictionary example:
This decision has damaged the President’s credibility.

Learner example:
The media source and its credibility play a major role in determining the objectivity and realistic portrayal although there have been cases where even mainstream publications have participated in manipulative alterations.

credit /ˈkred.ɪt/

NOUN

PRAISE
[B2] [u] praise, approval or honour

Dictionary examples:
I did all the work and Amy got the credit for it!
I suppose I should give him credit for his honesty.
I can’t take full credit for this meal – Sam did quite a bit too
Learner example:
I took part in this event and I think that you haven't given it enough credit.

**COURSE**
[B2] [c] a unit that shows you have completed part of a college course

**Dictionary example:**
I got three credits for the course.

**Learner example:**
"How could you get such a result?" her father barked, after seeing her report card which stated only two credits.

**to *sb*'s credit**
[C2] If something is to someone's credit, they deserve praise for it.

**Dictionary example:**
To his credit, Bill never blamed her for the incident.

**Learner example:**
He also has good sportsmanship, to his credit.

cree**p** /kriːp/

**VERB (crept)**

**creep along/down/in/out, etc.**
[C2] to move very quietly and carefully

**Dictionary example:**
I crept out of the room.

**Learner example:**
It was Sunday, and everybody else was still sleeping: she crept down the stairs to check the kitchen (could she have forgotten it on the shelf among the cookbooks?).

**NOUN [c]**

**UNPLEASANT**
[C2] someone who you think is unpleasant

**Dictionary example:**
Her boss is a real creep.

**Learner example:**
I had no doubt that she was capable (and likely) to have done such a nasty thing. What a creep!
crew /kruː/  
NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]  
TEAM  
[B2] a team of people with special skills who work together  

Dictionary examples:  
an ambulance/lifeboat crew  
a film/camera crew  

Learner example:  
I recommend that you and your film crew visit Zurich during August, because it's very cold and the weather is mostly bad in January.

cricket /ˈkrɪk.ɪt/  
NOUN  
INSECT  
[C2] [C] an insect that jumps and makes a noise by rubbing its wings together  

Dictionary example:  
We could hear the crickets in the grass.  

Learner example:  
The distant chirping of crickets was music to my ears.

criminal /ˈkrɪm.ɪn.əl/  
Word family:  
Nouns: crime, criminal  
Adjectives: criminal  

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]  
CRIME  
[B2] relating to crime  

Dictionary examples:  
criminal activity  
a criminal act/offence  
a criminal investigation  
I didn't know he had a criminal record.  

Learner example:  
In spite of his criminal background I came to believe that man and also like him.
**crisis /ˈkraɪ.sɪs/ (PLURAL crises)**

**NOUN [C or U]**

*B2* a situation or time that is extremely dangerous or difficult

**Dictionary examples:**
- an economic/financial crisis
- The country’s leadership is in crisis.
- We had a family crisis at the time.

**Learner example:**
- It is a crisis not only for animals but also for the planet.

**crisp /krɪsp/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**MATERIAL**

[C2] Crisp cloth or paper money is clean and looks new, with no folds.

**Dictionary example:**
- a crisp linen shirt

**Learner example:**
- The first impression is that of quiet elegance with white tablecloths, crisp napkins, lovely pastel flowers on the tables and thick carpeting on the floors.

**WEATHER**

[C2] Crisp weather is pleasantly cold and dry.

**Dictionary example:**
- a crisp autumn day

**Learner example:**
- It was one of these beautiful crisp September days when the woods are adorned in autumnal browns and golds.

**criterion /kraɪˈtrɪə.rɪ.ən/**

**NOUN [C] (criteria)**

[C1] a fact or level of quality that you use when making a choice or decision

**Dictionary example:**
- We have strict criteria for deciding which students will receive a grant.
Learner example:
This is because one of the key criteria for being an international commercial centre would be the extensive transport options.

critic /ˈkrɪt.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: critic, criticism
Verbs: criticize
Adjectives: critical
Adverbs: critically

NOUN [c]

ARTS
[B2] someone whose job is to give their opinion about something, especially films, books, music, etc.

Dictionary examples:
She's a film/theatre critic for the 'Irish Times'.
The play has been well received by the critics.

Learner example:
Finally, I would like to ask for some of the extra budget [to be allocated] to inviting well-known critics or film staff to our local cinema.

NOT APPROVE
[C1] someone who says that they do not approve of someone or something

Dictionary example:
an outspoken critic of the government

Learner example:
I am not a critic of modern technology and I am not among those people who have pessimistic id[e]as about it.

critical /ˈkrɪt.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: critic, criticism
Verbs: criticize
Adjectives: critical
Adverbs: critically
ADJECTIVE

NOT PLEASED
[B2] saying that someone or something is bad or wrong

Dictionary examples:
a critical report
The report is highly critical of safety standards at the factory.

Learner example:
Some of them are very critical of their food.

IMPORTANT
[B2] of the greatest importance to the way things might happen

Dictionary examples:
The President's support is critical to this project.
a critical decision

Learner example:
It was a critical moment. Tom realized that we have to do something or [the] problems would be worse.

SERIOUS
[B2] extremely serious or dangerous

Dictionary example:
The doctors said her condition was critical and she might not survive.

Learner example:
The doctor only said she was critical, not dead!

OPINIONS
[C2] giving careful judgments and opinions on something

Dictionary example:
a critical study of Tennyson's work

Learner example:
In fact, teachers and professors give us the opportunity to broaden our knowledge, sharpen our critical thought and in general to cultivate our mind and soul.

critically /ˈkrɪt.i.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: critic, criticism
Verbs: criticize
Adjectives: critical
Adverbs: critically
ADVERB

[B2] in a way that is critical

Dictionary example:
They were both critically injured in the crash.

Learner example:
Cars are even more important for emergency situations such as [a] fire in a house or if somebody is critically ill.

criticism /ˈkrɪt.i.ˌsɪ.əm/

Word family:
Nouns: critic, criticism
Verbs: criticize
Adjectives: critical
Adverbs: critically

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] when you say that something or someone is bad

Dictionary example:
The designs for the new building have attracted widespread criticism.

Learner example:
Another criticism is that there were not enough plays and films.

criticize (also UK criticise) /ˈkrɪt.i.ˌsaɪz/

Word family:
Nouns: critic, criticism
Verbs: criticize
Adjectives: critical
Adverbs: critically

VERB [IT OFTEN PASSIVE]

[B2] to say that someone or something is bad

Dictionary examples:
The government is being widely criticized in the press for failing to limit air pollution.
The film was criticized for being too violent.

Learner example:
I had a very good relationship with him. He was always there when I needed him, [he] advised me, and never criticised me. He just talked with me and made me understand my mistakes.
**crocodile** /ˈkrɒk.ə.dail/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a large reptile with a long mouth and sharp teeth, that lives in lakes and rivers

**Dictionary example:**
a crocodile-infested swamp

**Learner example:**
My friend started to walk into the water when suddenly a crocodile grabbed her leg.

**cross** /krɔs/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** crossing
**Verbs:** cross

**VERB**

**cross your mind**

[B2] If an idea crosses your mind, you think about it for a short time.

**Dictionary example:**
It never crossed my mind that she might be married.

**Learner example:**
The first thought that crossed his mind was to call the police immediately and that was what he actually did.

**LINE/BORDER**

[C2] [I or T] to travel over a border or line into a different area, country, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
They crossed from Albania into Greece.

**Learner example:**
It was when I was about to cross the U.S. border that I faced my greatest challenge.

**keep your fingers crossed/ cross your fingers** INFORMAL

[C2] to hope that things will happen in the way that you want them to

**Dictionary examples:**
Let's keep our fingers crossed that she gets the job.
We're crossing our fingers and hoping that the weather stays fine.

**Learner example:**
Wish me luck, Winnie,” she sighed “keep your fingers crossed, please”.

**cross sb's path**

[C2] to meet someone, especially by accident
**Dictionary example:**
Mike has moved away and I doubt he’ll ever cross my path again.

**Learner example:**
We are all socialised by our peers, family and other people who cross our path at one time or another.

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### crossing /ˈkrɒs.ɪŋ/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** crossing

**Verbs:** cross

**NOUN [C]**

**TRIP BY WATER**

[C1] a trip across water

**Dictionary example:**
regular ferry crossings from Tenerife to Gran Canaria

**Learner example:**
On the ferry there are restaurants and a Tax-Free Shop. The crossing takes about 50 minutes.

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### crossroads /ˈkrɒs.rəʊdz/ 

**NOUN [C] (plural crossroads)**

[B2] a place where two roads cross each other

**Dictionary example:**
Turn left at the crossroads.

**Learner example:**
When you go out of the hotel, turn right [and] at the first crossroads turn right again.

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### crowd /kraʊd/ 

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** crowd

**Adjectives:** crowded, overcrowded

**VERB**

[C1] to stand together in large numbers

**Dictionary example:**
Protesters crowded the streets.
Learner example:
However, this is not the case in big cities, since inhabitants from all over the world crowd their streets.

**crucial**  /ˈkruː.ʃəl/

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] extremely important or necessary

**Dictionary examples:**
a crucial **decision/question**
Her work has been crucial to the project's success.
It is crucial that the problem is tackled immediately.

**Learner example:**
Clothes [play] a crucial part in our everyday lives.

**crude**  /kruːd/

**ADJECTIVE**

**WITHOUT SKILL**
[C2] made or done in a simple way and without much skill

**Dictionary example:**
a crude device/weapon

**Learner example:**
Glancing at the crude plan of the building I realised I had no choice but to search every room in order to find the required documents.

**RUDE**
[C2] rude and offensive

**Dictionary example:**
a crude comment/remark

**Learner example:**
A necessary condition, of course, is a ban on crude words or meanings, as, funnier though such word may make programmes of this sort, they also render them inappropriate for younger listeners.
cruelly /ˈkruː.əl.i/

Word family:
Nouns: cruelty
Adjectives: cruel
Adverbs: cruelly

ADVERB
[B2] in a cruel way

Dictionary example:
She had been very cruelly treated.

Learner example:
Many young people and children go and look at various kinds of animals cruelly [held] behind the bars.

cruelty /ˈkruː.əl.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: cruelty
Adjectives: cruel
Adverbs: cruelly

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] cruel behaviour or a cruel action

Dictionary example:
The farmer was accused of cruelty to animals.

Learner example:
The methods he used to become the farm leader, the way he ignored the seven commandments, make him cruel – a cruelty he took to the extreme, causing damage to everyone living [on] the farm except to himself.

cruise /kruːz/

VERB [I]
[B2] to go on a cruise or boat trip

Dictionary example:
They're currently cruising around the Caribbean.

Learner example:
The end-of-conference party will take place on a boat cruising on the lake.
### crumble /ˈkrʌm.bl/

**VERB**

[C2] [I or T] to break into small pieces, or to make something break into small pieces

**Dictionary example:**
Buildings crumbled as the earthquake struck.

**Learner example:**
It's completely impossible to sleep under those circumstances: a horrible howling that is so loud you can't even hear yourself think; a house that trembles so fiercely you think it's going to crumble any second in front of your very bulging eyes.

### crush /krʌʃ/

**VERB**

[T]

[C2] to press something so hard that it is made flat or broken into pieces

**Dictionary example:**
Her car was crushed by a falling tree.

**Learner example:**
Thus, in the last chapters, one notices that Ralph and Piggy have become inseparable friends, a friendship which is abruptly terminated by that huge rock that also crushes the conch.

**NOUN**

**CROWD**

[C2] [NO PLURAL] a crowd of people forced to stand close together because there is not enough room

**Dictionary example:**
Many people fell over in the crush.

**LOVE**

[C2] [INFORMAL] a strong temporary feeling of love for someone

**Dictionary example:**
Tim has a crush on Jennifer.

**Learner example:**
He told me that one of his friends had a crush on me and wanted to know if I liked him.
cry /kraɪ/

VERB

cry your eyes out
[C2] If someone cries their eyes out, they cry a lot about a problem or situation.

Dictionary example:
She cried her eyes out when he left her for another girl.

Learner example:
It wasn't an easy decision to make. Melanie spent many nights crying her eyes out in bed and trying to convince herself that she wasn't doing the right thing.

a shoulder to cry on
[C2] someone who gives you sympathy when you are upset

Dictionary example:
I always had a shoulder to cry on.

Learner example:
I am always there for her and I know I will always have a shoulder to cry on.

NOUN [C]

be a far cry from sth
[C1] to be very different from something

Dictionary example:
Her luxury mansion is a far cry from the house she grew up in.

Learner example:
The museum was a far cry from what we expected. Not only were the machines really old and should have been replaced a long time ago, but they were boring as well.

ANIMAL / BIRD
[C2] a sound that a particular animal or bird makes

Dictionary example:
an eagle's cry

Learner example:
Then one could carefully pick one's way through a lot of shallow ponds, which had been concealed by the salty water before, and, accompanied by cries of seagulls, climb Castle Rock.
crystal /ˈkrɪ.stəl/

NOUN

crystal clear
[C1] extremely clear

Dictionary example:
crystal clear water

Learner example:
You will be amazed by the crystal clear water of the shallow sea and the multitude of colourful fish which you will see as you are exploring the bottom of the sea.

GLASS
[C2] a type of high quality glass

Dictionary example:
a crystal vase

Learner example:
The crystal vase is a gift from one of my mother's friends.

crystal clear
[C2] very easy to understand

Dictionary example:
She made it crystal clear that she was in charge.

Learner example:
They do learn something of course, but it is crystal clear that they need some help from you to develop their ability, creativity, sensitivity and so on.

cultivate /ˈkʌltɪ.veɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: cultivation
Verbs: cultivate

VERB [T]

GROW
[C1] to prepare land and grow crops on it

Dictionary example:
This shrub is cultivated in Europe as a culinary herb.

Learner example:
We're cutting down our forests to cultivate the plants which give us nourishing food.
DEVELOP
[C2] to try to develop or improve something

Dictionary example:
She has cultivated an image as a tough negotiator.

Learner example:
Moreover, students are not usually encouraged to attend art or drama classes and cultivate their talents.

cultivation /ˌkʌl.tɪˈveɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: cultivation
Verbs: cultivate

NOUN [U]
[C1] the process of preparing land and growing crops

Dictionary example:
The area was drained so that cultivation could begin.

Learner example:
The basic thing is that people should [be] provided [with] better facilities for their cultivation of crops and farming, so they can earn their bread and butter in their own environment.

culturally /ˈkʌl.tʃər.əl.i/

Word family:
Nouns: culture
Adjectives: cultural
Adverbs: culturally

ADVERB
[B2] in a way that relates to culture

Dictionary example:
It's a culturally diverse society.

Learner example:
What I think is that Rome has to become a cultural pole, and becoming culturally vital, it will gradually look better.
**cunning /ˈkʌn.ɪŋ/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] clever at getting what you want, especially by tricking people

**Dictionary example:**
a cunning plan

**Learner example:**
It was a result of a cunning plan they had la[i]d months ago.

---

**curb /kɜːb/**

**VERB [t]**
[C2] to limit or control something

**Dictionary example:**
to curb crime/inflation

**Learner example:**
"If I become Prime Minister, the first issues on my political agenda will be to curb government spending on armaments, to reorganise the bureaucratic system, to reduce the rate of unemployment," he told me the last time I saw him.

---

**cure /kjʊə/**

**Word family:**
Verbs: cure
Adjectives: incurable

**VERB [t]**

**HEALTHY**
[B2] to make someone with an illness healthy again

**Dictionary example:**
At the time, they couldn't cure the disease.

**Learner example:**
Harry and the other racketeers had watered down the medicine, so it was useless for curing the meningitis.

**PROBLEM**
[C1] to solve a problem

**Dictionary example:**
the fight to cure social inequality
Learner example:
I found out that this problem can be cured in only one way and that is not going to English courses.

NOUN [c]
[B2] something that makes someone with an illness healthy again

Dictionary example:
They are trying to find a cure for cancer.

Learner example:
He was only an intelligent scienti[st] who looked into an AIDS cure. Laura thought he must have found something very special.

**curiosity** /ˌkjʊəˈrɪə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: curiosity
Adjectives: curious
Adverbs: curiously

NOUN
[B2] [u] the feeling of wanting to know or learn about something

Dictionary examples:
My curiosity got the better of me and I opened the envelope.
Just **out of** curiosity, how did you get my address?

Learner example:
When the warrior had left, [he] explored the cave out of curiosity and [to] his big surprise [he] found the treasure.

**curiously** /ˈkjʊə.ri.əs.li/

Word family:
Nouns: curiosity
Adjectives: curious
Adverbs: curiously

ADVERB

**STRANGELY**
[B2] strangely

Dictionary example:
Curiously, there didn't seem to be a bank in the town.
Learner example:
Curiously, a few days before the murder Emma received a letter from a French girl named Martine saying she wanted to visit them.

**current** /ˈkʌr.ənt/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** current
**Adverbs:** currently

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] happening or existing now

**Dictionary examples:**
Is that your current address?
Have you seen the current issue of Vogue magazine?
The word 'thou' is no longer in current use.

**Learner example:**
Dear Mr Thomas, I was interested in [y]our advertisement in the current edition of "Spotlight" and I would like to apply for a job in one of your campsites.

**currently** /ˈkʌr.ənt.li/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** current
**Adverbs:** currently

**ADVERB**
[B2] at the present time

**Dictionary examples:**
The company currently employs around 750 people.
The Director is currently having talks in the USA.

**Learner example:**
I am 22 years old and I am currently studying trade and tourism.

**cursor** /ˈkɜːsər/

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a symbol on a computer screen which shows the place where you are working

**Dictionary example:**
Put the cursor over the word you want to look up.
Learner example:
The black space reserved for the answer appeared and the text cursor started to blink.

curve /kə:v/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a line which bends round, like part of a circle

Dictionary examples:
a curve in the road
the curve of a graph

Learner example:
The other person was slimmer and she [had] womanly curves.

cushion /ˈkʊʃ.ən/

NOUN [c]
PROTECTION
[C2] something which protects you from possible problems

Dictionary example:
Overseas savings provide a cushion against tax rises at home.

Learner example:
The only answer for the Spanish situation is that families are acting as a cushion, by giving the youngest in working age accommodation and help.

custody /ˈkʌstə.di/

NOUN [u]

CHILD
[C2] the legal right to look after a child, especially when parents separate

Dictionary example:
When they divorced, it was Nicola who won custody of their two children.

Learner example:
My parents were fighting a long and tiring battle in court, over the custody of us children.
PRISON
[C2] when someone is kept in prison, usually while they are waiting for a trial in court

Dictionary examples:
He is being held in custody in Los Angeles charged with assault.
He was taken into custody by Mexican authorities.

Learner example:
Not only was he badly injured during the following years, but he was [also] kept in custody by the Russians for about two years.

customary /ˈkʌstəm.ər.i/

Word family:
Nouns: custom
Adjectives: customary

ADJECTIVE
[C1] normal or expected for a particular person, situation, or society

Dictionary example:
It is customary for the chairman to make the opening speech.

Learner example:
So it is customary that teachers have longer holiday[s].

cut /kʌt/

VERB (cutting, cut, cut)

REDUCE
[B2] [ɪ] to reduce the size or amount of something

Dictionary examples:
to cut prices/costs
The company is cutting 300 jobs.

Learner example:
The third thing is Internet [business]. This way is very good for both consumer and company, to cut the cost.

FILM/WRITING
[B2] [ɪ] to remove part of a film or piece of writing

Dictionary example:
Several scenes had been cut from the English version of the film.
Learner example:
You'll see how the film is cut to [fit] the story into two hours, more or less.

to cut a long story short
[C1] to mention only the final result or point of something without going into other details

Dictionary example:
To cut a long story short, he never played baseball again.

Learner example:
Well, to cut a long story short, let's say tuition yes, facilities no.

cut sth short or cut short sth
[C2] to have to stop doing something before it is finished

Dictionary example:
They had to cut the holiday short when her mother was taken ill.

NOUN [C]

STOP IN SUPPLY
[B2] when the supply of something is stopped

Dictionary example:
a power cut

Learner example:
Those zeros indicate that your household has been affected by a power cut.

REDUCTION
[C1] a reduction in the number or amount of something

Dictionary example:
tax/job cuts

Learner example:
Unfortunately, due to govern[ment] spending cuts he has lost his employment.

cutback /ˈkʌt.bæk/

NOUN [C]
[C1] a reduction of something, usually to save money

Dictionary example:
The company has made cutbacks and closed one of its factories.

Learner example:
There have been enormous cutbacks in the budget and children and teenagers are the ones who have suffered the most.
cutlery /ˈkʌt.ləri/  

NOUN [u]  
[C2] knives, forks, and spoons  

Dictionary example:  
Do we have enough cutlery for twelve people?  

Learner example:  
There is no need to bring your own plates, cups or cutlery as you can use the ones you will find in the kitchen.

cutting-edge /ˌkʌt.ɪŋˈɛdʒ/  

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] very modern and with all the newest developments  

Dictionary example:  
cutting-edge design/technology  

Learner example:  
On the other hand, in the past our previous generation could not enjoy such cutting-edge technology as it was not developed well before 1970.

cycle /ˈsai.kəl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: cycle, cycling, cyclist  
Verbs: cycle  

NOUN [c]  
SERIES OF EVENTS  
[B2] a series of events which happen in a particular order and are often repeated  

Dictionary example:  
the life cycle of a moth  

Learner example:  
So, the main disadvantage of zoos is that they put animals away from something which belongs to the natural cycle of life.

BICYCLE  
[B2] a bicycle  

Dictionary example:  
cycle paths/routes
Learner example:
I am writing about our cycle routes.

cynical /ˈsɪn.ɪk.əl/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] believing that people are only interested in themselves and are not sincere

Dictionary example:
Many people have become cynical about politicians.

Learner example:
Consequently, we had better not jump to such cynical conclusions and enjoy the competition.
dairy /ˈdeə.rɪ/

ADJECTIVE

[B2] relating to milk or products made using milk

Dictionary example:
dairy products

Learner example:
Meat, poultry, vegetables and dairy products are excellent for your health.

damp /dæmp/

ADJECTIVE

[B2] slightly wet, especially in a way that is not pleasant or comfortable

Dictionary examples:
The grass is still damp.
This shirt still feels a bit damp.
It was a damp, misty morning.

Learner example:
I have recently noticed that they are stored in dark, damp rooms because the library has no money to restore these places.

dare /deər/ 

VERB

dare (to) do sth

[B2] to be brave enough to do something

Dictionary examples:
I’d never dare to talk to my mother the way Ben talks to his.
I didn’t dare tell Dad that I’d scratched his car.
I wouldn’t dare have a party in my flat in case the neighbours complained.
I daren’t/don’t dare think how much it's going to cost.
Learner example:
Carla didn't dare to look at the door. She just sat there and waited for things to happen.

dare sb to do sth
[C1] to try to make someone do something dangerous

Dictionary example:
She dared her friend to climb onto the roof.

Learner example:
The idea was to hang like that for a while, then push strongly and start sliding on the rope until you got to the other end. My friends dared me to try it.

How dare she/you, etc.
[C1] used to express anger about something someone has done

Dictionary example:
How dare you talk to me like that!

Learner example:
How dare you call that high standards?!

Don't you dare
[C2] INFORMAL used to tell someone strongly not to do something

Dictionary example:
Don't you dare hit your sister!

Learner example:
He had been standing on the exact spot when his friends had made him promise: "Don't you dare forget me, I want letters from you promptly, understand!"

I dare say
[C2] (also I daresay) used when you think that something is probably true or will probably happen

Dictionary example:
I dare say she'll change her mind.

Learner example:
Invent machines that are beneficial, not harmful, and I dare say life will only get better.

dark /dɑːk/  

Word family:
Nouns: dark, darkness
Adjectives: dark
ADJECTIVE

BAD
[C1] frightening or unpleasant

Dictionary example:
a dark period in human history

Learner example:
They cannot cope with such matters as finances and studies, so they have to turn to the dark side of society.

NOUN

in the dark
[C2] not knowing about something because other people are not telling you

Dictionary example:
They kept us in the dark about their plans.

Learner example:
Peter had always kept her in the dark about the reason for their fight.

darkness /ˈdɑːk.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: dark, darkness
Adjectives: dark

NOUN [u]

[B2] when there is little or no light

Dictionary example:
There was a power cut and the house was in darkness.

Learner example:
Too frightened to start crying, I just stood up and stared into the darkness.

darling /ˈdɑː.lɪŋ/

NOUN [c]

[B2] used when you speak to someone you love or like

Dictionary example:
Would you like a drink, darling?

Learner example:
Don't worry, darling.
**dash /dæʃ/**

**VERB [i]**

[B2] to go somewhere quickly

Dictionary examples:
I've been dashing *around* all day.
I must dash – I've got to be home by seven.

Learner example:
I must dash now, [as] I have got to go to college.

**NOUN**

**QUICK MOVEMENT**

[B2] [NO PLURAL] when you run somewhere very quickly

Dictionary examples:
I *made a* dash *for* the toilets.
There was a *mad* dash for the exit.

Learner example:
I made a dash to catch the plane.

**PUNCTUATION**

[B2] [c] a mark (–) that can be used to separate parts of a sentence

**AMOUNT**

[C2] [c] a small amount of something, often food

Dictionary example:
Add a *dash* of milk to the sauce.

Learner example:
The beginners should add a dash of blackcurrant to the beer and taste the difference.

**data /ˈdeɪ.tə/**

**NOUN [u]**

**FACTS**

[B2] information or facts about something (in scientific English, this can be followed by a plural verb, where the singular form is 'datum')

Dictionary examples:
The data was collected by various researchers.
Isotope data are corrected to the appropriate age for each sample.
Learner example:
I collected lots of data on different air, noise, water, sea and land pollution.

**COMPUTER**

[B2] information in the form of text, numbers or symbols that can be used by or stored in a computer

**Dictionary example:**
Now the data is being transferred from magnetic tape to hard disk.

**Learner example:**
Save your data on the hard disk [bit] by [bit] – do not wait until the whole article is ready.

database /ˈdeɪ.tə.bēs/

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a large amount of information stored in a computer system in such a way that it can be easily looked at or changed

**Dictionary example:**
We're linked to the online database at our head office.

**Learner example:**
So, we decide[d] to access our school database and change our test results.

date /deɪt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** date
**Verbs:** date
**Adjectives:** dated

**NOUN [C]**

to date

[B2] **FORMAL** up to the present time

**Dictionary example:**
This is her best work to date.

**Learner example:**
I enclose a copy of my curriculum vitae, which will give you further details about my career to date.

**FRUIT**

[C1] a sticky brown fruit with a long seed inside
Dictionary example:
I bought a box of dates.

**VERB**

**date back** **PHRASAL VERB**
[B2] to have existed a particular length of time or since a particular time

**Dictionary example:**
This house dates back to 1650.

**Learner example:**
Near the end of the route there's a castle that dates back to the Middle Ages, which would be really nice to visit.

**date from** **sth** **PHRASAL VERB**
[B2] to have existed since a particular time

**Dictionary example:**
The castle dates from the 11th century.

**Learner example:**
The Olympic Museum dates from the 19th century and is the biggest in Europe.

**dated** /ˈdeɪ.tɪd/

Word family:
**Nouns:** date
**Verbs:** date
**Adjectives:** dated

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] not modern

**Dictionary example:**
This film seems a bit dated today.

**Learner example:**
The books are so old and dated that it is no longer possible to use them in the classroom.

d**daughter-in-law** /ˈdaː.tər.ɪn.lɔː/

**NOUN** [C] (PLURAL daughters-in-law)
[B2] your son's wife

**Dictionary example:**
I get on well with my daughter-in-law.
Learner example:
And do you know what, we met your daughter-in-law.

dawn  /dɔːn/

NOUN

START OF DAY

[B2] [c or u] the early morning when light first appears in the sky

Dictionary examples:
We woke at dawn.
We left as dawn was breaking.
We left at the break of dawn.

Learner example:
The other ones will work from dawn till dusk.

the dawn of sth

[C1] LITERARY the time when something began

Dictionary example:
the dawn of civilization

Learner example:
Since the dawn of time, people of all religions have considered that there is a higher power that dictates their destiny.

the crack of dawn

[C2] very early in the morning

Dictionary example:
He gets up at the crack of dawn.

Learner example:
From the crack of dawn until bed time citizens have to breathe all kinds of gas coming out of cars, bikes or [factor]ies.

VERB

dawn on sb PHRASAL VERB

[C2] If a fact dawns on you, you become aware of it after a period of not being aware of it.

Dictionary example:
It suddenly dawned on them that Mary had been lying.

Learner example:
Suddenly it dawned on him that the rumours about a malaria infestation spreading like wildfire in this area must be true.
day /deɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: day, midday
Adjectives: daily
Adverbs: daily

NOUN

in those days
[B2] used to talk about a period in the past

Dictionary example:
In those days, boys used to wear short trousers.

Learner example:
In those days, life was much harder than now.

days
[C1] used to talk about a particular period of time when something happened or existed

Dictionary examples:
in my younger days
This book was written before the days of computers.

Learner example:
Before the days of television, we had the radio.

the old days
[C1] a period in the past

Dictionary example:
This place isn't as good as it was in the old days!

Learner example:
In the old days, a scholar could spend years of his life in search of specific information, which now can be easily found at the click of a button!

call it a day
[C2] INFORMAL to stop doing something, especially working

Dictionary example:
It's almost midnight – let's call it a day.

Learner example:
She decided to call it a day, so Meredith mustered all her courage and wrote a letter to him: "You are not good enough for me," she told him.

make sb's day
[C2] to make someone very happy
Dictionary example:
Go on, ask him to dance – it'll make his day!

Learner example:
Thank you for returning a lost diary; you have made my day!

daycare /ˈdeɪ.keə/  

NOUN [u]
[C1] care provided during the day for people who cannot look after themselves, especially young children or old people

Dictionary example:
a daycare centre

Learner example:
They simply didn’t quit after they had a baby, but continued working as before and put their children in daycare.

daydream /ˈdeɪ.driːm/  

VERB [i]
[C1] to have pleasant thoughts about something you like or would like to happen

Dictionary example:
She just sits in class daydreaming about her horses.

Learner example:
When we are young, we daydream about becoming famous.

daylight /ˈdeɪ.laɪt/  

NOUN [u]
[B2] the natural light from the sun

Dictionary example:
The colours look much better in daylight.

Learner example:
At the same time, we could change the curtains for lighter ones because we need the daylight.
**daytime** /ˈdeɪ.taim/

**NOUN [u]**
[B2] the period of the day when there is light from the sun, or the period when most people are at work

**Dictionary examples:**
I tend to sleep in/during the daytime and study at night.
a regular daytime job
a daytime telephone number
daytime television

**Learner example:**
There are different places to visit in the daytime.

**day-to-day** /ˌdeɪ.ˈteɪˈdeɪ/  

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**
[C1] happening every day as a regular part of your job or your life

**Dictionary example:**
the usual day-to-day problems

**Learner example:**
Unfortunately modern life is very stressful; the day-to-day office routine make[s] people feel very stressed and upset with their lives.

**dazed** /deɪzd/  

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] not able to think clearly because you are shocked or have hit your head

**Dictionary example:**
a dazed expression

**Learner example:**
I looked at him with a dazed expression.

**dazzle** /ˈdæz.əl/  

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** dazzle
**Adjectives:** dazzling
VERB [r]

EXTREMELY GOOD
[C2] If you are dazzled by someone or something, you think they are extremely
good or exciting

Dictionary example:
I was dazzled by his intelligence and good looks.

Learner example:
The unique, marvellous, awe-inspiring scene can only fill you with admiration and leave you
feeling stunned, dazzled by the wonders of nature.

LIGHT
[C2] If light dazzles someone, it makes them unable to see for a short time.

Dictionary example:
He was dazzled by the car’s headlights.

Learner example:
Since it was the first live musical event I had been to, I was impressed by how loud the music was
being played and dazzled by the lights.

**dazzling /ˈdæz.lɪŋ/**

Word family:
Verbs: *dazzle*
Adjectives: *dazzling*

ADJECTIVE

EXCITING
[C2] extremely good and exciting

Dictionary example:
a dazzling display/performance

Learner example:
The lights, the people, the atmosphere all created a dazzling spectacle where everyone was having
fun and singing together, even if they didn’t really know the words.

BRIGHT
[C2] A dazzling light is so bright that you cannot see for a short time after looking
at it.

Dictionary example:
a dazzling white light

Learner example:
Blinded by the dazzling lights of the interior of Luton Airport, I tried very hard not to panic.
dead /ded/

Word family:
Nouns: death
Adjectives: dead, deadly
Adverbs: dead, deadly

**ADJECTIVE**

**EQUIPMENT**

[B2] If a piece of equipment is dead, it is not working.

Dictionary examples:
a dead battery
The phone suddenly went dead.

Learner example:
I tried to phone my sister, but the phone was dead.

**QUIET**

[C2] INFORMAL If a place is dead, it is too quiet and nothing interesting is happening there.

Dictionary example:
The town centre is dead after eight o’clock at night.

Learner example:
Jane was walking through the empty streets of New York. [...] The city was absolutely dead.

**COMPLETE**

[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] complete

Dictionary example:
We waited in dead silence as the votes were counted.

Learner example:
When I finally [got] inside a terror took hold of me as there was only dead silence.

**BODY**

[C2] If part of your body is dead, you cannot feel it.

Dictionary example:
My arm’s gone dead.

**drop dead**

[C2] INFORMAL to die very suddenly

Dictionary example:
He just dropped dead in the middle of the show.

Learner example:
We can enjoy our longer lives because we don’t have to work until we drop dead.
ADVERB

EXTREMELY
[C1] INFORMAL extremely or completely

Dictionary example:
The exam was dead easy.

Learner example:
The teaching is dead boring; it really takes you more than one hour per day just to gain the basics and if you want to get in contact with the teachers, you have to spend a fortune.

be dead (set) against sth/doing sth
[C1] to oppose something strongly

Dictionary examples:
My parents were dead set against us getting married.
They were dead against the proposed new road.

Learner example:
Some others are dead set against the council's decision and provide some alternative ideas about building a car park in another area.

deadline /ˈded.laɪn/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a time or day by which something must be done

Dictionary examples:
There's no way I can meet that deadline.
We're working to a tight deadline.
I'm afraid you've missed the deadline – the deadline for applications was May 30th.

Learner example:
My last question is about the deadline of your offer.

deadly /ˈded.lɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: death
Adjectives: dead, deadly
Adverbs: dead, deadly

ADJECTIVE
[B2] likely to cause death
Dictionary examples:
a deadly virus
a deadly weapon

Learner example:
Caught without cover, they were quickly eliminated by a burst of Bull’s deadly machine gun.

ADVERB

deadly dull/serious, etc.
[C1] extremely dull/serious, etc.

Dictionary example:
His speech was deadly dull.

Learner example:
Sports don't have to be boring and deadly serious.

deaf /def/

ADJECTIVE

fall on deaf ears
[C2] If advice or a request falls on deaf ears, people ignore it.

Dictionary example:
Our pleas for help fell on deaf ears.

Learner example:
His cry for help and for a more meaningful relationship between himself and Mildred invariably fell on deaf ears.

deal /dɪəl/

Word family:
Nouns: deal, dealer

NOUN

AGREEMENT
[B2] [c] an agreement or an arrangement, especially in business

Dictionary examples:
a business deal
I'll make/do a deal with you – you wash the car and I'll let you use it tonight.

Learner example:
"I want to make a deal with you," he went on.
a good/great deal

[B2] a lot

Dictionary examples:
She spends a good deal of her time in Glasgow.
A great deal of effort has gone into making the software reliable.
They still need a great deal more money to finish the project.

Learner example:
There will be lots of events which you could see and take a great deal of pictures [of].

a good deal

[C1] an agreement, arrangement, or situation that benefits you

Dictionary example:
I think we got a really good deal on our new car.

Learner example:
The possibility [of] getting the needed staff from our own departments is absolutely a good deal for the company.

VERB (dealt, dealt)

deal with sb PHRASAL VERB

[B2] to talk to someone or meet someone, especially as part of your job

Dictionary example:
She’s used to dealing with difficult customers.

Learner example:
In my previous job, I used to deal with many, many people.

dealer /ˈdiː.lər/

Word family:
Nouns: deal, dealer

NOUN [C]

[B2] a person who trades in something

Dictionary examples:
a second-hand car dealer
an antiques dealer
drug dealers

Learner example:
The computer dealer in our street offered me a special combination package.
**dear**  /dɪə/

**ADJECTIVE**

**LIKED**

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] liked very much

**Dictionary examples:**
She was a very dear friend.
He's one of my dearest friends.
My dear Gina – how lovely to see you!

**Learner example:**
I decided to go to my dear friend Mary's house after writing a letter saying where I was and why.

**dear to sb/sb's heart**

[C2] If something is dear to someone or dear to their heart, it is very important to them.

**Dictionary example:**
The charity was very dear to his heart.

**Learner example:**
Among all the places I enjoyed visiting, the city of Singapore is especially dear to my heart.

---

**death**  /deθ/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** death

**Adjectives:** dead, deadly

**Adverbs:** dead, deadly

**NOUN [C or U]**

bored/frightened/scared, etc. to death

[B2] extremely bored, frightened, scared, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
She's scared to death of dogs.

**Learner example:**
Preparing a surprise party, her parents had almost scared her to death.

**to death**

[C2] until you die

**Dictionary example:**
He was beaten to death by a gang of youths.
Learner example:
She would have been trampled to death as the stampede of furious fans came over her.

put sb to death
[C2] to kill someone as a punishment

Dictionary example:
She was put to death for her beliefs.

Learner example:
He has become dangerous for Jack and must thus be eliminated, put to death.

a matter of life and/or death
[C2] a serious situation where people could die

Dictionary example:
Getting water to these people is a matter of life and death.

Learner example:
I told him it was a matter of life and death.

debate /dɪˈbeɪt/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] (a) discussion or argument about a subject in which many people take part

Dictionary examples:
Education is the current focus of public debate.
How we proceed from here is a matter for debate.
Over the year we have had several debates about future policy.

Learner example:
Public debates are shown on television and television is the best way for politicians to explain their actions and projects.

VERB
[C2] [i or t] to discuss a subject in a formal way

Dictionary example:
These issues need to be debated openly.

Learner example:
Homelessness is a worrying issue that is being debated by most of the developed countries’ governments.
**debit** /ˈdeb.ɪt/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] money taken out of a bank account, or a record of this

 Dictionary example:
The statement shows your most recent debits.

**VERB [r]**

[B2] to take money out of a bank account

 Dictionary example:
£20 has been debited from my account.

**debit card** /ˈdeb.ɪtˌkɑːd/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a plastic card used to pay for things directly from your bank account

 Dictionary example:
I can use my debit card in most of the local shops.

**debt** /det/

**NOUN**

**AMOUNT OWING**

[B2] [c] an amount of money that you owe someone

 Dictionary examples:
He managed to pay off his debts in two years.
The firm ran up huge debts.

 Learner example:
She thought of getting a loan but she already had huge debts.

**STATE OF OWING**

[B2] [u] when you owe money to someone

 Dictionary examples:
They are in debt to the bank.
He ran/got into debt after he lost his job.
The company is deep in debt.

 Learner example:
The consequence is that I'm in debt.
**debut /ˈdeɪ.bjuː/**

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] when someone performs or presents something to the public for the first time

**Dictionary examples:**
She **made her** debut as a pianist in 1975.
This is the band's **debut album**.

**Learner example:**
Pavarotti's grand debut took place in the Royal Theatre of Reggio Emilia.

---

**decade /ˈdek.ərd/**

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a period of ten years, especially a period such as 1860 to 1869, or 1990 to 1999

**Dictionary example:**
The building was due to be knocked down decades ago.

**Learner example:**
Life has centred around fast food chains during the last decade and continues to do so.

---

**decaffeinated /diːˈkæf.ɪˌneɪ.tɪd/**

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] Decaffeinated tea or coffee is made by removing the caffeine.

**Dictionary example:**
Could I have a decaffeinated coffee, please?

---

**decay /dɪˈkeɪ/**

**VERB [I or T]**

[B2] to become gradually damaged or to cause something to become gradually damaged

**Dictionary examples:**
Sugar makes your teeth decay.
Pollution has decayed the surface of the stonework on the front of the cathedral.
Learner example:
The historic buildings are starting to decay.

NOUN [u]

[C2] when something decays

Dictionary example:
Many of the buildings had fallen into decay.

Learner example:
Furthermore, by having tourism, the authorities of the country will be obliged to rest[ore] any monuments which have fallen into decay.

deceased  /dɪˈsiːst/

ADJECTIVE FORMAL

DEAD

[C2] dead

Dictionary example:
the deceased man’s belongings

Learner example:
A picture of a deceased family member brings back lots of memor[ies].

NOUN [u]

the deceased

[C2] someone who has died

Dictionary example:
The police have not yet informed the family of the deceased.

Learner example:
The deceased was a 19–year–old girl who had run away from home some months ago.

deceive  /dɪˈsiːv/

Word family:
Nouns: deception
Verbs: deceive
Adjectives: deceptive

VERB [r]

[B2] to make someone believe something that is not true
Dictionary examples:
The company deceived customers by selling old computers as new ones.
The sound of the door closing deceived me into thinking they had gone out.

Learner example:
So if you don’t want to feel deceived or offended, think twice before you decide to go shopping.

decent /ˈdiː.sənt/

ADJECTIVE

SATISFACTORY
[B2] of a satisfactory quality or level

Dictionary examples:
He earns a decent salary.
I haven't had a decent cup of coffee since I've been here.

Learner example:
I think it's a decent place for us to stay for a night.

HONEST
[B2] honest and morally good

Dictionary examples:
Decent people have had their lives ruined by his behaviour.
She should do the decent thing and apologize.

Learner example:
In fact, it had such [a] bad reputation that nobody "decent" went there any longer.

deception /dɪˈsep.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: deception
Verbs: deceive
Adjectives: deceptive

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] when you make someone believe something that is not true

Dictionary example:
He was found guilty of obtaining money by deception.

Learner example:
On the other hand, his deception means that he betrayed his own nation.
deceptive  /dɪˈsep.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: deception
Verbs: deceive
Adjectives: deceptive

ADJECTIVE
[C2] If something is deceptive, it makes you believe something that is not true.

Dictionary example:
Appearances can be deceptive.

Learner example:
One should also remember another common, albeit wise phrase: appearances can be deceptive.

deceive  /dɪˈsaɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: decision
Verbs: decide
Adjectives: decisive
Adverbs: decisively

VERB
RESULT
[C2] [ɪ] to be the reason or situation that makes a particular result happen

Dictionary example:
This match will decide the tournament.

Learner example:
At any rate, science will decide whether it is better to live longer.

deciding factor
[C2] the thing that helps to make the final decision

Dictionary example:
Cost was the deciding factor in choosing these builders.

Learner example:
Personally, I think the quality of teachers, school reputation and facilities should be the deciding factor for parents [for] which schools their children should be educated in.
**decisive** /dɪˈsaɪ.sɪv/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** decision
- **Verbs:** decide
- **Adjectives:** decisive
- **Adverbs:** decisively

**ADJECTIVE**

**MAKING DECISIONS**
[B2] able to make decisions quickly and confidently, or showing this quality

**Dictionary examples:**
You need to be more decisive.
a decisive reply

**Learner example:**
They were attractive, handsome, brave and decisive men.

**AFFECTING**
[C1] strongly affecting how a situation will progress or end

**Dictionary examples:**
a decisive goal/victory
Seeing that advertisement was a decisive moment in my life.

**Learner example:**
Recently, our Board of Executives has taken a decisive step: from now on, our clothes will also be available for purchase on the Internet!

**decisively** /dɪˈsaɪ.sɪv.li/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** decision
- **Verbs:** decide
- **Adjectives:** decisive
- **Adverbs:** decisively

**ADVERB**
[C2] in a decisive way

**Dictionary example:**
We need to act decisively.

**Learner example:**
Putting your foot down quickly and decisively before things really get out of hand seems sensible.
deck /deɪk/  

NOUN [c]  
[B2] the flat area of a ship or boat that is not covered  

Dictionary example:  
We sat on deck until it was dark.  

Learner example:  
When I woke up and went on the deck, I saw the skipper who [was coming] back from the village in the small boat.

declaration /ˌdek.ləˈreɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: declaration  
Verbs: declare  

NOUN [c]  
[C1] an announcement, often one that is written and official  

Dictionary example:  
a declaration of independence  

Learner example:  
Indochina is a French film that deals with the colonial period in Indochina from the Second World War to the country['s] declaration of independence.

declare /dɪˈkleə/  

Word family:  
Nouns: declaration  
Verbs: declare  

VERB [t]  
EXPRESS  
[B2] to announce something publicly or officially  

Dictionary examples:  
They declared their support for the proposal.  
America declared on Japan in 1941.  
The country declared independence in 1952.  

Learner example:  
We should declare [the city centre] a pedestrian zone.
decline /dɪˈklæn/

VERB

GET LESS

[B2] [i] to gradually become less or worse

Dictionary examples:
His interest in the project declined after his wife died.
The party’s popularity has declined in the opinion polls.

Learner example:
It had slightly declined to about 88 per cent in 1992.

REFUSE

[B2] [ɪ or ɪə] to refuse politely

Dictionary examples:
I invited him to the meeting but he declined.
He declined my offer.

Learner example:
We thank you for your offer of accommodation, but we decline it.

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] when something becomes less in amount, importance, quality or strength

Dictionary examples:
industrial decline
Home cooking seems to be on the/in decline.
a sharp decline in sales
She seemed to be recovering and then she went into a decline.

Learner example:
For the 25–34 age group, a decline can be seen from 2006 to 2010.

decoration /ˌdek.əˈreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: decoration
Verbs: decorate
Adjectives: decorative
NOUN

MAKE ATTRACTIVE
[B2] [c or u] something that you put on something to make it look attractive or special, or the activity of putting things on something to make it look more attractive or special

Dictionary examples:
Christmas/party/table/cake decorations
He's good at cake decoration.

Learner example:
In November I joined a day course to learn how to make Christmas decorations.

PAINT
[B2] [u] when the walls or other surfaces of rooms or buildings are covered with paint or paper

Dictionary example:
This place is badly in need of decoration.

Learner example:
I will start with the new decoration [of] my bedroom next week.

decorative  /ˈdekrə.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: decoration
Verbs: decorate
Adjectives: decorative

ADJECTIVE
[B2] made to look attractive

Dictionary examples:
a decorative display of plants and flowers
a mirror in a decorative frame

Learner example:
It seems that the decorative role of clothes will have disappeared by the year 2050.

dedicate  /ˈded.ɪ.kət/

Word family:
Nouns: dedication
Verbs: dedicate
Adjectives: dedicated
VERB

dedicate your life/yourself to sth
[C1] to give most of your energy and time to something

Dictionary example:
She has dedicated her life to helping others.

Learner example:
I have been interested in these matters but due to my lack of time, I haven't been able to dedicate myself to this investigation.

dedicate sth to sb
[C2] to say that something you have made or done is to show your love or respect for someone

Dictionary example:
This book is dedicated to my daughter.

Learner example:
This story is dedicated to my sister to whom I can only feel deep admiration.

Word family:
Nouns: dedication
Verbs: dedicate
Adjectives: dedicated

ADJECTIVE

GIVING TIME/ENERGY
[C1] believing that something is very important and giving a lot of time and energy to it

Dictionary example:
a dedicated teacher

Learner example:
I myself am a totally dedicated sports fan and I believe that basketball is the greatest sport on this earth.

FOR PURPOSE
[C2] designed to be used for a particular purpose

Dictionary example:
a dedicated news channel

Learner example:
I require a 2 bedroomed flat with a dedicated parking space.
dedication /ˌded.iˈkeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: dedication
Verbs: dedicate
Adjectives: dedicated

NOUN [u]
[C1] when you are willing to give a lot of time and energy to something because you believe it is very important

Dictionary example:
She thanked the staff for their dedication and enthusiasm.

Learner example:
Sacrifice and self-denial are cornerstones, together with dedication and commitment to a good cause.

deduce /dɪˈdjuːs/

Word family:
Nouns: deduction
Verbs: deduce

VERB [T]
[C2] to decide that something is true using the available information

Dictionary example:
From the contents of his shopping basket, I deduced that he was single.

Learner example:
Two important results are deduced from these figures: living standards in the U.K. have improved dramatically over the last century, and women can be expected to live longer than men.

deduction /dɪˈdʌk.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: deduction
Verbs: deduce

NOUN [C or U]

AMOUNT
[C1] when an amount or a part of something is taken away from a total, or the amount that is taken
Dictionary example:
tax deductions

Learner example:
After the deduction of 5% administration expense and 10% entertainment cost, we contributed the remaining 85% of the surplus to the local hospital.

FACT
[C2] when you decide something using the available information

Dictionary example:
I worked out the facts by a process of deduction.

Learner example:
My deductions obviously went further, and I found relie[f in] thinking that neither [was] the story real nor [had] the lost diary even existed.

deem /diːm/

VERB [T] FORMAL
[C2] to judge or consider something in a particular way

Dictionary example:
The book was deemed to be unsuitable for children.

Learner example:
Were it not for the fact that we regard our job as adequately paid and providing sufficient free time, it could not be deemed a satisfactory one.

deep /diːp/

Word family:
Nouns: depth
Verbs: deepen
Adjectives: deep
Adverbs: deeply

ADJECTIVE
STRONGLY FELT
[B2] A deep feeling or experience is very strong.

Dictionary examples:
deep regret
Their son has been a deep disappointment to them.

Learner example:
I fell into a deep depression, and took an extremely long time to recover.
SOUND

Dictionary example:
a wonderfully deep voice

Learner example:
"I'm not Gary," a strange and deep voice answered, "I'm someone who wants to warn you that tomorrow, you are going to die."

take a deep breath
[B2] to fill your lungs with air

Dictionary example:
Take a deep breath and relax.

Learner example:
But if you took a deep breath after reading the question, don’t worry.

one metre/6 ft, etc. deep
[B2] one metre/6 ft, etc. from the top to the bottom, or from the front to the back

Dictionary example:
This end of the pool is two metres deep.

Learner example:
Her father’s friend, who is a professional scuba-diver, invited her to do her first immersion on the reefs, 15 metres deep.

a deep sleep
[B2] when someone is sleeping in a way that makes it difficult to wake them up

Dictionary example:
He fell into a deep sleep.

Learner example:
And then, he fell into a deep sleep, putting his sack next to him.

SERIOUS
[C2] serious and difficult for most people to understand

Dictionary example:
a deep and meaningful conversation

Learner example:
I think we really need to go back to the classics to receive something from the deep thinkers.

depth in thought/conversation
[C2] giving all of your attention to what you are thinking or talking about, and not noticing anything else

Dictionary example:
I noticed that Ali and Ben were deep in conversation.
Learner example:
He was deep in thought, chewing on something brown and rectangular.

**throw sb in at the deep end**
[C2] to make someone start a new and difficult job or activity without helping them or preparing them for it

Dictionary example:
My first job was to organise a huge conference – they really threw me in at the deep end!

Learner example:
Sometimes we can be thrown in at the deep end and have qualms about making a decision.

**ADVERB**

deep down
[B2] If you know or feel something deep down, you are certain that it is true, or you feel it strongly although you do not admit it or show it.

Dictionary example:
Deep down, I knew that I was right.

Learner example:
No, because I [feel] deep down that it's wrong to put animals behind bars.

**go/run deep**
[C2] If a feeling or a problem goes deep, it is very strong or serious and has existed for a long time.

Dictionary example:
Hostility between the two nations runs deep.

deepen /ˈdiː.pən/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** depth

**Verbs:** deepen

**Adjectives:** deep

**Adverbs:** deeply

**VERB** [I or T]

**KNOWLEDGE**
[C1] if someone's knowledge or understanding deepens, it increases.

Dictionary example:
It certainly helped to deepen my understanding of the situation.
Learner example:
Furthermore, not only can travelling give you an opportunity to make a lot of friends, but your knowledge about this world could be broadened and deepened by travelling.

WORSE/STRONGER
[C2] to become worse or stronger, or to make something become worse or stronger

Dictionary example:
The economic crisis has deepened.

Learner example:
My frustration was deepened by the fact that the day before I had written in the diary some libellous remarks concerning my parents.

deeply /ˈdiː.pli/

Word family:
Nouns: depth
Verbs: deepen
Adjectives: deep
Adverbs: deeply

ADVERB
[B2] extremely or strongly

Dictionary examples:
I'm deeply grateful to you.
He found her comments deeply irritating/annoying/offensive.
We don't want to get too deeply involved with these people.
After 20 years of marriage, they're still deeply in love.

Learner example:
I was deeply impressed by the long-term cooperation between the zoo and the school.

deer /dɪə/

NOUN [C] (PLURAL deer)
[B2] a large, wild animal that is sometimes hunted for food and has antlers (= long horns) if it is male

Dictionary example:
a deer park

Learner example:
It would be even nicer if there would be some wildlife in the park, like deer, walking free all over.
defeat /dɪˈfiːt/

VERB [T]

CAUSE TO FAIL

[B2] to cause someone or something to fail

Dictionary examples:
The proposal to change the rules was narrowly defeated by 201 votes to 196.
I’m afraid anything that involves language learning has always defeated me.

Learner example:
But it was useless, Tina’s friends had defeated their plan, and her.

NOUN

FAILING

[B2] [U NO PLURAL] when someone or something is made to fail

Dictionary examples:
At the last General Election, they suffered a massive defeat.
The company was not ready to admit defeat.

Learner example:
After long negotiations with the police, Linda admitted defeat and gave up.

defect /ˈdiː.fekt/

Word family:

Nouns: defect
Adjectives: defective

NOUN [C]

[C1] a fault or problem with someone or something

Dictionary examples:
genetic defects
A mechanical defect caused the plane to crash.

Learner example:
There are also people that are overweight and it is not their own fault, because they suffer from genetic defects.
defective /dɪˈfek.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: defect
Adjectives: defective

ADJECTIVE
[C2] not in good condition or not working correctly

Dictionary example:
defective goods

Learner example:
The electric installations are defective, some locks are broken, and the ceiling leaks. Under these conditions, it's no wonder the library has no visitors.

defence /dɪˈfɛntʃ/.

Word family:
Nouns: defence, defender
Verbs: defend
Adjectives: defensive

NOUN

PROTECTION
[B2] [c or u] protection or support against attack, criticism or infection

Dictionary examples:
When Helen criticized me, Chris came/rushed to my defence.
She argued strongly in defence of her actions.
A good diet helps build the body's natural defences.

Learner example:
Movie stars like Brigitte Bardot started strong campaigns against zoos as part of wider battles in defence of animal rights.

MILITARY
[C1] [u] the weapons and military forces that a country uses to protect itself against attack

Dictionary examples:
Government spending on defence is increasing.
the defence industry

Learner example:
[The] USA spent only 2% of money on education; it spent quite a large amount of money on defence (18%).
the defence
[C2] the lawyers in a court who work in support of the person who is accused of a crime

Dictionary examples:
He was cross-examined by the defence.
a defence lawyer

Learner example:
One good turn deserves another so Anne decided to influence somehow [the] counsel for the defence.

defend  /dɪˈfend/

Word family:
Nouns: defence, defender
Verbs: defend
Adjectives: defensive

VERB
SUPPORT
[B2] [t] to support someone or something that is being criticized

Dictionary examples:
The newspaper's editor defended his decision to publish the photos.
They are fighting to defend their beliefs/interests/rights.

Learner example:
Do we know a lot of people nowadays who would be able to take the risk of being a prisoner for 10 or 20 years “just” to defend his beliefs?

LAW
[C1] [t] to try to show in a court that someone is not guilty of a crime

Dictionary example:
He has hired two lawyers to defend him in court.

Learner example:
An in[n]ocent man is arrested and the court appoints an attorney to defend him.

defender  /dɪˈfendə/
NOUN [C]  
[B2] someone in a sports team who tries to prevent the other team from scoring points, goals, etc.

Dictionary example:  
The Brazilian attack put France’s defenders under pressure.

Learner example:  
I’m mostly a defender, so scoring a goal for the first time gave me great pleasure!

defensive /dɪˈfɛnsɪv/  
Word family:  
Nouns: defence, defender  
Verbs: defend  
Adjectives: defensive

ADJECTIVE  
[C2] quick to protect yourself from being criticized

Dictionary example:  
He’s very defensive about his weight.

Learner example:  
And because the traveller’s own value system is challenged, he reacts in a defensive way.

deficiency /dɪˈfɪʃ.ən.si/  
NOUN [C or U]  
FAULT  
[C1] a mistake or fault in something so that it is not good enough

Dictionary example:  
Parents are complaining of serious deficiencies in the education system.

Learner example:  
By studying the effects of rain and ways to handle the expected amount of water, one can plan the laying out of the new roads and correct the deficiencies in the present ones.

NOT ENOUGH  
[C2] when you do not have enough of something

Dictionary example:  
a vitamin deficiency

Learner example:  
Anaemia, protein deficiency and vitamin deficiency [are] common problem[s] in vegetarians.
deficit /ˈdef.ɪsit/  

NOUN [c]  
[C1] the amount by which the money that you spend is more than the money that you receive  

Dictionary example:  
a budget deficit  

Learner example:  
Unfortunately, this could not be fulfilled by the government due to a huge budget deficit.

define /drˈfærn/  

Word family:  
Nouns: definition  
Verbs: define  
Adjectives: definite, definitive  
Adverbs: definitely, indefinitely  

VERB [t]  
GIVE MEANING  
[B2] to say exactly what something means, or what someone or something is like  

Dictionary examples:  
In the dictionary 'reality' is defined as 'the state of things as they are, rather than as they are imagined to be'.  
Your duties are clearly defined in the contract.  

Learner example:  
I guess you would have to define the word 'fit' to answer that question.

definite /ˈdef.ɪ.nət/  

Word family:  
Nouns: definition  
Verbs: define  
Adjectives: definite, definitive  
Adverbs: definitely, indefinitely  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] certain, fixed and not likely to change
Dictionary examples:
The date for the meeting – is that definite?
We need a definite answer by tomorrow.

Learner example:
I’m really excited about your definite plans to come.

definitely  /ˈdef.ɪ.nət.li/

Word family:
Nouns: definition
Verbs: define
Adjectives: definite, definitive
Adverbs: definitely, indefinitely

ADVERB
definitely not
[C1] used after an adverb in short, negative replies

Dictionary example:
"Do you think the work will be finished by June?" "Definitely not."

Learner example:
That’s nice, but do you think that money is all that matters? Definitely not!

definition  /ˌdef.ɪˈnɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: definition
Verbs: define
Adjectives: definite, definitive
Adverbs: definitely, indefinitely

NOUN

MEANING
[B2] [C] an explanation of the meaning of a word or phrase

Dictionary examples:
a dictionary definition
What is the definition of 'mood'?

Learner example:
He tried to give a definition of friendship.

IMAGE
[C1] [u] how clear an image of something is in a photograph or on a screen
Dictionary examples:
high-definition TV
There is a slight loss of definition in the picture quality on transfer.

Learner example:
And, do not forget to appreciate the keyboard work from the legendary Tony Banks, and the spectacular guitar-playing from Mike Rutherford, all of them surrounded by three huge high-definition screens.

definitive /dɪˈfɪn.ə.tɪv/  

Word family:
Nouns: definition  
Verbs: define  
Adjectives: definite, definitive  
Adverbs: definitely, indefinitely

ADJECTIVE
[C2] certain, clear, and not likely to change

Dictionary example:
a definitive answer

Learner example:
I know many people who offer easy and definitive answers to every question.

defy /dɪˈfaɪ/  

VERB [T]
[C2] to refuse to obey someone or something

Dictionary example:
Some of these children openly defy their teachers.

Learner example:
Jack was the only one, or the most conspicuous of all, to defy him.

defy belief/description/explanation, etc.
[C2] to be impossible to believe/describe/explain, etc.

Dictionary example:
His attitude defies belief.

Learner example:
The horror of those endless days, when the whole family was as if in suspension not knowing the final diagnosis, defies any description.
degree /dɪˈɡriː/

NOUN

[AMOUNT]
[B2] [c or u] an amount or level of something

Dictionary examples:
This job demands a high degree of skill.
A good society depends on the degree to which people are able to trust each other.

Learner example:
Can you imagine the degree of pollution you absorb in crossing London every morning by bicycle?

a/some degree of sth

[C2] a small level or amount of something

Dictionary examples:
There was some degree of truth in what she said.
The plan involves a degree of risk, but it is worth trying.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, some degree of freedom is obviously necessary for [the] healthy development of a young individual.

delegate

Word family:
Nouns: delegate, delegation
Verbs: delegate

NOUN [C] /ˈdel.ɪɡ.ət/
[C1] someone who is sent somewhere to represent a group of people, especially at a meeting

Dictionary example:
The delegates were all given badges to wear.

Learner example:
I participated at the opening of the new Arts Centre as a delegate from my college.

VERB [I or T] /ˈdel.i.geɪt/
[C2] to give someone else part of your work or some of your responsibilities

Dictionary example:
He needs to learn to delegate or he'll never get everything done.
Learner example:
Let me call him Mr. X. His success is based on various qualities of modern leadership: he delegates as much responsibility as possible to subordinates and gives them all competence to carry out their tasks.

delegation /ˌdel.ɪˈgeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: delegate, delegation
Verbs: delegate

NOUN [c]
[C2] a group of people who have been chosen to represent a much larger group of people

Dictionary example:
a delegation of Chinese officials

Learner example:
For instance, two weeks ago I had to go to Kiev to work as a translator with a delegation at the Ukrainian Central Bank.

deliberate /dɪˈlɪb.ər.ət/

Word family:
Adjectives: deliberate
Adverbs: deliberately

ADJECTIVE
[B2] done intentionally or planned

Dictionary examples:
a deliberate attack/insult/lie
This was a deliberate attempt to mislead us.

Learner example:
I’m sure that his deliberate intention with this was to make us get closer.

deliberately /dɪˈlɪb.ər.ət.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: deliberate
Adverbs: deliberately

ADVERB
[B2] intentionally
Dictionary example:
I'm sure he says these things deliberately to annoy me.

Learner example:
Many of them choose the bicycle deliberately, just to have at least a small amount of exercise before and after [the] hours they spend sitting at their desks.

delicate  /ˈdel.ɪ.kət/

ADJECTIVE

SOFT
[B2] soft, light or gentle

Dictionary examples:
a delicate flavour
a delicate shade of pink

Learner example:
She liked his delicate skin and his body's warmth.

EASY TO DAMAGE
[B2] easy to damage or break

Dictionary examples:
delicate china
Delicate plants need to be kept in a greenhouse during the winter.

Learner example:
Although you told me I can make use of anything, I'd like to make sure that it isn't a problem to use such delicate things as the computer and the CD player?

NEEDING CARE
[C1] needing to be handled with great care or skill

Dictionary examples:
I need to speak to you about a rather delicate matter/question.
The pay negotiations have reached a delicate point/stage.
Repairing damaged nerves is a very delicate operation/process.

Learner example:
Being aware of the two proposals our local government is considering in order to solve the apparently unavoidable matter of traffic in our beloved city, I feel compelled to offer my views on such a delicate subject.

ATTRACTIVE
[C2] having a thin, attractive shape

Dictionary example:
delicate hands
Learner example:
Suddenly a shadow moved among the trees and a surprisingly beautiful and delicate woman walked towards me.

delight  /dɪˈlaɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: delight
Adjectives: delighted, delightful

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] (something or someone that gives) great pleasure, satisfaction or happiness

Dictionary examples:
The children screamed with delight.
My sister’s little boy is a real delight.
I read your letter with great delight.
He seems to take great delight in teasing his sister.

Learner example:
At midnight fireworks covered the concert hall and I, as well as the rest of [the] spectators, felt excitement and delight.

delightful  /dɪˈlaɪt.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: delight
Adjectives: delighted, delightful

ADJECTIVE
[B2] very pleasant, attractive, or enjoyable

Dictionary example:
We had a delightful evening.

Learner example:
A table was laid with a lot of delightful food and a beautiful cake was in the centre of it.

deliver  /dɪˈlɪv.ər/

Word family:
Nouns: delivery
Verbs: deliver
VERB

deliver a speech/talk, etc.
[B2] to speak formally to a group of people

Dictionary example:
The priest delivered a passionate speech against war.

Learner example:
Then, he delivered a speech to the public.

PROMISE

[C1] [I or T] to achieve or do something that you have promised to do, or that people expect you to do

Dictionary example:
The company failed to deliver the high-quality service that we expect.

Learner example:
I can also help as a team-leader to help others to deliver the right services.

demand /dɪˈmɑːnd/

Word family:
Nouns: demand
Verbs: demand
Adjectives: demanding

VERB [T]

NEED

[B2] to need something such as time or effort

Dictionary example:
This job demands a high level of concentration.

Learner example:
I would say that driving a car demands a lot of responsibility.

NOUN

NEED

[B2] [u] a need for something to be sold or supplied

Dictionary example:
There was little demand for tickets.

Learner example:
I believe we [have] to stop the demand for ivory!
in demand
[C1] wanted or needed in large numbers

Dictionary example:
Good teachers are always in demand.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, people will always use cars and vehicles, so petrol will always be in demand.

demanding /draːn.dɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: demand
Verbs: demand
Adjectives: demanding

ADJECTIVE
[B2] needing a lot of time, attention or energy

Dictionary examples:
She's a very demanding child.
a demanding job

Learner example:
Although the job was demanding I enjoyed it.

democracy /drəˈmɒk.rə.si/

Word family:
Nouns: democracy
Adjectives: democratic

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] a system of government in which people elect their leaders, or a country with this system

Dictionary example:
The early 1990s saw the spread of democracy in Eastern Europe.

Learner example:
From then on it represented democracy and freedom until Hitler took over power in January 1933.
**democratic /ˌdem.əˈkræt.ɪk/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** democracy
- **Adjectives:** democratic

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] based on the principles of democracy

**Dictionary example:**
We must accept the results of a democratic election.

**Learner example:**
If we regard ourselves as modern people, we must be democratic enough to release them.

**demolish /dɪˈmɒl.ɪʃ/**

**VERB [T]**

**DESTROY**

[B2] to completely destroy a building, especially in order to use the land for something else

**Dictionary example:**
A number of houses were demolished so that the supermarket could be built.

**Learner example:**
The building was demolished, and so was the dream of a house of the[ir] own.

**PROVE WRONG**

[C2] to show that an idea or argument is wrong

**Dictionary example:**
He completely demolished my argument.

**demonstrate /ˈdem.ən.streɪt/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** demonstration
- **Verbs:** demonstrate

**VERB**

**PROVE**

[B2] [T] to show or prove that something exists or is true
Dictionary examples:
These problems demonstrate the importance of strategic planning.
These figures clearly demonstrate the size of the economic problem facing the country.
Research has demonstrated that babies can recognize their mother’s voice very soon after birth.

Learner example:
The results were amazing, the group man[a]ged to demonstrate that the learning capacity increased a lot with respect to traditional methods.

MARCH
[B2] [ɪ] to march or stand with a group of people to show that you disagree with or support someone or something

Dictionary example:
Thousands of people gathered to demonstrate against the new proposals for universities.

Learner example:
Maybe the RSPCA should demonstrate, to show that it’s not [accept]able. We have to stand up for their rights! Yesterday I heard that animal rights activists have met the prime minister.

SHOW HOW
[C1] [ʌ] to show something and explain how it works

Dictionary examples:
The teacher demonstrated how to use the equipment.
He’s got a job demonstrating kitchen equipment in a department store.

Learner example:
I could demonstrate to people how to create compost pits and use kitchen waste to generate compost for their gardens.

EXPRESS
[C2] [ɪ] to express or show that you have a feeling, quality, or ability

Dictionary example:
He has demonstrated a genuine interest in the project.

Learner example:
As a result, he does not allow himself to demonstrate any emotion apart from anger.

demonstration ˈdemənˈstreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: demonstration
Verbs: demonstrate
NOUN

MARCH
[B2] [c] when a group of people march or stand together to show that they disagree with or support something or someone

Dictionary examples:
The students are holding a demonstration to protest against the increase in their fees.
Protesters staged an anti-war demonstration in front of the US embassy.

Learner example:
There were many demonstrations and violence.

SHOWING
[C1] [c or u] showing how to do something, or how something works

Dictionary examples:
Let me give you a demonstration of how the camera works.
a cooking demonstration

Learner example:
Some of our workers will give you a demonstration on how they produce, step by step, some of the world's best-known rings and necklaces.

PROOF
[C1] [c or u] proof that something exists or is true

Dictionary example:
This disaster is a clear demonstration of the need for tighter controls.

Learner example:
Most women are now allowed to wear trousers and this is a demonstration of the change of women's role in society throughout the years.

denial /dɪˈnæɪ.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: denial
Verbs: deny
Adjectives: undeniable
Adverbs: undeniably

NOUN [c or u]
[C2] when you say that something is not true

Dictionary example:
a denial of his guilt
Learner example:
Although everyone past forty claims to be rel[i]eved not to be twenty anymore, most of them miss the excitement of the days when everything was less serious, when fun was [a] top priority and responsibilities lost somewhere close to denial.

denim /ˈden.im/

NOUN [u]
[B2] thick, strong, cotton cloth, often blue in colour, used especially for making jeans

Dictionary example:
a denim jacket and jeans

Learner example:
If you have time to go shopping you could buy me a pair of blue denim jeans (size 30).

dense /dents/

Word family:
Nouns: density
Adjectives: dense
Adverbs: densely

ADJECTIVE
[B2] thick and difficult to see through

Dictionary examples:
dense fog
a dense forest

Learner example:
"Don’t [be afraid] and don’t run" shouted someone from the dense forest.

densely /ˈdent.sli/

Word family:
Nouns: density
Adjectives: dense
Adverbs: densely

ADVERB
[B2] with a lot of things close together
Dictionary examples:
England was once a densely wooded country.
Mexico City is one of the most densely populated cities in the world.

Learner example:
It's densely populated and with that the ugliness [of] densely populated places follows.

density  /ˈden.sə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: density
Adjectives: dense
Adverbs: densely

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] the number of people or things in a place when compared with the size of the place

Dictionary example:
The area has a high population density.

Learner example:
However, the factors of population density and transport systems in some regions must not be ignored during this analysis.

dental  /ˈden.təl/

Word family:
Nouns: dentist
Adjectives: dental

ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to the teeth

Dictionary example:
dental treatment

Learner example:
In Kingsthorp you have lots of GPs and dental surger[ie]s.
deny /dɪˈnɛɪ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: denial  
Verbs: deny  
Adjectives: undeniable  
Adverbs: undeniably  

VERB [T]  

NOT TRUE  
[B2] to say that something is not true  

Dictionary examples:  
Neil denies that he broke the window, but I'm sure he did.  
Neil denies breaking the window.  

Learner example:  
We cannot deny that technology has changed our lives.  

REFUSE  
[B2] to not allow someone to have or do something  

Dictionary examples:  
Her request for time off work was denied.  
No one should be denied a good education.  
The goalkeeper denied him his third goal.  
I was denied the opportunity of learning French at school.  

Learner example:  
Should wild animals be kept in cages, and denied their freedom so that we can have the pleasure of watching them at zoos?  

deodorant /diˈəʊ.dərənt/  

NOUN [C or U]  
[C1] a substance that you put on your body to prevent or hide unpleasant smells  

Dictionary example:  
I always use deodorant.  

Learner example:  
On the other hand, men require regular supplies of shaving lotions, shampoo, deodorant, and many more [things] too.  

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depend /dɪˈpend/

Word family:
Nouns: independence, dependence
Verbs: depend
Adjectives: dependent, independent
Adverbs: independently

VERB

depend on/upon sb/sth PHRASAL VERB

NEED
[B2] to need the help and support of someone or something in order to exist or continue as before

Dictionary examples:
She depends on her son for everything.
The country depends heavily on foreign aid.

Learner example:
I don't want to depend on my parents any more.

RELY
[B2] to trust someone or something and know that they will help you or do what you want or expect them to do

Dictionary examples:
You can always depend on Michael in a crisis.
I'm depending on you to keep your promise.
You can't always depend on the trains arriving on time.

Learner example:
I hope you'll let me join your foundation because I could be a member you can depend on.

dependence /dɪˈpen.dəns/

Word family:
Nouns: independence, dependence
Verbs: depend
Adjectives: dependent, independent
Adverbs: independently

NOUN [u]
[C2] when you need someone or something all the time in order to exist or continue
Dictionary example:
Our society needs to reduce its dependence on the car.

Learner example:
The dependence on oil is a menace because oil reserves will disappear and because at this time we have no other invention to replace it.

dependent /dɪˈpen.dənt/

Word family:
Nouns: independence, dependence
Verbs: depend
Adjectives: dependent, independent
Adverbs: independently

ADJECTIVE
NEEDING SUPPORT
[B2] needing the support of something or someone in order to continue existing or operating

Dictionary examples:
He has three dependent children.
It’s very easy to become dependent on sleeping pills.

Learner example:
If I went to school by car I would be dependent on my father.

dependent on/upon sth
[C1] influenced by or decided by something

Dictionary example:
The amount of tax you pay is dependent on how much you earn.

Learner example:
The benefits for a traveller will be dependent upon the purpose for which someone travels.

depict /dɪˈprɪkt/

VERB [T]
[C2] to represent someone or something in a picture or story

Dictionary example:
The cartoon depicts the president as a vampire.

Learner example:
A picture depicts an image that allows us different feelings, depending on the moment and the sensations we experienced while the picture was shot.
**deposit** /dɪˈpɒ.zɪt/

**NOUN [C]**

**BANK**
[C1] an amount of money that you pay into a bank

**Dictionary example:**
to **make** a deposit

**Learner example:**
Now, you can [make a] deposit, have a record of your expenses, transfer funds from one account to another and even pay your credit card.

**RENT**
[C1] an amount of money that you pay when you rent something, and that is given back to you when you return it without any damage

**Dictionary example:**
Did you get your deposit back?

**Learner example:**
I told the estate agent I was interested, paid my deposit and moved in within a week.

**SUBSTANCE**
[C2] a layer of a substance that has developed from a natural or chemical process

**Dictionary example:**
deposits of iron ore

**Learner example:**
When these foods are taken in excess quantities, the digestive system converts the bits that are useful to the body and the rest are stored as fat deposits in different parts of the body.

**VERB [T]**
[C1] to put money into a bank or valuable things into a safe place

**Dictionary example:**
She deposited $150,000 in a Swiss bank account.

**Learner example:**
Now, you can deposit [money], have a record of your expenses, transfer funds from one account to another and even pay your credit card.

**depressed** /dɪˈprest/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** depression

**Adjectives:** depressed, depressing
ADJECTIVE

ECONOMY
[C2] A depressed country, area, or economy does not have enough jobs or business activity.

Dictionary example:
an economically depressed area

Learner example:
Our area is getting closer to a depressed area rather than a peaceful and nice one.

depressing /dɪˈpres.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: depression
Adjectives: depressed, depressing

ADJECTIVE
[B2] making you feel unhappy and without hope for the future

Dictionary examples:
I find this weather so depressing.
Her letter made depressing reading.
It was very depressing watching the news on television tonight.
It's depressing to think that we've got five more years of this government!

Learner example:
It was really depressing, seeing people drinking and having fun [when] I just had to work.

depression /dɪˈpreʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: depression
Adjectives: depressed, depressing

NOUN [C or U]

UNHAPPINESS
[B2] when you feel very unhappy, or a mental illness that makes you feel very unhappy and anxious for long periods

Dictionary example:
If you suffer from depression, it's best to get professional help.

Learner example:
My mum always worried about my sister because of her shyness and depression.
ECONOMY

[C2] a time when there is not much business activity

Dictionary example:
The stock market crash marked the start of a severe depression.

Learner example:
We are just coming out of a financial depression, and companies have had to lay off thousands of people.

deprivation /ˌdep.rɪˈveɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: deprivation
Verbs: deprive
Adjectives: deprived

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] the state of not having enough of something

Dictionary example:
sleep deprivation

Learner example:
Often it has been seen that children suffering from extreme deprivation in their childhood can become deviant as they grow up.

deprive /drˈpraɪv/  

Word family:
Nouns: deprivation
Verbs: deprive
Adjectives: deprived

VERB [T]
[B2] to take something, especially something necessary or pleasant, away from someone

Dictionary examples:
He claimed that he had been deprived of his freedom/rights.
You can't function properly when you're deprived of sleep.

Learner example:
We shouldn't deprive our music fans of this wonderful event, that can only enrich our city's cultural life.
**deprived** /dɪˈpraɪvd/

**Word family:**
*Nouns:* deprivation  
*Verbs:* deprive  
*Adjectives:* deprived

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] not having enough food, money, and the things that you need to have a normal life

**Dictionary example:**
children from deprived backgrounds

**Learner example:**
It is true that possibly, because of a deprived childhood in which every purchase had to be considered carefully, a person learns to manage his finances.

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**depth** /depθ/

**Word family:**
*Nouns:* depth  
*Verbs:* deepen  
*Adjectives:* deep  
*Adverbs:* deeply

**NOUN**

**SERIOUSNESS**
[B2] [c or u] when you have serious qualities or the ability to think seriously about something

**Dictionary examples:**
Terry lacks depth – he's a very superficial person.
Her writing shows astonishing depth.
Jo has hidden depths.

**Learner example:**
I think that the main reason why someone has to read this book twice is the strength and depth of the two main characters: Donald Woods and Steve Biko.

**in depth**
[B2] in a very detailed way

**Dictionary example:**
With access to the Internet, students can do their homework in greater depth.

**Learner example:**
I would love to learn English in more depth during the summer.
**AMOUNT**

[C2] [u] how much someone knows or feels about something

**Dictionary example:**
She was amazed at the depth of his knowledge.

**Learner example:**
More and more people seem to take refuge in the depth of his philosophy now.

**out of your depth**

[C2] not having the knowledge, experience, or skills to deal with a particular subject or situation

**Dictionary example:**
When they start talking about philosophy, I'm completely out of my depth.

**Learner example:**
It was my first day of school. What I can remember is that I really felt out of my depth: my parents were so happy that I couldn't succeed in telling them that I was terribly frightened and that [the only] thing that I wanted was my doll.

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**deputy** /ˈdep.jə.ti/

**NOUN [C]**

[C1] someone who has the second most important job in an organization

**Dictionary example:**
the deputy Prime Minister

**Learner example:**
If you would like to have [a] teacher on your side, for general questions, I would propose our deputy principal Mr Brown.

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**derive** /dɪˈraɪv/

**VERB**

**derive comfort/pleasure, etc. from sth**

[C2] to get a positive feeling or advantage from someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
I derive great pleasure from gardening.

**Learner example:**
Last but not least, it is a fact that people derive pleasure from being in a position to have the things they desire and can afford to buy.
descend /dɪˈsend/  

Word family:
Nouns: descendant
Verbs: descend

VERB [I or T] FORMAL
[B2] to go or come down

Dictionary examples:
The path descended steeply into the valley.
Jane descended the stairs.

Learner example:
Paul slowly descended to the river and sat down on the grassy bank.

descendant /dɪˈsend.ənt/  

Word family:
Nouns: descendant
Verbs: descend

NOUN [C]
[C2] someone who is related to someone who lived a long time ago

Dictionary example:
She is a descendant of Queen Victoria.

Learner example:
Someone born poor in the country will never have a chance to heighten his social status, and generations later, his descendants will be poor as well.

deserted /dɪˈzɜː.tid/  

ADJECTIVE
[C1] If a place is deserted, it has no people in it.

Dictionary example:
a deserted street

Learner example:
Too often have I seen deserted city centres caused by loss of trade, centres subject to graffiti, dirt and vandalism.
design /dɪˈzaɪn/

Word family:
Nouns: design, designer
Verbs: design

NOUN

DRAWING
[C1] [c] a drawing which shows how an object, machine, or building will be made

Dictionary example:
Engineers are working on the new designs.

Learner example:
To finish some of your designs on time you could take them home and continue them there or you could work for longer in your office.

VERB

be designed for/to do sth
[B2] to have been planned or done for a particular purpose

Dictionary examples:
This dictionary is designed for advanced learners of English.
These measures are designed to reduce pollution.

Learner example:
The end-of-conference party is designed to give rough ideas about many different cultures.

designer /dɪˈzaɪ.nər/

Word family:
Nouns: design, designer
Verbs: design

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] made by a famous or fashionable designer

Dictionary examples:
designer jeans/sunglasses
I can’t afford designer labels/designer label clothes.

Learner example:
People like designer clothes like Armani, Chanel [and] so on.
desirable /dɪˈzaɪərə.bl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: desire  
Verbs: desire  
Adjectives: desirable, desired, undesirable  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] worth having and wanted by most people  

Dictionary examples:  
Reducing class sizes in schools is a desirable aim.  
It’s regarded as a highly desirable job.  
The house is in a very desirable area of the city.  

Learner example:  
It is desirable that they include showers, although a bath tub would be nice, too.  

desire /dɪˈzaɪər/  

Word family:  
Nouns: desire  
Verbs: desire  
Adjectives: desirable, desired, undesirable  

NOUN [C or U]  
[B2] a strong feeling that you want something  

Dictionary examples:  
I certainly have no desire to have children.  
There is a strong desire for peace among the people.  
She had a strong desire to go back to her home country before she died.  
Several people have expressed a desire to see the report.  

Learner example:  
I had such a desire to go to the disco that I decided to go even without [my] parents' permission.  

VERB [T] FORMAL  
[C1] to want something  

Dictionary example:  
You can have whatever you desire.  

Learner example:  
Indeed, the location of this hotel will allow all of us to do whatever we desire.
desired /dɪˈzaɪəd/

Word family:
Nouns: desire
Verbs: desire
Adjectives: desirable, desired, undesirable

ADJECTIVE

the desired effect/result/shape, etc.
[C2] the effect/result/shape, etc. that is wanted

Dictionary example:
Her medicine seems to have had the desired effect.

Learner example:
The sentence had had the desired effect of calming down the clients.

desktop /ˈdesk.tɒp/

NOUN [c]

COMPUTER SCREEN
[B2] a computer screen that contains icons that represent files, programs and other features of the computer

Dictionary example:
The menu bar with its windows is one of the features of the desktop.

COMPUTER
[B2] (also desktop computer) a computer that is small enough to fit on a desk

Dictionary example:
I can download from my desktop to my mobile phone.

Learner example:
The computer I bought is a beautiful, new, white desktop.

despair /dɪˈspeə/

Word family:
Nouns: despair, desperation
Adjectives: desperate
Adverbs: desperately

NOUN [u]
[B2] a feeling of having no hope
Dictionary examples:
a mood/sense of despair
They're the depths of despair over/about the money they've lost.

Learner example:
Almost in despair, I came out of the bathroom and tried my best to look for a candle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>desperate</th>
<th>/ˈdes.pərət/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Word family:
Nouns: despair, desperation
Adjectives: desperate
Adverbs: desperately

ADJECTIVE

WITHOUT HOPE
[B2] extremely worried or frightened and ready to do anything to change the bad situation you are in

Dictionary examples:
The doctors made one last desperate attempt/effort to save the boy's life.
They made a desperate appeal for help.

Learner example:
I was almost desperate, trying to think about any possible solution to my problem, but the more I thought, the bigger was my problem, because hours went by.

NEEDING
[B2] needing or wanting something very much

Dictionary examples:
They are desperate for help.
He was desperate to tell someone his good news.

Learner example:
She was 19 and in desperate need of a boyfriend.

SERIOUS
[C2] A desperate situation is very serious or bad.

Dictionary example:
The economy is in a really desperate situation.

Learner example:
In desperate situations one may even think that our only task in this world is to face and try to overcome everyday problems.
**desperately /ˈdes.pəˌrət.əli/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** despair, desperation

**Adjectives:** desperate

**Adverbs:** desperately

**ADVERB**

**SERIOUSLY**

[B2] extremely or very much

**Dictionary examples:**
- He was desperately ill.
- I'm not desperately keen on football.
- He was desperately in love with her.
- They desperately wanted a child.

**Learner example:**
- I desperately need a bicycle as a bicycle competition is going to take place in our city.

**TRYING EVERYTHING**

[B2] in a way that shows you are frightened and ready to try anything to change a situation

**Dictionary example:**
- They fought desperately for their lives.

**Learner example:**
- He desperately tried to keep the stalking sharks at bay, but he couldn't succeed.

**desperation /ˌdes.pəˈreiʃən/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** despair, desperation

**Adjectives:** desperate

**Adverbs:** desperately

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the state of being desperate

**Dictionary example:**
- I was overcome by a sense of desperation.

**Learner example:**
- Many are driven to desperation and turn to stealing to survive.
despite /drˈspart/

PREPOSITION

despite the fact that
[B2] used to refer to a situation which is surprising in relation to something that is true or happens

Dictionary example:
The company has been forced to reduce its price, despite the fact that the offer has been very popular.

Learner example:
The advantages of the kind of life that people ha[d] years ago is that they could eat more fruit and vegetables than us. However, there are advantages for us too, because despite the fact that we eat more fast food, we do more exercise than they [did].

destiny /ˈdes.tɪn.i/

NOUN

FUTURE
[C1] [c] the things that will happen to someone in the future

Dictionary example:
At last she feels in control of her own destiny.

Learner example:
It was our parents' destiny, it is our destiny and is going to be our children's destiny, too.

POWER
[C1] [u] a power that some people believe controls what will happen in the future

Dictionary example:
Nick said it was destiny that we met.

Learner example:
If anybody ever asked me if I believed in destiny, I would hesitate.

destruction /drˈstrAk.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: destruction
Verbs: destroy
NOUN [u]
[B2] when something is destroyed

Dictionary examples:
Many people are very concerned about the destruction of the rainforests.
Unusually high winds left a trail of destruction over southern Britain.
Weapons of mass destruction

Learner example:
With the ongoing industrialisation and, for example, the destruction of the rainforest, men have taken or destroyed the natural places of several hundred species all over the world.

detached /dɪˈtætʃt/

ADJECTIVE

BUILDING
[C1] a detached building is one that is not joined to another building

Dictionary example:
They have a detached 5-bedroom house in Surrey.

Learner example:
I live in a detached house in the countryside with my two friends, who are married.

NOT EMOTIONAL
[C2] If someone is detached, they do not feel involved with someone or emotional about something.

Dictionary example:
As a nurse, I see some very distressing things, but I try to stay detached.

Learner example:
Whereas Olivia was very much attracted by and interested in India’s mysteries, Douglas had a much more detached view of India.

detail /ˈdiː.tiːl/

Word family:
Nouns: detail
Adjectives: detailed

NOUN

go into detail/s
[B2] to tell or include all the facts about something
Dictionary examples:
I won't go into detail over the phone, but I've been having a few health problems recently. The longer document goes into more detail about the experiments.

Learner example:
In one of his books he really goes into detail [about] how children treat other children [who] have difficulties with their "new" [language].

**detailed** /ˈdiː.təld/

Word family:
**Nouns:** detail
**Adjectives:** detailed

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] giving a lot of information

Dictionary example:
A witness gave a detailed description of the man.

Learner example:
We ran until we arrived at the police station where we gave a detailed description of that man and what had happened.

**detect** /dɪˈtekt/

Word family:
**Nouns:** detective
**Verbs:** detect

**VERB [T]**
[C1] to discover or notice something, especially something that is difficult to see, hear, smell, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Some sounds cannot be detected by the human ear. This special camera can detect bodies by their heat.

Learner example:
The kind of contamination that can be detected and observed most easily is the air pollution.

**deteriorate** /dɪˈtrɪ.ə.rɪ.oʊ.rɪt/

**VERB [I]**
[C1] to become worse
**Dictionary example:**
Her condition deteriorated rapidly.

**Learner example:**
Otherwise, the situation will deteriorate more and more.

### determination /dɪˌtɜː.mɪˈneɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** determination
- **Verbs:** determine
- **Adjectives:** determined

#### NOUN [U]

[B2] when someone continues trying to do something, although it is very difficult

**Dictionary example:**
Andy Murray will need great determination and skill to win this match.

**Learner example:**
Mandela tried to better the political situation of South Africa [-] he was strong enough to fight, he had determination.

### determine /diˈtɜː.mɪn/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** determination
- **Verbs:** determine
- **Adjectives:** determined

#### VERB [T]

- **FIND**
  
  [C1] to discover the facts or truth about something

  **Dictionary examples:**
  The doctors are still unable to determine what is wrong. You can use a simple test to determine whether the paint contains lead.

  **Learner example:**
  Our feelings about the issue led our class to direct a survey among local residents in Fordham, in order to determine statistically how often the latter use Greendale Park.

- **DECIDE**
  
  [C1] to decide what will happen
Dictionary examples:
Her exam results will determine which university she goes to.
The army's response was determined by a combination of political and social factors.

Learner example:
It considers the reasons for these developments and highlights the trends which will determine the future of the job market.

determined /dɪˈtɜː.mɪnd/

Word family:
Nouns: determination
Verbs: determine
Adjectives: determined

ADJECTIVE
[B2] wanting to do something very much, and not letting anyone stop you

Dictionary examples:
I'm determined to get this piece of work finished today.
She's sure to get the job she wants – she's a very determined person.

Learner example:
I am determined to study computer engineering and pursue my education overseas.

determiner /dɪˈtɜː.mɪ.nər/

NOUN [C] SPECIALIZED
[B2] in grammar, a word which is used before a noun to show which particular example of the noun you are referring to

Dictionary example:
In the phrases 'my first boyfriend' and 'that strange woman', the words 'my' and 'that' are determiners.

deterrent /dɪˈter.ənt/

NOUN [C]
[C2] something that stops people doing something because they are afraid of what will happen if they do

Dictionary example:
They've installed a security camera as a deterrent to thieves.
Learner example:
I also think that the assistance that the state provides acts as a deterrent in the sense that, in
Britain for example, the income support or family credit can actually be higher than what some
people can earn in a week of hard work: so, what is the point of working?

detrimental /ˌdet.rɪˈmen.təl/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] harmful or damaging

Dictionary example:
a detrimental effect

Learner example:
The truth is that the situation in which we now find ourselves due to the industrialisation of
countries has reached crisis point and will probably have a detrimental effect on the environment
in the years to come.

devastated /ˈdev.ə.steɪ.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: devastation
Adjectives: devastated, devastating

ADJECTIVE
[C1] very shocked and upset

Dictionary examples:
She was devastated when her husband died.
They were devastated by the terrible news.

Learner example:
To begin with, everyone was devastated at how long we had to wait at the airport, as the flight to
Dublin was late.

devastating /ˈdev.ə.steɪ.tɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: devastation
Adjectives: devastated, devastating

ADJECTIVE
SHOCKING
[C1] making someone very shocked and upset
Dictionary example:
Despite the devastating news, no one is giving up hope.

Learner example:
It can be really devastating for such a person to experience it.

DESTROYING
[C2] causing a lot of damage or destruction

Dictionary example:
The fire has had a devastating effect on the local wildlife.

Learner example:
We are all aware of the devastating impact that factories have on the environment, not to mention the cars whose numbers multiply day-by-day.

devastation /ˌdev.əˈsteɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: devastation
Adjectives: devastated, devastating

NOUN [u]
[C2] serious damage caused by a violent event

Dictionary example:
The tornado has already left a trail of devastation through four states from Nebraska to Missouri.

Learner example:
As you might know, this is one of the few green areas that has survived the devastation suffered by our town during the past five years.

develop /dɪˈvel.əp/

Word family:
Nouns: development, developer, redevelopment
Verbs: develop, redevelop
Adjectives: developed, developing, underdeveloped, undeveloped

VERB
ILLNESS
[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] If you develop an illness or problem, or if it develops, you start to suffer from it.

Dictionary examples:
The study showed that one in twelve women is likely to develop breast cancer.
She’s developed some very strange habits lately.

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Learner example:
They often developed the same symptoms as can be seen among mentally disturbed human beings.

HAPPEN
[C2] [i] to start to happen or exist

Dictionary example:
Further problems may develop if you do not deal with this now.

Learner example:
But it's not only financial problems which can develop as a result of more people living longer in a society.

developed /dɪˈvel.əpt/

Word family:
Nouns: development, developer, redevelopment
Verbs: develop, redevelop
Adjectives: developed, developing, underdeveloped, undeveloped

ADJECTIVE
[B2] describes a country or region of the world with an advanced level of technology, industry, etc.

Dictionary example:
a developed country/nation

Learner example:
To conclude I would like to say that the govern[ments] of all developed countries wouldn't have been so concerned about [the] so-called "problem 2000" if the computer had not been so important for modern society.

developer /dɪˈvel.ə.pər/

Word family:
Nouns: development, developer, redevelopment
Verbs: develop, redevelop
Adjectives: developed, developing, underdeveloped, undeveloped

NOUN [C]
PRODUCTS
[C1] someone whose job is to create new products, especially computer products such as software
**Dictionary example:**
We mostly use developers based in India.

**Learner example:**
For example, we may have the top website developers in China, but quite often the[ir] skills are [restrict]ed by poor IT infrastructures.

**LAND**

[C2] someone who buys land or buildings to improve them and sell them for more money

**Dictionary example:**
All the land was bought up by developers.

**Learner example:**
In some cities these days, a lot of building developers bought spaces above some shops to either develop [them] as a business or develop them as flats.

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**developing** /dɪˈvel.ə.pɪŋ/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** development, developer, redevelopment

**Verbs:** develop, redevelop

**Adjectives:** developed, developing, underdeveloped, undeveloped

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] describes a country or region of the world which is poor and has few industries

**Dictionary example:**
the developing world/countries/nations

**Learner example:**
Nowadays, both developed and developing countries spend a lot of money on computeriz[ation].

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**development** /dɪˈvel.ə.mənt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** development, developer, redevelopment

**Verbs:** develop, redevelop

**Adjectives:** developed, developing, underdeveloped, undeveloped

**NOUN**

**EVENT**

[B2] [c] something new that happens and changes a situation
Dictionary examples:
an important development in the fuel crisis
Phone me if there are any new developments.

Learner example:
There have been impressive developments in technology lately.

START

[C2] [u] when something starts to happen or exist

Dictionary example:
Smoking encourages the development of cancer.

Learner example:
The aims taken into account in the establishment of the "Health fund" are varied and cover different areas such as the education of the general public on the issues of health itself, [and] the threat posed by the development of cancer and Aids, etc.

device /ˈdɪˈvaɪs/

NOUN [C]

EQUIPMENT

[B2] a piece of equipment that is used for a particular purpose

Dictionary examples:
an electronic device
Rescuers used a special device for finding people trapped in collapsed buildings.

Learner example:
I have much more time for many other things during the day thanks to [the] devices modern technology offers us.

leave someone to their own devices

[C2] to leave someone to do what they want to do

Dictionary example:
With both parents out at work, the kids were often left to their own devices.

Learner example:
The moment teenagers leave school, they are left to their own devices.
devil /ˈdev.əl/  

NOUN [C]  

EVIL BEING  
[B2] an evil being, often represented in human form but with a tail and horns  

Learner example:  
This film is about a devil who meets a priest.  

BADLY–BEHAVED PERSON  
[C2] INFORMAL someone who behaves badly  

Dictionary example:  
He's an absolute devil!  

Learner example:  
It must be with my younger brother, that little devil, Diana thought, so she went to his room and opened every drawer, but she could find nothing.  

devise /dɪˈvaɪz/  

VERB [T]  
[C2] to design or invent something such as a system, plan, or piece of equipment  

Dictionary example:  
She devised a plan to make money.  

Learner example:  
We need to devise an interactive internet language programme by reinforcing our computer facility and replenishing necessary items.  

devote /dɪˈvəʊt/  

Word family:  
Verbs: devote  
Adjectives: devoted  

VERB  

devote sth to sb/sth PHRASAL VERB  

USE TIME  
[B2] to use time, energy, etc. for a particular purpose
Dictionary example:
He resigned from his job to devote more time to his family.

Learner example:
At that time, everyone should have devoted their life to the nation.

USE SPACE
[B2] [OFTEN PASSIVE] to use a space or area for a particular purpose

Dictionary example:
Most of the magazine was devoted to celebrity gossip.

Learner example:
And we have come [up with] the idea of building a drama theatre at our college and a new department for our library devoted to music.

devote yourself to sth PHRASAL VERB
[C1] to spend all your time or energy doing something that you think is important

Dictionary example:
He retired in 1814 to devote himself to social reforms.

Learner example:
Bosses do not like women of such marital status, because there is a threat that they will have not enough time to devote themselves to their professional work.

devoted /dɪˈvəʊ.tɪd/

Word family:
Verbs: devote
Adjectives: devoted

ADJECTIVE
[B2] extremely loving or caring very much about someone or something

Dictionary examples:
a devoted fan/husband/wife
Lucy is devoted to her cats.

Learner example:
I am devoted to reading and I can say this book is wonderful.

diagnose /ˈdaɪ.əɡ.nəʊz/

Word family:
Nouns: diagnosis
Verbs: diagnose
VERB [r]  
[C2] to say what is wrong with someone who is ill

Dictionary example:
She was diagnosed with/as having cancer last year.

Learner example:
I wasn't prepared at all when my parents sat me down to tell me that my mother had been diagnosed with cancer.

diagnosis /ˌdaɪ.əˈgəˌnəsɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: diagnosis
Verbs: diagnose

NOUN [c or u] (diagnoses)  
[C2] when a doctor says what is wrong with someone who is ill

Dictionary example:
What's the diagnosis?

Learner example:
Lung cancer was the diagnosis.

dialect /ˈdaɪ.ə.lekt/

NOUN [c or u]
[C2] a form of a language that people speak in a particular part of a country

Dictionary example:
They're speaking a local dialect.

Learner example:
Mrs Haefele, the owner and cook of this inn, serves the meals personally and if you are lucky, you [may] understand a bit of her Swabian dialect.

dialogue /ˈdaɪ.ə.ˌlɒg/

NOUN [c or u]
IN BOOK, ETC.
[B2] (a) conversation which is written for a book, play or film
**Dictionary examples:**
The play contained some very funny dialogue.
Act Two begins with a short dialogue between father and son.

**Learner example:**
However, she shows her courage during her first dialogue with Joss.

**DISCUSSION**

[C2] a formal discussion between countries or groups of people

**Dictionary example:**
We need to enter into a dialogue with these people.

**Learner example:**
The way I see it, history has proven that authority without dialogue leads to rebellion, and I do not see rebellion as a way to improvement, but as a symbol of failure.

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**diamond /ˈdaɪə.mənd/**

**NOUN**

**STONE**

[B2] [c or u] an extremely hard valuable stone which is used in jewellery, and in industry for cutting hard things

**Dictionary examples:**
a diamond ring/necklace
He had worked in the diamond mines of South Africa.

**Learner example:**
She found a gorgeous diamond ring on her finger.

**SHAPE**

[B2] [c] a shape with four straight sides of equal length, forming two opposite angles which are wide and two which are narrow

**Dictionary example:**
Joe's socks had diamond patterns on them.

---

**diarrhoea /ˌdaɪəˈrɪə/**

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] an illness in which your solid waste is more liquid than usual, and comes out of your body more often
**Dictionary example:**
She has got diarrhoea.

**Learner example:**
He is completely different from Ralph; he is fat, has asthma, diarrhoea, and suffers from acute shortsight[ed]ness.

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**dice  /dæs/**

**Noun [C]** *(dice)*

[C2] a small object with six equal square sides, each with between one and six spots on it, used in games

**Dictionary example:**
Roll the dice to see who starts the game.

**Learner example:**
The dice were rolling and my luck was in.

**Verb [T]**

[C2] to cut food into small, square pieces

**Dictionary example:**
diced onions

**Learner example:**
There are trays of cut lettuce, leaf lettuce, cut tomato, diced tomato, all kinds of relishes, cheese with bacon spread, barbecue, or whatever you like.

---

**dictate  /dɪkˈteɪt/**

**Verb**

[C1] to decide or control what happens

**Dictionary example:**
The weather will dictate where we hold the party.

**Learner example:**
Since the dawn of time people of all religions have considered that there is a higher power that dictates their destiny.
die /dai/

VERB [I] (dying, died, died)

die down PHRASAL VERB
[C2] If something, especially noise or excitement, dies down, it gradually becomes less loud or strong until it stops.

Dictionary example:
She waited for the laughter to die down before she spoke.

Learner example:
Even the best materials wouldn't be able to avoid the deafening noise which does not ever die down.

die out PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to become more and more rare and then disappear completely

Dictionary example:
Dinosaurs died out about 65 million years ago.

Learner example:
A second point is that [a] lot of animals are going to die out because of pollution.

diesel /ˈdiː.zəl/

NOUN [U]
[C1] fuel used in the engines of some vehicles, especially buses and trucks

Dictionary example:
We need to stop for some diesel.

Learner example:
Secondly, if the price of petrol is increased, people will buy cars that run on diesel.

differ /ˈdif.o/ 

Word family:
Nouns: difference, indifference
Verbs: differ, differentiate
Adjectives: different, indifferent
Adverbs: differently

VERB [I]
[B2] to be not like something or someone else, either physically or in another way
Dictionary examples:
The twins look alike, but they differ in personality.
His views differ considerably from those of his parents.
The findings of the various studies differ greatly/widely.

Learner example:
People's opinions on this matter differ widely.

difference /ˈdɪf.ər.ənts/

Word family:
Nouns: difference, indifference
Verbs: differ, differentiate
Adjectives: different, indifferent
Adverbs: differently

NOUN

make a (big) difference
[B2] to improve a situation (a lot)

Dictionary example:
Exercise can make a big difference to your health.

Learner example:
It wouldn't make a big difference in my life, but it would be good.

make no difference/not make any difference
[B2] to not be important or change a situation

Dictionary examples:
You can ask him again if you like, but it won't make any difference – he'll still say no.
It makes no difference where you put the aerial, the TV picture's still bad.

Learner example:
Does it make any difference, some might ask?

tell the difference
[C1] to notice a difference between two things

Dictionary example:
I can't tell the difference between an American and a Canadian accent.

Learner example:
Not only will their critical sense atrophy but also they will not be able to tell the difference between what is right and wrong.

DISAGREEMENT
[C2] [c] a disagreement or different opinion
**Dictionary example:**
They must try to resolve their differences peacefully.

**Learner example:**
Caroline and her husband had had an argument last week, but as he was going to be away for a few days, they had finally settled their differences.

differentiate  /ˌdɪf.ərˈeɪnti.iət/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** difference, indifference

**Verbs:** differ, differentiate

**Adjectives:** different, indifferent

**Adverbs:** differently

**VERB**

**SEE DIFFERENCE**

[C1] [I or T] to understand or notice how two things or people are different from each other

**Dictionary example:**
He can't differentiate between blue and green.

**Learner example:**
The person would learn how to differentiate his needs from his wants and would value hard work.

**MAKE DIFFERENT**

[C2] [T] to make someone or something different

**Dictionary example:**
We need to differentiate ourselves from the competition.

**Learner example:**
Consumerism is reflected through this need, leading to a non-stop purchasing of products and services which will differentiate us from the mass.

difficult  /ˈdɪf.ɪkəlt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** difficulty

**Adjectives:** difficult

**ADJECTIVE**

**put sb in a difficult position**

[C1] to cause someone to be in a difficult situation
Dictionary example:
When two of your best friends argue it puts you in a very difficult position.

Learner example:
I know that I will put you in a difficult position with my absence but I must leave.

difficulty /ˈdif.ɪ.kəl.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: difficulty
Adjectives: difficult

NOUN

PROBLEM
[B2] [C] something that is not easy to deal with

Dictionary examples:
financial difficulties
to have/experience difficulties
children with learning difficulties

Learner example:
As you know my family has financial difficulties and we can't afford this.

dig /dɪg/

VERB (digging, dug, dug)

dig a hole/tunnel
[B2] to form a hole by moving soil

Dictionary examples:
The tunnel was dug with the aid of heavy machinery.
The dog was digging a hole to hide its bone in.

Learner example:
I was ready to dig a hole and jump into it, because when you are at that age and your best friend's father sees you kissing your boyfriend in the dark, [it is] just the most embarrassing thing which can happen to you.

digest /daɪˈdʒest/
VERB [v]

FOOD
[C1] to change food in your stomach into substances that your body can use

Dictionary example:
I need some time to digest my dinner.

Learner example:
Most families are also trying to eat a bit less meat, because meat is very hard to digest.

INFORMATION
[C1] to think about new information carefully in order to understand it

Dictionary example:
You need to give me time to digest this report.

Learner example:
Also I found the lectures about how to write CVs very useful although if the groups were smaller, it would have made the information easier to digest.

digestion /daɪˈdʒestʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: digestion
Verbs: digest

NOUN [n]
[C1] when your body changes food in your stomach into substances that it can use

Dictionary example:
He has problems with his digestion.

Learner example:
Afterwards, I had some serious digestion problems, and no medical care was available.

dignified /ˈdɪgnɪfaɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: dignity
Adjectives: dignified

ADJECTIVE
[C2] calm, serious, and behaving in a way that makes people respect you

Dictionary example:
a quiet, dignified woman
Learner example:
In the book "The remains of the day" we get to know the very dignified butler, Stevens, and his relationship with Miss Kenton.

**dignity /ˈdɪgnə.ti/**

Word family:
Nouns: dignity
Adjectives: dignified

NOUN [u]

[C2] calm and serious behaviour that makes people respect you

Dictionary example:
He behaved with great dignity and courage.

Learner example:
This includes a feeling of self satisfaction, happiness, honour, respect and dignity.

beneath your dignity

[C2] If it is beneath your dignity to do something, you think you are too important or from too high a class to do it.

Dictionary example:
She felt that it was beneath her dignity to wear a name badge.

Learner example:
He thought it was beneath his dignity to talk about his master’s decisions and ideas.

dilemma /dəɪˈlem.o/  

NOUN [c]

[B2] a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two different things you could do

Dictionary examples:
The President is clearly in a dilemma about/over how to tackle the crisis. She faces the dilemma of disobeying her father or losing the man she loves. a moral/ethical dilemma

Learner example:
Actually I think it's a typical female dilemma: we try to do many things by ourselves and at the same time!
**dim /dim/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT BRIGHT**

[C2] not bright or clear

**Dictionary example:**
He could hardly see her in the dim light.

**Learner example:**
As well as such drawbacks, the lighting is too dim to browse around and some light tubes are permanently off.

**a dim memory/recollection, etc.**

[C2] when you can remember something slightly, but not very well

**Dictionary example:**
I have a dim memory of meeting her at a party.

**Learner example:**
I really regret having lost it for now I have only dim recollections of my past.

**VERB [I or T] (−mm−)**

[C2] to become less bright, or to make something become less bright

**Dictionary example:**
He dimmed the lights and turned up the music.

**Learner example:**
The light was carefully dimmed by the waiter as they order[ed] their food: they both chose their special enchiladas.

**dimension /ˌdərˈmen.ʧən/**

**NOUN [C]**

**ASPECT**

[B2] a particular part of a situation, especially something that affects how you think or feel

**Dictionary example:**
Music has added a new dimension to my life.

**Learner example:**
I had never felt this way before, it was like being part of another life, another dimension!

**MEASUREMENT**

[B2] a measurement of the length, width, or height of something
Dictionary example:
The dimensions of the photo should be no larger than 30cm by 20cm.

Learner example:
Also I [want to] take a big mirror, the dimensions are 0.70 x 1.20 m.

diminish /dɪˈmɪn.ɪʃ/  
VERB [I or T]  
[C1] to become less, or to make something become less  

Dictionary example:  
Your pain should diminish gradually after taking these tablets.  

Learner example:  
As one student I’ve asked said, if we manage to keep cars out of town, air pollution will considerably diminish.

dip /dɪp/  
VERB (-pp-)  

PUT INTO LIQUID  
[B2] [ɪ] to put something into a liquid for a short time  

Dictionary examples:  
Dip the fish in the batter, then drop it into the hot oil.  
She dipped her toe into the pool to see how cold it was.  

Learner example:  
I recommend little sandwiches, chips and other things to dip [into sauces].

BECOME LOWER  
[B2] [ɪ] to become lower in level or amount  

Dictionary example:  
The number of students taking sciences has dipped sharply.  

Learner example:  
Cinema attendance in th[is] age group dipped to 88%.
diplomacy  /dɪˈpləʊ.mə.si/  

Word family:
Nouns: diplomat, diplomacy
Adjectives: diplomatic
Adverbs: diplomatically

NOUN [U]

COUNTRIES
[C2] dealing with the relationships between governments

Dictionary example:
international diplomacy

Learner example:
I studied International Relations and Diplomacy.

PEOPLE
[C2] skill in dealing with people well and not upsetting them

Dictionary example:
She showed great tact and diplomacy in the meeting.

Learner example:
And if a dispute arise, he managed to solve it with great diplomacy and with the result that nobody in the end felt offended.

diplomat  /ˈdɪplə.mæt/  

Word family:
Nouns: diplomat, diplomacy
Adjectives: diplomatic
Adverbs: diplomatically

NOUN [C]
[B2] an official whose job is to represent one country in another, and who usually works in an embassy

Dictionary example:
a Spanish/British diplomat

Learner example:
The owner of the restaurant was a diplomat, and he invited the refugees to eat at the restaurant.
**diplomatic** /ˌdɪp.ləˈmæt.ɪk/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** diplomat, diplomacy

**Adjectives:** diplomatic

**Adverbs:** diplomatically

---

**ADJECTIVE**

**GOVERNMENTS**

[C1] relating to diplomacy or diplomats

**Dictionary example:**
diplomatic relations

**Learner example:**
The price has been arranged by the Argentine and English Governments, that have now entered diplomatic relations.

**PEOPLE**

[C2] good at dealing with people without upsetting them

**Dictionary example:**
That's a very diplomatic answer.

**Learner example:**
We may have to be diplomatic and tactful, but we also must be honest and firm.

---

**diplomatically** /ˌdɪp.ləˈmæt.rɪ.kli/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** diplomat, diplomacy

**Adjectives:** diplomatic

**Adverbs:** diplomatically

---

**ADVERB**

[C2] in a way that deals well with people without upsetting them

**Dictionary example:**
He phrased his question very diplomatically.

**Learner example:**
Even though this issue is usually settled diplomatically, there still remains a considerable amount of criticism to be faced.
direct /daɪˈrekt/

Word family:
Nouns: direction, directions, director
Verbs: direct
Adjectives: direct, indirect
Adverbs: directly, indirectly

ADJECTIVE

NOTHING BETWEEN
[B2] with no other person or thing involved or between

Dictionary examples:
She decided to take direct control of the project.
Have you any direct experience of this kind of work?
He left as a direct result/consequence of what she said.
There is a direct link/connection between smoking and lung cancer.

Learner example:
I think that there are huge dangers today such as war, violence, crime, pollution, etc. that have a direct influence on our lives.

CLEAR
[C1] saying clearly and honestly what you think

Dictionary example:
a direct answer

Learner example:
He preferred to give me [a] hint rather than a direct answer.

VERB

direct sth against/at/towards, etc. sb/sth
[C1] to aim something at someone or something

Dictionary example:
The demonstrators’ anger was directed at the police.

Learner example:
In these circumstances it is important, however, that alternative options are provided (e.g. efficient and affordable train services) and that economic measures (such as increased prices) are directed at those who really cause the most environmental costs.

ORGANIZE
[C1] [ɪ] to organize and control the way something is done

Dictionary example:
He directed the building of the new art gallery.
Learner example:
Obviously they will work in the commercial department, under the supervision of Lorenzo Soboli, the person who is in charge of directing that section.

direction /dəˈrekʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: direction, directions, director
Verbs: direct
Adjectives: direct, indirect
Adverbs: directly, indirectly

NOUN

in sb's direction
[B2] towards someone

Dictionary example:
She keeps looking in my direction.

Learner example:
I didn't know why she was talking to me but suddenly she walked in my direction and told me: "I need to know your name".

CONTROL
[C1] [u] control or instructions

Dictionary example:
Under his direction the company has doubled its profits.

Learner example:
I am writing to you on behalf of the Social Club of our language school to express some complaints that we had from several students concerning our recent visit to the Science and Technology Museum which is under your direction.

DEVELOPMENT
[C2] [c] the way that someone or something changes or develops

Dictionary example:
Our careers have gone in very different directions.

Learner example:
At school and at home young people are supposed to take responsibility for their actions and choose a direction for their life.
directly /dərˈrek.ti/  

Word family:  
Nouns: direction, directions, director  
Verbs: direct  
Adjectives: direct, indirect  
Adverbs: directly, indirectly  

ADVERB  
CLEARLY  
[B2] clearly and honestly  

Dictionary example:  
Let me answer that question directly.  

Learner example:  
While being interviewed, try to answer the questions directly and look into [the] interviewer's eyes.  

directory /ˈdiˌrekt.i/  

NOUN [C]  
[C1] a book or list of names, numbers, or other facts  

Dictionary example:  
I looked in the telephone directory.  

Learner example:  
If you['d] like to know more, look at the phone book (directory); you'll find 3 or 4 pages about how to phone, how to dial, how to get numbers etc. in English.  

disability /ˌdɪs.əˈbɪl.ə.ti/  

Word family:  
Nouns: ability, disability, inability  
Verbs: enable  
Adjectives: able, disabled, unable  

NOUN [C or U]  
[B2] an illness, injury or condition that makes it difficult for someone to do the things that other people do  

Dictionary examples:  
a physical/learning disability  
Trying to change attitudes to disability is a real struggle.
Learner example:
Such [problems] as cancer, heart attack, [or] mental disability are very likely to bother you in the future.

**disadvantage** /ˌdɪs.ədˈvaːn.tɪdʒ/

Word family:
**Nouns:** advantage, disadvantage
**Adjectives:** disadvantaged

**NOUN [C]**

at a disadvantage
[C2] having problems that other people do not have

Dictionary example:
Being shy puts him at a disadvantage.

Learner example:
There would otherwise be no option for such children who would then be at a disadvantage and possibly engage in destructive behaviour.

**disadvantaged** /ˌdɪs.ədˈvaːn.tɪdʒd/

Word family:
**Nouns:** advantage, disadvantage
**Adjectives:** disadvantaged

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] Disadvantaged people are poor and do not have many opportunities.

Dictionary example:
economically disadvantaged children

Learner example:
Therefore, there are several ways in which these people are becoming more and more disadvantaged.

**disagreement** /ˌdɪs.əˈɡriː.mənt/

Word family:
**Nouns:** agreement, disagreement
**Verbs:** agree, disagree

**NOUN [C or U]**
[B2] when people have a different opinion about something or have an argument
Dictionary examples:
They had a disagreement about/over money.
There was some disagreement with this view.
Literary critics were in total disagreement about the book.

Learner example:
I am writing to express my disagreement with your article "Failure of Festival", as I attended the festival last weekend.

disappear /ˌdiːsəˈpɪər/  

Word family:
Nouns: appearance, disappearance  
Verbs: appear, disappear  

VERB [i]

STOP EXISTING
[B2] to no longer exist  

Dictionary examples:
These flowers are disappearing from our countryside.
This is a way of life that is fast disappearing.

Learner example:
It seems that the decorative role of clothes will have disappeared by the year 2050.

disappearance /ˌdiːsəˈpreɪrənts/  

Word family:
Nouns: appearance, disappearance  
Verbs: appear, disappear  

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] when someone or something disappears

Dictionary example:
A man was being questioned in connection with her disappearance.

Learner example:
After his disappearance lots of people were looking for him and [in] the end they tracked him down!
**disapproval** /ˌdɪs.əˈpruː.vəl/

Word family:
Nouns: approval, disapproval
Verbs: approve, disapprove

NOUN [u]

[C1] when you think that someone or something is bad or wrong

Dictionary example:
I could sense their disapproval.

Learner example:
I am writing to express my disapproval of the deplorable service experienced in your museum.

**disapprove** /ˌdɪs.əˈpruːv/

Word family:
Nouns: approval, disapproval
Verbs: approve, disapprove

VERB [i]

[B2] to feel that something or someone is bad or wrong

Dictionary examples:
The survey showed that 32% of respondents approve, 54% disapprove and the rest are undecided.
I strongly disapprove of under-age drinking.

Learner example:
Since the system has more disadvantages than advantages, I disapprove of [the] "open 24 hours a day, seven days a week" system.

**disaster** /dɪˈzaː.stər/

Word family:
Nouns: disaster
Adjectives: disastrous

NOUN [C or U]

DAMAGE

[B2] something that causes great harm or damage

Dictionary examples:
An inquiry was ordered into the recent rail disaster.
This is one of the worst natural disasters ever to hit the area.
Everything was going smoothly until suddenly disaster struck.
Learner example:
Secondly, we have to save our planet from disaster.

FAILURE
[B2] something that is a failure or has a negative result

Dictionary examples:
His idea was a total disaster.
Inviting James and Ivan to dinner on the same evening was a recipe for disaster – they always argue with each other.

Learner example:
For very shy people who have trouble communicating even in everyday situations it would be a disaster to become famous, watched by curious fans and recognised while walking in the streets.

disastrous /dɪˈzaːs.təs/

Word family:
Nouns: disaster
Adjectives: disastrous

ADJECTIVE
[C1] extremely bad

Dictionary examples:
disastrous consequences
a disastrous week

Learner example:
Let's hope that people involved – politicians and trade union leaders – will be able to sort things out soon in order to put an end to these disastrous conditions.

disc /dɪsk/

NOUN [C]

SHAPE
[B2] a flat, round shape or object

Dictionary example:
The dog had a small, metal disc attached to its collar.

BACK
[C2] a piece of cartilage between the bones in your back

Dictionary example:
a slipped disc
**Learner example:**
As a matter of fact, living off sports is rather precarious, as you cannot predict when, due to a torn ligament or a slipped disc, you will be doomed to sink in[to] oblivion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>discipline  /ˈdɪs.ə.plɪn/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
| **RULES**   | [B2] [u] when people's behaviour is controlled using rules and punishments
| Dictionary examples: | parental/military/school discipline |
|              | There should be better discipline in schools. |
| Learner example: | I don't know if that is because of their age, but whatever it is, I think teachers should change the methods of discipline they use. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SELF CONTROL [C1] [u] when you can control your own behaviour carefully</th>
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<td>Dictionary example:</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>KNOWLEDGE [C2] [c] formal a particular subject of study</th>
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<tr>
<th>disclose /dɪsˈkleʊz/</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VERB</strong> [T] formal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dictionary example:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learner example:
Had not the memory of my friend Sherlock Holmes been spoilt by so many people since his death, in 1917, I would never have disclosed the following events.

discomfort /dɪˈskʌm.fət/

Word family:
Nouns: comfort, discomfort
Verbs: comfort
Adjectives: comfortable, uncomfortable, comforting
Adverbs: comfortably, uncomfortably

NOUN

SITUATION
[C1] [c or u] a physically uncomfortable situation

Dictionary example:
They travelled in great discomfort.

Learner example:
First of all, the coach was not suitable for adults, as we had very little leg room [and] the seat belts were broken, which meant discomfort and insecurity.

PAIN
[C2] [u] slight pain

Dictionary example:
You may feel some discomfort for a few days.

Learner example:
As we live longer, the natural weakening of our bodies causes us increasing discomfort and pain, restricting our abilities.

MENTAL FEELING
[C2] [u] when you feel slightly embarrassed or anxious

Dictionary example:
I could see that the talk of divorce was causing her some discomfort.

Learner example:
A feeling of discomfort is emerging in society, where the homeless feel upset and the rich feel guilty for spending their money on luxurious things.
discontent /ˌdɪskənˈtent/  

Word family:
Nouns: discontent  
Adjectives: content  

NOUN [u]
[C1] unhappiness about a situation  
Dictionary example:  
There is growing discontent with this government.

Learner example:  
You must know that this is a delicate moment for [the] Italian economy, because of the recession and unemployment problems, and the discontent with government policy has pushed many workers to go on strike.

discourage /dɪˈskʌr.i.dʒ/  

Word family:
Nouns: encouragement  
Verbs: discourage, encourage  
Adjectives: encouraging  

VERB [T]
MAKE LESS CONFIDENT
[B2] to make someone less confident or enthusiastic about something  
Dictionary example:  
The thought of how much work she had to do discouraged her.

Learner example:  
It should include the prices of the tickets. If not, it will discourage people.

discourage sb from doing sth
[B2] to try to persuade someone not to do something  
Dictionary example:  
Her parents tried to discourage her from seeing him.

Learner example:  
Yet there are also disadvantage[s] which might discourage you from buying a mobile phone.

PREVENT
[C2] to try to prevent something from happening  
Dictionary example:  
a campaign to discourage smoking
Learner example:
The truth their argument holds is overshadowed by the deteriorating conditions of living in the cities where frequent police patrols or stricter laws don’t seem to discourage thefts.

discovery /dɪˈskʌv.r.i/

Word family:
Nouns: discovery
Verbs: discover

NOUN

FINDING
[B2] [c or u] when someone discovers something

Dictionary examples:
the discovery of electricity
Leonardo made many scientific discoveries.
a journey/voyage of discovery
The discovery of a body in the woods started a murder enquiry.

Learner example:
How will this affect our lifestyles and homes in the future if scientists go on making new discoveries?

THING/PERS
[C1] [c] something or someone that is discovered

Dictionary example:
I’ve made a great discovery!

Learner example:
My second discovery is a more serious one. After thirty years since its premier[e], "Macbeth" sees its first release on video.

discreet /drˈskriː.t/

Word family:
Nouns: discretion
Adjectives: discreet

ADJECTIVE
[C2] careful not to cause embarrassment or attract too much attention

Dictionary example:
Can I trust you to be discreet?
Learner example:
Though he seems to keep an eye on us, he is very discreet and never impinges on our privacy.

discretion  /drˈskrɛʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: discretion
Adjectives: discreet

NOUN [u]
[C2] when someone is careful not to cause embarrassment or attract too much attention, especially by keeping something secret

Dictionary example:
You can rely on my discretion.

Learner example:
Don't you realise that Stevens is the personification of dignity and duty and discretion?

discriminate  /drˈskrɪm.ər.n/  

Word family:
Nouns: discrimination
Verbs: discriminate

VERB [i]
TREAT UNFAIRLY
[C1] to treat someone unfairly because of their sex, race, religion, etc.

Dictionary example:
The company was accused of discriminating against people on the basis of age.

Learner example:
Firstly, the disadvantage of this policy is that it discriminates against the poor.

NOTICE
[C2] to notice a difference between two things

Dictionary example:
Police dogs are very good at discriminating between different smells.

Learner example:
Needless to say, it is essential to discriminate between the freedom of choice the child is given and lack of control on the part of the youngster's parents; the latter, for obvious reasons, should be penalised and avoided at all costs.
**discrimination** /dɪˌskrɪm.ɪˈneɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** discrimination
**Verbs:** discriminate

**NOUN [u]**
[C1] when someone is treated unfairly because of their sex, race, religion, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
racial/sx/sexual discrimination
discrimination against older workers

**Learner example:**
But we must not forget that there is still sexual discrimination when women apply for jobs higher up in [a] hierarchy.

**disgrace** /dɪsˈgreɪs/

**NOUN**

**LOSS OF RESPECT**
[B2] [u] when someone does something very bad that makes people stop respecting them or their family, team, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
They were sent home in disgrace.
He brought disgrace on the whole team.

**Learner example:**
When we came back, it felt like we were sinking in[to] a miserable life, full of disgrace.

**be a disgrace**
[B2] to be very bad

**Dictionary example:**
It's a disgrace that money is being wasted like this.

**Learner example:**
The park is really a disgrace.

**be a disgrace to sb/sth**
[C2] to be so bad or unacceptable that you make people stop respecting a particular group, activity, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
You are a disgrace to your profession.
**Learner example:**
It's a disgrace to mankind!

**disguise /dɪsˈɡaɪz/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] clothes and other things that you wear to change the way you look so that people cannot recognize you

**Dictionary example:**
She usually goes out in disguise to avoid being bothered by the public.

**Learner example:**
There will be a big parade in the first week of the month with people in disguise.

**VERB [T]**

**DIFFERENT APPEARANCE**

[B2] to give a new appearance to a person or thing, especially in order to hide its true form

**Dictionary examples:**
He disguised himself by shaving his head and wearing a false beard.
Minor skin imperfections can usually be disguised with make-up.
We tried to disguise the fact that it was just a school hall by putting up coloured lights and balloons.

**Learner example:**
This writer that we are going to welcome is a brilliant woman, because she had the courage to disguise herself as an [im]migrant to see and to feel how those poor and miserable Turkish [im]migrants live in Germany.

**HIDE**

[C2] to hide something such as a feeling or opinion

**Dictionary example:**
She couldn’t disguise her disappointment.

**Learner example:**
She started as [a] secretary, carefully disguising her talent and energy, just to land the job.

**disgust /dɪsˈɡʌst/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** disgust

**Adjectives:** disgusting, disgusted
NOUN [u]
[C2] a very strong feeling of dislike or disapproval

**Dictionary example:**
She walked out in disgust.

**Learner example:**
But even real game lovers regularly express their disgust about the lack of interest with which many heavily overpaid players hang around on the field during a match.

disgusted  /dɪˈɡʌstɪd/

Word family:
**Nouns:** disgust
**Adjectives:** disgusting, disgusted

ADJECTIVE
[C1] feeling extreme dislike or disapproval of something

**Dictionary example:**
I’m totally disgusted with your behaviour.

**Learner example:**
As you realise, I am thoroughly disgusted with the tour which you provided.

dishonest  /dɪˈsnənst/

Word family:
**Nouns:** dishonesty, honesty
**Adjectives:** dishonest, honest
**Adverbs:** honestly, dishonestly

ADJECTIVE
[B2] not honest and likely to lie or do something illegal

**Dictionary examples:**
a dishonest lawyer
a dishonest way of making money
He’s been dishonest in his dealings with us/about his past.

**Learner example:**
Both of them are dishonest men: Joss organizes the smuggling, and Jem is a horse–thief.
dishonestly /ˌdɪs.əˈnɪst.li/  

Word family:  
Nouns: dishonesty, honesty  
Adjectives: dishonest, honest  
Adverbs: honestly, dishonestly

ADVERB  
[C1] in a dishonest way  

Dictionary example:  
She acted dishonestly.

Learner example:  
The prize is valueless if achieved dishonestly.

dishonesty /ˌdɪs.əˈnɪst.i/  

Word family:  
Nouns: dishonesty, honesty  
Adjectives: dishonest, honest  
Adverbs: honestly, dishonestly

NOUN [u]  
[B2] when someone is not honest  

Dictionary example:  
Her dishonesty landed her in prison.

Learner example:  
He is so open in his dishonesty that Mary can't be angry with him.

disillusioned /ˌdɪs.ɪˈluː.ʒənd/  

ADJECTIVE  
[C2] feeling disappointed because something is not as good as you thought it was  

Dictionary example:  
She says she's disillusioned with the music business.

Learner example:  
They were disappointed and disillusioned.
dislike  /ˈdɪslaɪk/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** dislike, like

**NOUN**

**NOT LIKING**
[B2] [U NO PLURAL] when you do not like someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
a dislike of cold weather

**Learner example:**
The main reason for my dislike is that it’s so unnatural.

disloyal  /ˌdɪˈslɔɪ.əl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** loyalty
**Adjectives:** loyal, disloyal

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] not loyal or not supporting someone who you should support

**Dictionary example:**
I don’t want to be disloyal to my friend.

**Learner example:**
These stories always have a happy ending: those who are faithful and reliable are rewarded but those who cause pain or are disloyal are punished.

dismay  /dɪˈsmeɪ/

**NOUN [U]**
[C2] a feeling of unhappiness and disappointment

**Dictionary example:**
To our dismay, it started raining.

**Learner example:**
Much to our dismay, we could not find either his mother or his father.
**dismiss** /dɪˈsmɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: dismissal
Verbs: dismiss

**VERB [T]**

NOT CONSIDER
[C1] to refuse to consider an idea or opinion

Dictionary example:
The committee dismissed the idea as rubbish.

Learner example:
That is why I would dismiss this facility: there is already a small video room in our school which is hardly ever used.

MAKE LEAVE
[C1] [OFTEN PASSIVE] to officially make someone leave their job

Dictionary example:
Anyone who breaks company rules will be dismissed.

Learner example:
What’s more, every day hundreds of workmen are dismissed and thereby the ratio of unemployment still increases.

**dismissal** /dɪˈsmɪs.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: dismissal
Verbs: dismiss

**NOUN**

IDEA
[C1] [u] when someone refuses to consider an idea or opinion

Dictionary example:
I was angered by his dismissal of my worries.

Learner example:
Their dismissal of our proposal was essentially because of our lack of worldwi[d[e] investments; as everybody knows, we fundamentally concentrate our assets inside the European Union boundaries.

JOB
[C1] [c or u] when an employer officially makes someone leave their job
Dictionary examples:
a letter of dismissal
She accused her employers of unfair dismissal.

Learner example:
Another episod[e] of this sort is when Miss K. threatens to leave Darlington Hall because of the dismissal of the two Jewish maids.

disorder /dɪˈsɔː.ðər/

Word family:
Nouns: order, disorder

NOUN

ILLNESS
[C1] [c] an illness or medical condition

Dictionary example:
a blood disorder

Learner example:
We should react at an early stage of an eating disorder by watching ourselves, consulting a doctor and going to the fitness cent[re].

BAD BEHAVIOUR
[C1] [u] uncontrolled, bad behaviour, especially by large groups of people

Dictionary examples:
crime and disorder
public/civil disorder

Learner example:
Although the transport facilities are good, the neighbo[u]rhood has become increasingly dangerous, with numerous incidents of attacks and public disorder.

NOT ORGANIZED
[C2] [u] when things are untidy or confused and not organized

Dictionary example:
His financial affairs are in complete disorder.

Learner example:
My home might, [to] an outsider, give the feeling of complete disorder, not to say craziness, but I can assure you that it was not true at all.
**disorganized** *(also UK disorganised)* /ˈdɪsɔːr.ən.aɪzd/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** organization, organizer
- **Verbs:** organize
- **Adjectives:** disorganized, organized

**ADJECTIVE**

**OF SOMETHING**

[B2] not planned or organized well

**Dictionary example:**
The whole conference was totally disorganized – nobody knew what they were supposed to be doing.

**Learner example:**
Even though it was rather disorganized, most of [the] audience seemed to be [pleased] with it.

**OF SOMEONE**

[B2] not good at planning or organizing things

**Dictionary example:**
He's impossible to work for – he's so disorganized.

**Learner example:**
Apart from that, I am a disaster working in offices and I am very disorganised.

**displace** /drˈspleɪs/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** place, replacement, *displacement*
- **Verbs:** place, replace, *displace, misplace*

**VERB [T]**

[C1] to take the place of someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
Many of these workers will be displaced by modern technology.

**Learner example:**
Mexico was traditionally the land of the tortilla and the beans, but every day, this seems to be changing ever more rapidly, displaced by the heavy advertising camps and Americanised habits.
displacement /dɪˈspleɪs.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: place, replacement, *displacement*
Verbs: place, replace, *displace, misplace*

NOUN [u]
[C1] the act of displacing something

Dictionary example:
Widespread flooding has led to the displacement of thousands of people.

Learner example:
Apart from the fact that population growth is also playing its role, the reason for the enormous[ly] increased size of cities is [the] displacement of people from rural areas to the cities.

display /dɪˈspleɪ/

NOUN

SHOW
[B2] [c] a performance or show for people to watch

Dictionary example:
a firework display

Learner example:
One of the high points of our exciting and well organised event was the fireworks display.

a display of affection/anger, etc.
[C2] when someone behaves in a way that shows they have a particular feeling or attitude

Dictionary example:
The politicians shook hands in a display of unity for the media.

Learner example:
That is the reason why Charles is annoyed by her occasional urgent displays of affection.

VERB

ON SCREEN
[B2] [I or T] to show something electronically such as on a computer screen

Dictionary example:
The text can be displayed and edited on screen.
**Learner example:**
The timetable is hidden somewhere in a submenu which, I think, should be displayed on the main page.

**FEELING**

[C2] to show how you feel by your expression or behaviour

**Dictionary example:**
He never displayed any **interest** in girls.

**Learner example:**
The above feeling demonstrates about Okonkwo his constant anxiety to demonstrate – he and his son – constant manliness and [t]o not display any feeling of love, gentleness and support even to his own children.

---

**disposable /dɪˈspəʊ.zə.bl/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** disposal  
**Verbs:** dispose  
**Adjectives:** disposable

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] intended to be used only once and then thrown away

**Dictionary example:**
a disposable camera/razor

**Learner example:**
One drawback is the usage of disposable knives, forks and plates, which shouldn't be used nowadays.

---

**disposable income /dɪˌspəʊ.zə.blˈɪŋ.kʌm/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C2] the amount of money that you have available to spend after tax, rent and other basic things that you must pay

**Dictionary example:**
Most of our customers have a large disposable income.

**Learner example:**
It's true that people have more disposable income than ever, but surprisingly, people also have more debts.
disposal  /drˈspɔːzl/  

Word family:
Nouns: disposal  
Verbs: dispose  
Adjectives: disposable

NOUN [u]

REMOVAL
B2 when you get rid of something, especially by throwing it away

Dictionary examples:
- waste disposal
- the disposal of hazardous substances

Learner example:
Nowadays waste disposal and environmental protection has become one of the most important questions of our life in a world with environmental catastrophes.

at sb's disposal
B2 available for you to use at any time

Dictionary example:
We will have a car at our disposal for the whole trip.

Learner example:
But on Wednesday morning I'm at your disposal.

dispose  /drˈspəʊz/  

Word family:
Nouns: disposal  
Verbs: dispose  
Adjectives: disposable

VERB

dispose of sth PHRASAL VERB
C1 to get rid of something, especially by throwing it away

Dictionary example:
I need to dispose of these old clothes.

Learner example:
Naturally there are abuses and in large cities, some people continue to dispose of their rubbish in the street.
disposed  /drəˈspəʊzd/

ADJECTIVE  FORMAL

be disposed to do *sth*  
[C2] to be willing or likely to do something

Dictionary example:
I tried to tell her but she didn't seem disposed to listen.

Learner example:
In my opinion, it is very important to make young children respect rules strictly, but, on the other hand, I would always be disposed to explain the rules of society to my children as they grow older.

disposition  /ˌdɪs.pəˈzɪʃ.ən/

NOUN [C]

[C2] the type of character someone has

Dictionary example:
a cheerful/nervous disposition

Learner example:
She is a really special girl with personal values and a really sweet disposition.

dispute

Word family:
Nouns: dispute  
Verbs: dispute  
Adjectives: indisputable

NOUN [C or U]  /ˈdɪ.spjʊ:t/

DISAGREEMENT

[C2] a disagreement, especially one that lasts a long time

Dictionary examples:
A man stabbed his neighbour in a dispute over noise.
The unions are in dispute with management over pay.

Learner example:
In former times these territorial and religious disputes resulted in a decrease [in] population.

beyond dispute

[C2] certain or certainly
**Dictionary examples:**
Her skill is beyond dispute.
He is beyond dispute the finest actor in Hollywood today.

**Learner example:**
It is beyond dispute that we owe a lot to the wise scientists who discovered 'electro-magnetism'.

**VERB** [T] /drɪˈpjuːt/  
[C2] to disagree with something someone says

**Dictionary example:**
I'm not disputing that the drug has benefits.

**Learner example:**
Nobody disputes nowadays the importance of learning another language and the advantages that this knowledge provides in adult life.

**disqualify** /drɪˈskwəl.ɪ.fai/  
**Word family:**
**Nouns:** qualification  
**Verbs:** qualify, disqualify  
**Adjectives:** qualified, unqualified

**VERB** [T]  
[C2] to stop someone from being in a competition or doing some other activity because they have done something wrong

**Dictionary example:**
She was disqualified from the race after a drugs test.

**Learner example:**
Also a member who is not paying the contributions to the SOE club will be disqualified from it.

**disrespect** /ˌdɪs.rɪˈspekt/  
**Word family:**
**Nouns:** respect, disrespect  
**Verbs:** respect  
**Adjectives:** respectable, respected, disrespectful, respectful  
**Adverbs:** respectfully

**NOUN** [U]  
[C1] when someone does not show any respect or behave politely towards someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
a disrespect for authority
Learner example:
This report is not only bad publicity for the charity organisation, it also shows a great deal of disrespect towards the people working with these events.

disrespectful /ˌdɪs.rɪˈspekt.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: respect, disrespect
Verbs: respect
Adjectives: respectable, respected, disrespectful, respectful
Adverbs: respectfully

ADJECTIVE
[C2] being rude and not showing any respect

Dictionary example:
Don't be disrespectful to your mother.

Learner example:
She really missed him despite his disrespectful behaviour.

disrupt /dɪsˈrʌpt/

Word family:
Nouns: disruption
Verbs: disrupt
Adjectives: disruptive

VERB [T]
[B2] to interrupt something and stop it continuing as it should

Dictionary examples:
A heavy fall of snow had disrupted the city's transport system.
The meeting was disrupted by a group of protesters who shouted and threw fruit at the speaker.

Learner example:
On the other hand the beep on your mobile phone sometimes disrupts the most romantic moment or the best scene in the cinema.

disruption /ˌdɪsˈrʌpʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: disruption
Verbs: disrupt
Adjectives: disruptive
NOUN [C or U]

[C1] when something is stopped from happening as it should

Dictionary example:
a disruption of services

Learner example:
Please also advise if there are evening or weekend courses, so I can attend them without any disruption to my main work.

disruptive /dɪsˈrʌp.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: disruption
Verbs: disrupt
Adjectives: disruptive

ADJECTIVE

[C2] causing problems that interrupt something and stop it continuing as it should

Dictionary example:
disruptive behaviour

Learner example:
Also, frequent conflicts in their family environment or complacency and indifference towards their parents are severe enough reasons, which lead them to drug or alcohol abuse and disruptive or even rebellious behaviour.

dissatisfaction /ˌdɪs.ət.ɪsˈfæk.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: dissatisfaction, satisfaction
Verbs: satisfy
Adjectives: dissatisfied, satisfactory, satisfied, unsatisfactory
Adverbs: satisfactorily

NOUN [U]

[B2] when someone is dissatisfied

Dictionary example:
At the moment she's experiencing a lot of dissatisfaction with her job.

Learner example:
I expect a full refund plus compensation for my dissatisfaction and discomfort which I suffered.
dissatisfied /ˌdɪsˈsæt.ɪs.faid/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** dissatisfaction, satisfaction
**Verbs:** satisfy
**Adjectives:** dissatisfied, satisfactory, satisfied, unsatisfactory
**Adverbs:** satisfactorily

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] not pleased or happy with something

**Dictionary example:**

If you're dissatisfied **with** the service, why don't you complain to the hotel manager?

**Learner example:**

However, I must say that museums are really useful, to understand the history of the world, and that's why people keep going there even though they're sometimes dissatisfied.

dissertation /ˌdɪs.aˈteɪ.ʃən/

**NOUN [C]**

[C1] a very long piece of writing done as part of a course of study

**Dictionary example:**

She's writing a dissertation on American poetry.

**Learner example:**

I have completed my dissertation work on antifungal studies.

dissolve /drˈzɒlv/

**VERB**

**END**

[C1] [T OFTEN PASSIVE] to end an organization or official arrangement

**Dictionary example:**

They decided to dissolve the partnership.

**Learner example:**

Now, the Parliament is dissolved and we are waiting for new elections.

**BECOME LIQUID**

[C2] [I or T] If a solid dissolves, it becomes part of a liquid, and if you dissolve it, you make it become part of a liquid.

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Dictionary example:
Dissolve two teaspoons of yeast in warm water.

distance /ˈdɪstənts/

Word family:
Nouns: distance
Adjectives: distant

NOUN
PLACE
[B2] [NO PLURAL] somewhere that is far away, but close enough for you to see or hear the things that are there

Dictionary examples:
I could see Mary in the distance.
From a distance, it sounded like a bell ringing.

Learner example:
Far in the distance they spotted another ship.

distant /ˈdɪstənt/

Word family:
Nouns: distance
Adjectives: distant

ADJECTIVE
FAR AWAY
[B2] far away

Dictionary examples:
a distant country
She could hear the distant sound of fireworks exploding.

Learner example:
A distant rumbling could be heard through the thick layers of rock that she was under.

NOT FRIENDLY
[C1] not friendly

Dictionary example:
She seemed cold and distant.
Learner example:
I like the idea of joining a lively team; being a gregarious person I need a change from the cold and distant treatment which is usual in the big department stores.

RELATIVE
[C2] A distant relative is not very closely related to you.

Dictionary example:
a distant cousin

Learner example:
Sometimes it's difficult to welcome a distant cousin who we've never heard of before, even though our mother remembers him perfectly.

distinct /dɪˈstɪŋkt/

Word family:
Nouns: distinction
Adjectives: distinct, distinctive

ADJECTIVE
DIFFERENT
[C1] different and separate

Dictionary example:
This word has three distinct meanings.

Learner example:
However, two distinct groups of employees, namely the molecular dynamics simulation group and the Drawing Section, are indeed hampered in their daily work due to old equipment.

CLEAR
[C1] clear and certain

Dictionary example:
There's been a distinct improvement in your work.

Learner example:
So, getting married, either in [your] thirties or when younger, has distinct advantages.

HEAR/SEE
[C2] easy to hear, see, or smell

Dictionary example:
The voices gradually became louder and more distinct.

Learner example:
On these occasions it is quite possible to distinguish a distinct smell of kerosene.
distinction /dɪˈstɪŋk.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: distinction
Adjectives: distinct, distinctive

NOUN

DIFFERENCE
[B2] [c or u] a difference between two similar things

Dictionary examples:
the distinction between spoken and written language
There's a clear distinction between the dialects spoken in the two regions.
This company makes no distinction between the sexes.

Learner example:
You must be able to make [a] distinction between wild and ferocious species and small animals.

QUALITY
[C2] [u] a quality or fact that makes someone or something special or different

Dictionary examples:
wines of distinction
He has the distinction of being the youngest player in the World Cup finals.

Learner example:
In the car park of one of those fiercely emerging companies, cars are not only a way of moving around, but a sign of distinction.

distinctive /dɪˈstɪŋk.trɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: distinction
Adjectives: distinct, distinctive

ADJECTIVE
[C1] Something that is distinctive is easy to recognize because it is different from other things.

Dictionary example:
a distinctive style of writing

Learner example:
But their most distinctive feature is their carefree manner of walking, taking their time and actually looking at the buildings, the people, the landscapes.
distinguish /dɪˈstɪŋ.gwɪʃ/

VERB

RECOGNIZE DIFFERENCES
[B2] [I or T] to recognize the differences between two people, ideas or things

Dictionary examples:
He's colour-blind and can't distinguish (the difference) between red and green easily.
I sometimes have difficulty distinguishing Spanish from Portuguese.
It's important to distinguish between business and pleasure.
It's not the beauty so much as the range of his voice that distinguishes him from other tenors.

Learner example:
This is the scene where in a card game between pig Napoleon and human Pilkington, the other animals, who secretly watch the game through the window, find it impossible to distinguish between pigs and humans.

SHOW DIFFERENCES
[B2] [T] to make one person or thing seem different from another

Dictionary example:
His great skill distinguishes him from the rest of the team.

Learner example:
A person distinguishes [himself] from others by different tastes, manners, characters or behaviour.

SEE/HEAR
[B2] [T] to be able to see, hear or understand something

Dictionary example:
I couldn't distinguish anything in the darkness.

Learner example:
I could distinguish nothing in the darkness and was [scar]ed to death.

distinguished /dɪˈstɪŋ.gwɪʃt/

ADJECTIVE

[B2] famous, praised, or admired

Dictionary example:
a distinguished writer

Learner example:
One of HuXin Ting's most distinguished visitors in recent times was Queen Elizabeth II, whose tour of Shanghai included a stop here and a cup of tea.
**distort** /dɪˈstoʊt/  

**VERB** [T]

[C1] to change information so that it is not true or realistic

**Dictionary example:**
Newspapers distorted the truth about their marriage.

**Learner example:**
The report distorted this figure to "less than 60%".

---

**distract** /dɪˈstrækt/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** distraction  
**Verbs:** distract

**VERB** [T]

[B2] to make someone stop giving their attention to something

**Dictionary examples:**
Don't distract her from her studies.  
He tried to distract from his own illegal activities.

**Learner example:**
Television is not always useful because it distracts our mind from other thing[s].

---

**distraction** /dɪˈstræk.ʃən/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** distraction  
**Verbs:** distract

**NOUN**

**NO ATTENTION**

[C1] [c or u] something that makes you stop giving your attention to something else

**Dictionary example:**
The phone calls were a constant distraction.

**Learner example:**
Some of them have really unacceptable behaviour and cause distractions even in class.

**FUN**

[C1] [c] an activity you can do for fun or entertainment
Dictionary example:
He is studying too much and needs some distractions.

Learner example:
Swiss people are workaholics; they sacrifice their free time to earn money, although [occasionally] they need some kind of distraction.

distress  /dɪˈstres/

Word family:
Nouns: distress
Adjectives: distressing, distressed

NOUN [U]

UPSET
[C1] the feeling of being extremely upset or worried

Dictionary example:
The newspaper reports caused her a great deal of distress.

Learner example:
I am constantly praised for the quality of my work and I get personal satisfaction helping people in emotional distress.

DANGER
[C2] when someone or something is in danger and needs help

Dictionary example:
a ship in distress

Learner example:
Let’s start this process by helping and caring [for] the people in distress and providing them [with] what we can.

distressed  /dɪˈstrest/

Word family:
Nouns: distress
Adjectives: distressing, distressed

ADJECTIVE
[C1] extremely upset or worried

Dictionary example:
They were very distressed to learn of her death.

Learner example:
I was distressed to discover that your advertisement was inaccurate.
**distressing** /dɪˈstres.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: distress
Adjectives: distressing, distressed

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] making you feel extremely worried or upset

**Dictionary examples:**
distressing news
a distressing experience

**Learner example:**
If you confront a distressing situation try to compensate [for] it with a relaxing activity.

**distribute** /dɪˈstrɪb.juːt/

Word family:
Nouns: distribution
Verbs: distribute, redistribute

**VERB [T]**

**GIVE OUT**
[B2] to give something out to several people

**Dictionary examples:**
The books will be distributed free to local schools.
Several people were arrested for distributing racist leaflets to the spectators.

**Learner example:**
I also had to distribute the flyers [at the concert].

**SUPPLY**
[C1] to supply goods to shops and companies

**Dictionary example:**
The company manufactures and distributes computer equipment worldwide.

**Learner example:**
Our company imports all the merchandise from the Far East and then distributes those products in high quantities to different customers.
**distribution**  /ˌdɪs.trɪˈbjuː.ʃən/

Word family:

**Nouns:** distribution  
**Verbs:** distribute, redistribute

**NOUN**

SUPPLYING  
[C1] [u] when something is supplied or given out to people or places

**Dictionary example:**  
the sale and distribution of electrical goods

**Learner example:**  
During the economic slowdown throughout the 1980s, the use of rail roads for goods transport dropped significantly (about 50%) while terrestrial and water transport provided cheaper and mo[re] effective means of distribution.

SHARING  
[C1] [u NO PLURAL] the way something is divided and shared in a group or area

**Dictionary example:**  
the distribution of wealth

**Learner example:**  
Poverty, domestic problems and [an] uneven distribution of wealth in the community make such children bitter and instead of working hard, they become reb[ell]ious and try to look for short cut[s] to gain money and comfort.

**disturb**  /drˈstaːb/

Word family:

**Nouns:** disturbance  
**Verbs:** disturb  
**Adjectives:** disturbed, disturbing

**VERB [t]**

INTERRUPT  
[B2] to interrupt what someone is doing by making noise or annoying them

**Dictionary examples:**  
Please don't disturb Georgina – she's trying to do her homework.  
I'm sorry to disturb you so late, but my car's broken down and I was wondering if I could use your phone.

**Learner example:**  
If we go outdoors we won't disturb my parents.
UPSET
[C2] to make someone feel anxious or upset

Dictionary example:
Some scenes are violent and may disturb younger viewers.

Learner example:
Listening to the radio yesterday whilst cleaning, I happened to hear a few statements made by people my age concerning their attitude to work. What disturbed me, and made me stop cleaning all together, was when one of them said, quote: "I want to earn lots of money – that's all I care about," end quote.

disturbance /dɪˈstɜːb.nts/

Word family:
Nouns: disturbance
Verbs: disturb
Adjectives: disturbed, disturbing

NOUN

INTERRUPTION
[C1] [c or U] something that interrupts what you are doing, especially something loud or annoying

Dictionary example:
I don't want any disturbances this morning.

Learner example:
On the other hand, I think I represent each and every student when I apologise for the disturbance of the residents who live near the College.

FIGHTING
[C2] [c] when people fight or shout

Dictionary example:
A man was shot during a disturbance in King Street.

Learner example:
Social disturbances are also a result of unemployment.

disturbed /dɪˈstɜːbd/

Word family:
Nouns: disturbance
Verbs: disturb
Adjectives: disturbed, disturbing
ADJECTIVE
[C2] not thinking or behaving normally because of mental or emotional problems

Dictionary example:
He is a very disturbed child.

Learner example:
James tore at his neatly trimmed hair, revealing how disturbed he was.

disturbing  /dɪˈstɜː.bɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: disturbance
Verbs: disturb
Adjectives: disturbed, disturbing

ADJECTIVE
[C2] unpleasant in a way that makes people feel anxious or upset

Dictionary example:
disturbing images

Learner example:
Still, I find Edmund’s character disturbing and I do not believe that his background alone could have created such an evil human being.

dive  /daɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: diver, diving
Verbs: dive

VERB [I]
dive into sth PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to start doing something suddenly and energetically, often without stopping to think

Dictionary example:
Unfortunately, I had dived into the discussion without being fully informed.

Learner example:
Firstly, it is possible for me to dive into a whole new world – personally, socially and professionally – without losing myself.
**ENTRY INTO WATER**

[B2] when you enter water head-first with your arms held out above your head

**Dictionary example:**
He entered the pool with a neat dive.

**SWIMMING UNDER WATER**

[B2] when you spend some time swimming under water

**Dictionary example:**
The centre also offers night dives, which are highly recommended.

**Learner example:**
It will start with a medical test, a few hours of theory, some training dives in a swimming pool and, at last, two dives on the reef.

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**diverse** /dəˈvɜːs/  

**Word family:**
Nouns: diversity  
Adjectives: diverse

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] varied or different

**Dictionary examples:**
Students from countries as diverse as Colombia and Lithuania use Cambridge textbooks.  
New York is a very culturally/ethnically diverse city.

**Learner example:**
I am a sociable person who has been exposed to diverse social circumstances.

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**diversity** /dəˈvɜːs.ə.ti/  

**Word family:**
Nouns: diversity  
Adjectives: diverse

**NOUN [U NO PLURAL]**

[C1] when many different types of things or people are included in something

**Dictionary examples:**
Does television adequately reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the country?  
There is a wide diversity of opinion on the issue.
Learner example:
On the other hand, the fact that all the people buy the same goods and live in similar ways may threaten the cultural diversity.

**divert**  /dɪˈvɜːt/

**VERB** [T]

**divert sb's attention/thoughts, etc.**

[C1] to take someone's attention away from something

**Dictionary example:**
A movement outside the window diverted my attention.

**Learner example:**
For example, when I feel sad or depressed, shopping can help [me] temporarily forget those negative feelings by diverting my attention to something which I really love doing.

**CHANGE ROUTE**

[C2] to send someone or something somewhere different from where they were expecting to go

**Dictionary examples:**
The plane was diverted to Stansted because of engine trouble.
The police were diverting traffic away from the town.

**Learner example:**
There are certainly easy solutions to this problem, e.g., the night traffic could be diverted to the airport in Vennes as there are no houses nearby.

**divide**  /dɪˈvaɪd/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** division, divide

**Verbs:** divide

**Adjectives:** divided

**VERB**

**PLACE**

[B2] [T] to separate a place into two areas

**Dictionary example:**
There's a narrow alley which divides our house from the one next door.

**Learner example:**
The city is divided into two parts by the River Danube: Buda and Pest.
**define sth (up) among/between sb**

[C1] to separate something into parts and give a part to each person in a group

**Dictionary example:**
The prize money will be divided equally among the winners.

**Learner example:**
As women start to work out[side] the home more, the housework has to be divided among all the family members.

**NUMBERS**

[C1] [T] to calculate how many times a number can go into another number

**Dictionary example:**
12 divided by 6 equals 2.

**DISAGREE**

[C1] [T OFTEN PASSIVE] to cause people to disagree about something

**Dictionary example:**
Council members were divided over plans to build a new stadium.

**Learner example:**
It is certainly clear to all that cars cannot continue to [enter the city] as they are currently doing, but this is a polemic subject and citizens are bound to be divided.

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] a difference or separation

**Dictionary example:**
Because of debt repayments, the divide between rich and poor countries is continuing to grow.

**Learner example:**
Increasing petrol prices may make the divide between the rich and poor more obvious.

**divided** /dɪˈvaɪ.dɪd/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** division, divide

**Verbs:** divide

**Adjectives:** divided

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] If a group, organization or country is divided, there are disagreements among the people in it.

**Dictionary example:**
Board members are divided over the plans for the new stadium.
Learner example:
Opinions are divided.

**division**  /dɪˈvɪʒ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: division, divide
Verbs: divide
Adjectives: divided

**NOUN**

PART
[B2] [U] when something is separated into parts or groups, or the way that it is separated

Dictionary example:
the equal division of labour between workers

Learner example:
Suddenly all the atomic missiles of the defensive system rose up in the sky, and so did the Russian ones, not turned off after the division of the ex-USSR.

**ORGANIZATION**

[B2] [c] one of the groups in a business or organization

Dictionary example:
the sales division

Learner example:
Being a lucky guy, I had the chance to work at the Disneyland Hotel, which is a division of the famous Walt Disney Company.

**SPORT**

[B2] [c] one of the groups of football teams in a league

Dictionary example:
the Second Division

Learner example:
I've been playing football for an Italian second division team, by the way.

**divorce**  /dɪˈvɔːs/

Word family:
Nouns: divorce
Verbs: divorce
Adjectives: divorced
VERB [ɪ or ɨ]

[B2] to end a marriage by an official or legal process

Dictionary example:
She's divorcing her husband.

Learner example:
I asked Vina, "If I divorce my wife, will you marry me?"

dizzy /ˈdɪz.i/

ADJECTIVE

[B2] feeling as if everything is turning round, so that you feel ill or as if you might fall

Dictionary examples:
Going without sleep for a long time makes me feel dizzy and light-headed.
I felt quite dizzy with excitement as I went up to collect the award.

Learner example:
She felt a little bit dizzy.

DNA /ˌdiː.enˈeɪ/

NOUN [u]

[C2] ABBREVIATION for deoxyribonucleic acid; a chemical in the cells of living things which contains genetic information

Dictionary example:
DNA evidence led to her arrest.

Learner example:
In the end the DNA test showed that they weren't blood related and therefore they could get married and have children without having the whole neighbourhood gossiping about them.

do /duː/

Word family:
Verbs: do, overdo

AUXILIARY VERB (did, done)

FOR EMPHASIS
[B2] used to give extra force to the main verb
Dictionary examples:
Do let me know if you need anything.
He does like you – he's just shy.

Learner example:
I really do love to be a volunteer, to help people as much as I can.

**VERB (did, done)**

**do sb good**
[B2] to have a good effect on someone

Dictionary example:
A break from this would do us all good.

Learner example:
I must admit that my stay in your nice home did me good.

**do damage/harm, etc.**
[B2] to cause damage/harm, etc.

Dictionary example:
The fire did a lot of structural damage to the building.

Learner example:
I promise not to do any damage!

**be/have to do with sth**
[B2] to be related to something

Dictionary example:
She lacks confidence and I think that has to do with her childhood.

Learner example:
I think that is nothing to do with my accident.

**will do**
[C1] will be satisfactory

Dictionary example:
You don't have to pay now, next week will do.

Learner example:
You need a telephone card. They can cost from 100zT to 1000zT. One of 100zT will do.

**do your utmost**
[C1] to try as hard as you can to do something

Dictionary example:
We did our utmost to finish the project on time.

Learner example:
In addition, we live in a materialistic society where we all do our utmost in order to make ends meet, but we are never satisfied.
do the job
[C2] If something does the job, it is suitable for a particular purpose.

Dictionary example:
Here, this knife should do the job.

Learner example:
Allow them to bring home friends and therefore develop social skills. In my opinion, that should do the job.

do sb/sth justice; do justice to sb/sth
[C2] to show the best or real qualities of something or someone

Dictionary example:
This postcard doesn’t do justice to the wonderful scenery.

Learner example:
No words can do justice to the indignation that I feel.

can't/couldn't very well do sth
[C2] used to say that something is not a suitable or practical thing to do

Dictionary example:
I couldn't very well tell her while he was there.

Learner example:
I couldn't very well tell her that without my diaries, I'd be lost and not know who I was.

make do (with)
[C2] to accept something that is less good than you would like

Dictionary example:
If we can't get a bigger room we'll have to make do with this.

Learner example:
Very calmly, he said "I am not going to put up with this. You might say that I am being too emotional, overreacting, whatever. But I will not come back until my piano has been returned. And let me make very clear that I will not make do with another instrument."

do the trick
[C2] If something does the trick, it solves a problem or has the result you want.

Dictionary example:
If I've got a headache, a couple of aspirins usually do the trick.

Learner example:
Using aromatherapy oil and scented candles always did the trick when she wanted to relax.
dock /dɒk/

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] the place where ships stop and goods are taken off or put on

**Dictionary example:**
The ship is in dock.

**Learner example:**
I would like to take them with me to a very typical restaurant near the docks: Mummie’s House 25 Harbour Street 2 Tel. 070 321 26 33.

dole /dəʊl/

**VERB**

**dole sth out PHRASAL VERB**

[C2] to give something, especially money, to several people or in large amounts

**Dictionary example:**
I’ve had to dole out nearly $500 this month.

**Learner example:**
But still, doling out money does not make the people that receive it happy.

domain /dəʊˈmeɪn/

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] a particular area, activity, or subject that someone controls or deals with

**Dictionary examples:**
The garden is his domain.
This information should be in the public domain.

**Learner example:**
In the late 70s, a profitable domain to work in was the petrol and oil business and, as large reserves of that natural resource were located in Alaska, the Americans and certain other companies moved their “base-camp” over there.
domestic  /dəˈmes.tɪk/

ADJECTIVE

HOME
[B2] belonging or relating to the home, house or family

Dictionary example:
domestic chores/duties/arrangements

Learner example:
All domestic appliances such as showers, kettles, lights, TV and curtains may be voice activated.

COUNTRY
[B2] relating to a person’s own country

Dictionary examples:
domestic airlines/flightss
Domestic opinion had turned against the war.

Learner example:
We should advertise all [the] good points of our city in [the] domestic and foreign mass-media.

dominance /ˈdɒm.ɪ.nəns/

Word family:
Nouns: dominance, domination
Verbs: dominate
Adjectives: dominant, predominant
Adverbs: predominantly

NOUN [u]
[C2] power, influence, and control

Dictionary example:
the company’s dominance in the software industry

Learner example:
In conclusion, the choice of favourite leisure activities has undergone significant changes for 17 to 25 year olds in Europe over a 20 year period, with the new dominance of an emerging computer games–playing generation at the expense of outdoor activities.
dominant /ˈdɒm.ɪ.nənt/

Word family:
Nouns: dominance, domination
Verbs: dominate
Adjectives: dominant, predominant
Adverbs: predominantly

ADJECTIVE

IMPORTANT

[C1] main or most important

Dictionary example:
Unemployment will be a dominant issue at the next election.

Learner example:
Looking back on the ongoing discussion about women’s role in modern German society, there is one dominant impression: women have to enlarge, improve, intensify, etc.... they have to enlarge their horizon, to improve their professional skills, to intensify their involvement in politics and so on ....

STRONG

[C2] strongest and wanting to take control

Dictionary example:
a dominant older brother

Learner example:
He was a very dominant boy and I was afraid of him.

dominate /ˈdɒm.ɪ.neɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: dominance, domination
Verbs: dominate
Adjectives: dominant, predominant
Adverbs: predominantly

VERB [I or T]

HAVE CONTROL

[B2] to have control over a place or a person

Dictionary examples:
He refuses to let others speak and dominates every meeting.
They work as a group – no one person is allowed to dominate.
Learner example:
For instance, in bank[s], school[s], hospital[s], [and] airport[s] we are absolutely dominated by computers, aren't we?

BE IMPORTANT
[C1] to be the largest, most important, or most noticeable part of something

Dictionary examples:
The subject of pay dominated their discussions.
The cathedral dominates the skyline.

Learner example:
The religious values that dominated every aspect of life are slowly being replaced by new ones and the outcome of this metamorphosis has yet to be examined.

domination /dɒm.rɨˈneɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: dominance, domination
Verbs: dominate
Adjectives: dominant, predominant
Adverbs: predominantly

NOUN [u]
[C1] great power and control over someone or something else

Dictionary example:
world domination

Learner example:
[A] more serious argument is that [the] domination of huge multinationals suppresses local creativity and forces the local traditions to fade away.

donate /dəʊˈneɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: donation, donor
Verbs: donate

VERB [I or T]

GIVE MONEY
[B2] to give money or goods to help a person or organization

Dictionary examples:
An anonymous businesswoman donated one million dollars to the charity.
Please donate generously.
Learner example:
You don't have to pay for [it] but you can donate some money if you wish.

**BLOOD/ORGANS**
[C1] to allow some of your blood or part of your body to be used for medical purposes

**Dictionary example:**
He donated a kidney to his sister.

**Learner example:**
For example, he once saved my life, putting his in danger by donating a large quantity of blood.

donation /dəˈneɪʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** donation, donor
**Verbs:** donate

**NOUN [C or U]**
[B2] when money or goods are given to help a person or organization

**Dictionary examples:**
donations of food and money
I'd like to make a small donation in my mother's name.

**Learner example:**
First of all, I would [like to] say that I and my friends are very happy because of Mr Maitland's donation.

donor /ˈdəʊ.nər/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** donation, donor
**Verbs:** donate

**NOUN [C]**

**BLOOD/ORGANS**
[C2] someone who gives some of their blood or part of their body to be used for medical purposes

**Dictionary example:**
She is a regular blood donor.

**Learner example:**
In this group we can include responsible authorities, sympathetic doctors, organ donors, good teachers and many other unknown people who devote their lives to a generous cause.
**MONEY/GOODS**

[C2] someone who gives money or goods to a person or organization that needs help

**Dictionary example:**
Ten thousand dollars was given by an **anonymous** donor.

**Learner example:**
Private donors raised some funds to prevent the hospital from closure.

---

**doom** /duːm/

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] death, destruction, and other unpleasant events that cannot be avoided

**Dictionary example:**
A horrible **sense of** doom

**Learner example:**
Men were not only humans but warriors who represented the army of immortals whose fate was to defend the Earth from the evil spirits of doom.

**doom and gloom**

[C2] unhappiness and feeling no hope for the future

**Dictionary example:**
Life’s not all doom and gloom, you know.

**Learner example:**
To sum up, experts can stop their doom and gloom statements about our uncertain future and the possible global crisis.

---

**door** /dɔːr/

**NOUN [c]**

**behind closed doors**

[C2] privately and not in public

**Dictionary example:**
Most of the deals were done behind closed doors.

**Learner example:**
Decisions which affect the whole world are made behind closed doors and are top secret.
doorway /ˈdoː.weɪ/

NOUN [c]

[C2] an entrance to a building or room through a door

Dictionary example:
She waited in the doorway while I ran back inside.

Learner example:
They sleep in doorways and beg in the street.

dose /dəʊs/

NOUN [c]

MEDICINE

[B2] a measured amount of something such as medicine

Dictionary examples:
a high/low dose
a dose of penicillin

Learner example:
It is important to me because I have asthma and cannot miss even one dose of it.

a dose of sth

[B2] an amount of something, often something unpleasant

Dictionary example:
a dose of bad news

Learner example:
You ought to plan your work and mainly learn in the morning when your brain is ready to accept a great dose of knowledge.

dot /dɒt/

NOUN

MARK

[B2] [c] a very small round mark

Dictionary examples:
The full stop at the end of this sentence is a dot.
Her skirt was blue with white dots.
Learner example:
On the map we have marked a black dot on the place where you will find the hotel.

**on the dot**
[C2] at that exact time

Dictionary example:
We have to leave at 7.30 on the dot.

Learner example:
He gave him an address and told him to be there at six on the dot.

double /ˈdʌbl/  

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to become twice the original size or amount, or to make something do this

Dictionary examples:
The government aims to double the number of students in higher education within 25 years.
Company profits have doubled since the introduction of new technology.

Learner example:
Taxes have doubled, and the price for petrol shows an increase of more than 50% within the last 3 months.

doubt /dəʊt/  

Word family:
Nouns: doubt
Verbs: doubt
Adjectives: doubtful, undoubted
Adverbs: undoubtedly

NOUN [C or U]
be in doubt
[B2] to not be certain

Dictionary example:
The future of the project is in doubt.

Learner example:
If you don't know the difference, or if you are in doubt, keep on reading.

without (a) doubt
[B2] certainly
no doubt
[C1] used to say that something is very likely

Dictionary example:
No doubt she'll spend the money on new clothes.

Learner example:
No doubt I will find the skills acquired [on] the course, especially speaking skills, most useful in my future contacts with clients from English–speaking countries.

cast doubt on sth
[C2] to make something seem uncertain

Dictionary example:
Witnesses have cast doubt on the suspect's innocence.

Learner example:
Wars lead to suffering, tears and [the] death of many people. They cast doubt on our humanity and values, especially in countries where the right to live is the principal one.

beyond/without a/the shadow of a doubt
[C2] If something is true beyond a shadow of a doubt, it is certainly true.

Dictionary example:
He stole the money, without a shadow of a doubt.

Learner example:
It is beyond the shadow of a doubt that Douglas does not offer her this kind of life.

VERB [T]

FEEL UNCERTAIN
[B2] to feel uncertain about something or to think that something is not probable

Dictionary examples:
I doubt whether/if I can finish the work on time.
I doubt (that) I'll get the job.
He may come back tomorrow with the money, but I very much doubt it.

Learner example:
She doubted if she could manage it at all.

NOT BELIEVE
[C1] to not believe someone or something

Dictionary example:
Do you have any reason to doubt her?
Learner example:
I urge you to act fast and promptly in order to avoid serious consequences: to apologise to the hospital, note the mistakes in your newspaper and to doubt the reliability of your source.

doubtful /ˈdaʊt.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: doubt
Verbs: doubt
Adjectives: doubtful, undoubted
Adverbs: undoubtedly

ADJECTIVE

NOT PROBABLE

[B2] not probable

Dictionary examples:
It is doubtful whether/if he'll be able to come.
It was doubtful that the money would ever be found again.

Learner example:
It is certainly doubtful to say that the characteristics we are born with have much more influence on our personality than any experiences we may have in our life.

NOT CERTAIN

[B2] not feeling certain about something

Dictionary example:
The teacher is doubtful about having parents working as classroom assistants.

Learner example:
I am very doubtful [about whether] you were there when it was held.

down /daʊn/

ADVERB

down to earth
[C1] People or ideas that are down to earth are practical and work well.

Dictionary example:
David's a bit of a dreamer but Ruth's much more down to earth.

Learner example:
He has much practical knowledge, he is down to earth.
**be down to sb**
[C2] to be someone's responsibility or decision

**Dictionary example:**
I've done all I can now, the rest is down to you.

**Learner example:**
It is down to us to prevent homelessness.

**down under**
[C2] Australia, or in Australia

**Dictionary example:**
She was born in Scotland, but she's been living down under for 22 years.

**Learner example:**
Last year a good friend of mine and I went to Australia. After a couple of days of doing some sightseeing and sunbathing on beautiful sandy beaches, we decided that we needed to get something more out of our stay down under.

**PREPOSITION**

**down the drain** INFORMAL
[C2] If money or work goes down the drain, it is wasted.

**Dictionary example:**
If you leave the course now, all your hard work will go down the drain.

**Learner example:**
All those evening conversations and the investment of 100,000 yen went down the drain, I thought.

**ADJECTIVE**

**UNHAPPY**
[B2] unhappy or unable to feel excited or energetic about anything

**Dictionary examples:**
She's been really down since her husband died.
I've been (feeling) a bit down this week.

**Learner example:**
If you are feeling down or depressed, what are you doing?

**NOT WORKING**
[C1] If a computer or machine is down, it is temporarily not working.

**Dictionary example:**
The network was down all morning.

**Learner example:**
If other departments use the online system, it seems to be down for a while.
down and out
[C2] having no money, no luck and no opportunities

**Dictionary example:**
Nobody loves you when you’re down and out.

**Learner example:**
The neglect of social security as a vital point in state policies leaves homeless people down and out, with little chance for improving their bleak prospects.

**be down in the dumps** INFORMAL
[C2] to be unhappy

**Dictionary example:**
He looks a bit down in the dumps.

**Learner example:**
She felt happy when I was down in the dumps or in a fix and kept on being jealous of me concerning trivial matters.

downhill /ˈdaʊnˈhɪl/

**ADVERB**

**TOWARDS BOTTOM**
[C2] towards the bottom of a hill or slope

**Dictionary example:**
It’s so much easier cycling downhill.

**Learner example:**
Skiing downhill in deep snow is the most rewarding experience.

go downhill
[C2] to gradually become worse

**Dictionary example:**
After his wife died, his health started to go downhill.

**Learner example:**
He had been going downhill in the last few days and so his death came as no surprise.

downside /ˈdaʊn.saɪd/

**NOUN [NO PLURAL]**
[C1] the disadvantage of a situation
Dictionary example:
The downside of living in a city is all the pollution.

Learner example:
However, there is a downside to it as more and more products are exported/imported, domestic economies lose a lot trying – and usually failing – to face the competition that is coming from other countries.

down-to-earth /ˌdaʊn.tuˈɜːθ/
ADJECTIVE
[C1] Down-to-earth people or ideas are practical and work well.

Dictionary example:
I like your down-to-earth approach to problem-solving.

Learner example:
His huge popularity mainly lies in his down-to-earth attitude.

downward /ˈdaʊn.wəd/
ADJECTIVE
[C1] moving towards a lower position

Dictionary example:
a downward trend

Learner example:
Company B’s profit marks a downward tendency from 1990 to 2000, going from [a] 2 million dollar profit to the extrem[e] result of no profit at all.

a downward spiral
[C2] a situation which is getting worse very quickly, and which is difficult to control

Dictionary example:
After his death, the family went into a downward spiral.

Learner example:
Unemployment is one of the major problems of our society. It is the first step of a downward spiral.

downwards /ˈdaʊn.wədz/
ADVERB
[C1] towards a lower place or level

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Dictionary example:
The road slopes downwards to the river.

Learner example:
Water runs downwards into [the] turbine when the valve is open.

dozen /ˈdʌz.ən/

NOUN [C]; DETERMINER
dozens
[C1] INFORMAL a lot

Dictionary example:
She's got dozens of friends.

Learner example:
There are, as well, dozens of robots able to handle any kind of work in our homes.

draft /draːft/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a piece of writing or a plan that is not yet in its finished form

Dictionary examples:
This is only a rough draft – the finished article will have pictures as well.
She asked me to check the first draft of her proposal.

Learner example:
Now I can use my computer for making monthly reports at home [and] making different kinds of project drafts.

VERB [T]
[C1] to produce a piece of writing or a plan that you intend to change later

Dictionary example:
to draft a letter

Learner example:
I hope all these statements will help you to draft the new programme, good luck!
**drag** /dræɡ/

**VERB**

**PULL**

[B2] [ɪ] to pull someone or something along the ground, usually with difficulty

**Dictionary examples:**
Pick the chair up instead of dragging it behind you!
She dragged the canoe down to the water.

**Learner example:**
Another man approached the agent, both watching as officers dragged the man to a nearby car.

**drag sb along/out/to, etc.**

[C2] to make someone go somewhere they do not want to go

**Dictionary examples:**
She dragged me to the shops to look at shoes.
I have to drag myself out of bed every morning.

**Learner example:**
When she first saw him, speaking his radical views at some sort of political meeting she had been dragged along to by a friend, she was at first scared but later enchanted.

**TIME**

[C2] [ɪ] to continue for too much time in a boring way

**Dictionary examples:**
The afternoon really seemed to drag.
The negotiations dragged on for months.

**Learner example:**
The afternoon dragged on interminably, and I suddenly felt like going out.

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**drain** /dreɪn/

**VERB**

**REMOVE LIQUID**

[C2] [ɪ] to remove the liquid from something, usually by pouring it away or allowing it to flow away

**Dictionary examples:**
Drain the pasta and add the sauce.
We drained the pond and filled it with fresh water.
Learner example:
Peter the Great ordered the swampy lands to be drained.

FLOW AWAY
[C2] [I] If something drains, liquid flows away or out of it.

Dictionary example:
Don't bother drying the pans – just leave them to drain.

Learner example:
The sink doesn't drain, which is a major problem for me.

REDUCE
[C2] [I or T] to reduce or cause something to reduce

Dictionary example:
The long war had drained the resources of both countries.

Learner example:
These people drain government funds that can be used to deal with unemployment.

MAKE TIRED
[C2] [T] to make someone very tired

Dictionary example:
The long journey drained him.

Learner example:
Especially when you've had a hard day at work, when the constant high temperature drains the energy from you, or when you're not feeling well because of any other reason, you need that comforting phone call from your best friend more than ever.

NOUN [C]

FOR WATER
[C2] a pipe or hole that takes away waste liquids or water

Dictionary example:
She poured the dirty water down the drain.

Learner example:
I wish to put forward some ideas, which I think can help: checking the area and surroundings, making sure there is no garbage lying around; cleaning the fallen leaves etc. from the drains.

a drain on sth
[C2] something that uses or wastes a lot of money or energy

Dictionary example:
Keeping these people in prison is a huge drain on government finances.

Learner example:
This need results in an ever-increasing drain on [the] country's resources.
down the drain INFORMAL
[C2] If money or work goes down the drain, it is wasted.

Dictionary example:
If you leave the course now, all your hard work will go down the drain.

Learner example:
All those evening conversations and the investment of 100,000 yen went down the drain, I thought.

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dramatic /drəˈmæt.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: drama
Adjectives: dramatic
Adverbs: dramatically

ADJECTIVE
[B2] very sudden or noticeable, or full of action and excitement

Dictionary examples:
a dramatic change/improvement
We watched scenes of the dramatic rescue on the news.

Learner example:
His suicide at the end of the book was the most dramatic event in this story and has touched me deeply.

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dramatically /drəˈmæt.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: drama
Adjectives: dramatic
Adverbs: dramatically

ADVERB
[B2] suddenly or obviously

Dictionary example:
Your life changes dramatically when you have a baby.

Learner example:
She fell dramatically to the floor.
**drastic /ˈdræst.ɪk/**

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** drastic
- **Adverbs:** drastically

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] severe and sudden or having very noticeable effects

**Dictionary example:**
- drastic measures

**Learner example:**
- If within 30 days I don't receive any kind of compensation (preferably money), I may have to take drastic measures.

**drastically /ˈdræst.ɪk.li/**

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** drastic
- **Adverbs:** drastically

**ADVERB**

[C1] in a drastic way

**Dictionary example:**
- The number of bees has drastically declined due to a combination of factors.

**Learner example:**
- Conditions have changed drastically after the reunification.

**draught /draːft/**

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] a current of cold air in a room

**Dictionary example:**
- There's a terrible draught coming from under the door.

**Learner example:**
- When it is windy we can feel a draught.
draw /dɹɔː/  

Word family:  
Nouns: drawing  
Verbs: draw  

VERB (drew, drawn)  

draw into/out/away, etc.  
[B2] to move in a particular direction, especially in a vehicle  

Dictionary examples:  
The train slowly drew into the station/drew in.  
As we drew alongside the black car, I suddenly recognized my ex-boyfriend at the wheel.  
Montgomery drew level with Greene in the 100 metres final, but never passed him.  

Learner example:  
I drew up at the gate of the house; the inside was in darkness and nobody seemed to be there.  

ATTRACT  
[B2] [ɪ] to attract someone to a place or person  

Dictionary example:  
He's an excellent speaker who always draws a crowd.  

Learner example:  
In the darkness, dark figures moved and twisted, [and] I felt drawn toward those evil chanting hordes, they seemed to mesmerise me, was all this for real or just a kind of Hell?  

draw (sb's) attention to sth/sb  
[B2] to make someone notice something or someone  

Dictionary examples:  
Could I draw your attention to item number three on the agenda?  
Does he wear those ridiculous clothes to draw attention to himself?  

Learner example:  
Thank you very much for drawing attention to this letter.  

draw a conclusion  
[B2] to consider the facts of a situation and make a decision about what is true, correct, likely to happen, etc.  

Dictionary example:  
I'd seen them together so often I drew the logical conclusion that they were husband and wife.  

Learner example:  
Since nobody ever heard from them again, we all drew the sad conclusion that they must be dead.  

draw near/close  
[B2] to become nearer in space or time  

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Dictionary example:
Her birthday's drawing nearer every day.

Learner example:
I would appreciate [it] very much if you could reply as soon as possible, as the school holiday is drawing near.

SPORT

[C1] [i or τ] to finish a game or competition with each team or player having the same score

Dictionary example:
England drew 2–2 against Italy.

draw sth/sb across/back/over, etc.
[C2] to pull something or someone gently in a particular direction

Dictionary example:
He took her hand and drew her towards him.

Learner example:
As she drew me into the house she would tell me a story about Dari's absence and [the] newly-born puppies of Dari's, almost whispering into my ears as my eyes welled up with tears.

draw to a close/end
[C2] to be almost finished

Dictionary example:
At last the concert drew to a close.

Learner example:
As the dinner drew to an end, our weariness became all too clear.

draw a comparison/distinction
[C2] to say that there is a similarity or difference between two things

Dictionary example:
We need to draw a distinction between criticism and insults.

Learner example:
A country sh[ould] not be visited only to enable the tourist to draw a comparison between his country and the foreign one.

draw the line (at sth)
[C2] If someone says they know where to draw the line, they are talking about knowing at what point an activity or situation becomes unacceptable because it is wrong or too extreme

Dictionary example:
I swear a lot but even I draw the line at certain words.
Learner example:
A mistake is a mistake, people say. But in my opinion rape is not the same as shoplifting. So where do you draw the line?

drawback  /ˈdrowbæk/

NOUN [C]
[C1] a problem or disadvantage

Dictionary examples:
The only drawback with this camera is the price.
One of the main drawbacks of the program is the amount of memory required.

Learner example:
Both perspectives are important, but, overall, the advantages of proper in–house teaching outweigh the drawbacks.

dread /dred/

Word family:
Verbs: dread
Adjectives: dreadful

VERB [T]
[C2] to feel worried or frightened about something that has not happened yet

Dictionary examples:
I'm dreading the first day at my new school.
I dread seeing him again.

Learner example:
You could go through life regretting the past and dreading the future, and become a grumpy old man, or you could take it all as it comes, and enjoy every single moment.

I dread to think
[C2] used to say that you do not want to think about something because it is too worrying

Dictionary example:
I dread to think what could have happened if we hadn't been wearing seat belts.

Learner example:
I dread to think what has happened to it since the day my younger brother left it in a park.
**dreadful** /ˈdred.fəl/  

**Word family:**  
**Verbs:** dread  
**Adjectives:** dreadful  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] extremely bad or unpleasant  

**Dictionary examples:**  
The food was bad and the service was dreadful.  
I was beginning to think I’d made a dreadful mistake.  
The news report was so dreadful that I just had to switch it off.  

**Learner example:**  
What a dreadful nightmare!

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**dream** /driːm/  

**NOUN [C]**  
**be in a dream**  
[B2] to not notice things that are around you because you are thinking about something else  

**Dictionary example:**  

**Learner example:**  
The first time I [saw a fashion] show, I was 10 years old and I [was] in a dream during the [whole] show.  

**beyond your wildest dreams**  
[C2] bigger or better than anything you could imagine or hope for  

**Dictionary example:**  
The house was beyond my wildest dreams.  

**Learner example:**  
[It] was beyond my wildest dreams.  

**not/never in your wildest dreams**  
[C2] used to say that something is better than anything you could imagine or hope for  

**Dictionary example:**  
Never in my wildest dreams had I thought I would be offered a starring role in Hollywood.
Learner example:
Not even in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that finding a diary was to have such fortunate consequences for me.

**VERB** [i or T] (dreamed or dreamt, dreamed or dreamt)

**wouldn’t dream of doing sth**
[C2] used to say that you would not do something because you think it is wrong or silly

Dictionary example:
I wouldn't dream of asking him for money.

Learner example:
Many people wouldn't dream of spending hours in a kitchen preparing a complex meal.

dress  /dres/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** dress
**Verbs:** dress, undress
**Adjectives:** dressed, undressed

**NOUN**

**STYLE**
[B2] [u] a particular style of clothes

Dictionary example:
casual/formal dress

Learner example:
You had better put on formal dress.

drift  /drɪft/

**VERB** [i]

drift across/down/towards, etc.
[C2] to be moved slowly somewhere by currents of wind or water

Dictionary example:
Smoke drifted across the rooftops.

Learner example:
As the clouds drifted past it, the light slowly returned.
SITUATION
[C2] to get into a situation or job without having any particular plan

Dictionary example:
He drifted into acting after university.

Learner example:
But once Stevens had noticed their working relationship was slowly drifting into a kind of love affair, he proposed to stop these evening meetings on account of their being not useful in a professional sense any more.

drive /draɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: drive, driver
Verbs: drive

VERB (drove, driven)

drive sb mad/crazy, etc. INFORMAL
[B2] to make someone extremely annoyed

Dictionary examples:
My mother-in-law has been staying with us this past week and she's driving me crazy.
He leaves dirty clothes all over the floor and it's driving me mad.

Learner example:
It drove me crazy.

drive sb to sth; drive sb to do sth
[C1] to make someone have a bad feeling or do something bad

Dictionary example:
The arguments and violence drove her to leave home.

Learner example:
She would discover all about her affair with Lorraine's husband and the real cause that drove him to commit suicide.

MAKE WORK
[C2] [ɪ] to provide the power or energy that makes someone or something work

Dictionary example:
She was driven by greed and ambition.

Learner example:
On the other hand, we are reassured by large international corporations that everything is under control, but it is common knowledge that these capitalistic monsters are [so] driven by greed for money and power that they would say anything to calm down the public.
NOUN

ENERGY

[C1] [u] energy and determination to achieve things

Dictionary example:
She has drive and ambition.

Learner example:
They definitely have the drive and motivation to succeed.

drop /drɒp/

VERB (–pp–)

LOWER

[B2] [I or T] to move to a lower level, or cause something to move to a lower level

Dictionary examples:
The water level in the flooded region has finally begun to drop.
The land drops (away) sharply behind the house.
We've had to drop our prices because of the recession.

Learner example:
Especially if you imagine that the number of heart-attacks was about 40% per year and for [the] last 3 years dropped down to 23%.

STOP ACTIVITY

[B2] [T] to stop doing or planning something, especially an activity

Dictionary examples:
I'm going to drop yoga and do aerobics instead.
Can you drop what you're doing and help me with this report?

Learner example:
I think you shouldn't drop sports but on the other hand, if you drop sports and do music, it [would be] quite good as well.

TAKE

[C1] [T] (also drop off) to take someone or something to a place, usually by car as you travel somewhere else

Dictionary example:
I can drop you at the station on my way to work.

Learner example:
You [had] better hire a car or get to know somebody who can drop you there.
drop it/the subject
[C2] to stop talking about something, especially because it is annoying or upsetting someone

Dictionary example:
I don't want to talk about it any more – let's drop the subject.

drop dead
[C2] informal to die very suddenly

Dictionary example:
He just dropped dead in the middle of the show.

Learner example:
We can enjoy our longer lives because we don't have to work until we drop dead.

NOUN

REDUCTION
[B2] [no plural] a reduction in the amount or level of something

Dictionary examples:
a drop in crime
The recent drop in magazine subscriptions is causing some concern.

Learner example:

DISTANCE
[C1] [no plural] a vertical distance down from somewhere to the ground

Dictionary example:
It's a drop of about 50 metres from the top of the cliff.

a drop in the ocean
[C2] a very small amount compared to the amount needed

Dictionary example:
My letter of protest was just a drop in the ocean.

Learner example:
Naturally it is a drop in the ocean, but we can hope that the others will imitate our behaviour.

drought /draʊt/

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] a long period when there is no rain and people do not have enough water

Dictionary example:
A severe drought ruined the crops.
Learner example:
We have wars, revolutions, political unrest, famine, drought, pollution, etc. Some of our problems are difficult to solve.

drown /drəʊn/

VERB

DIE
[B2] I to die because you are under water and cannot breathe, or to kill someone in this way

Dictionary example:
Two people drowned in a boating accident yesterday.

Learner example:
Those days we spent in Brazil were full of excitement and I certainly wouldn’t mind doing it again – well, except [for] the episode in which you almost drowned when we went water-skiing.

COVER
[C2] If a loud noise drowns the sound of something else, it prevents that sound from being heard.

Dictionary example:
His voice was drowned out by the traffic.

Learner example:
It is furthermore impossible to listen to music as it is drowned by the noise.

drug /drʌɡ/

NOUN [C]

MEDICINE
[B2] I any natural or artificially made chemical which is used as a medicine

Dictionary examples:
anti-cancer/fertility/pain-killing drugs
a prescription drug
He takes several drugs for his condition.

Learner example:
A great many drug companies all over the world have reduced input of dangerous chemicals into rivers, lakes and seas.
ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE

[B2] Any natural or artificially made chemical which is taken for pleasure, to improve someone's performance of an activity, or because a person cannot stop using it.

Dictionary examples:
illegal drugs
a drug addict
drug addiction/abuse
She began to suspect that her son was on/taking/doing drugs.

Learner example:
Of course, I have never taken drugs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>drunk /drʌŋk/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Word family:
Nouns: drink
Verbs: drink
Adjectives: drunk

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

[B2] Unable to behave or speak normally because of having had too much alcohol.

Dictionary examples:
He got very drunk at my sister's wedding.
I'd had a glass of wine but I certainly wasn’t drunk.
He came home last night blind drunk.

Learner example:
So, I just sat down watching Julie and her monstrous friends drinking and acting like animals – they were all blind drunk!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dry /draɪ/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

ADJECTIVE (drier, driest or dryer, dryest)

WINE

[C1] Dry wine is not sweet.

Dictionary example:
I'd like a glass of dry white wine.

Learner example:
The only wine sold – a dry white wine of a very good quality – is the one made by the owners of the restaurant and I can assure you that it's worth trying it.
HAIR/SKIN
[C1] Dry skin or hair does not feel soft or smooth.

Dictionary example:
My lips feel really dry.

Learner example:
She looked old, her skin was dry and her eyes so lucid...

BORING
[C2] If a book, talk, or subject is dry, it is not interesting.

Dictionary example:
His writing is always so dry and dull.

Learner example:
Facts and dates are dry and empty if teachers are not able to bring them to life.

VERB [I or T]
dry up PHRASAL VERB
[C2] If a supply of something dries up, it ends.

Dictionary example:
The work dried up and he went out of business.

Learner example:
Nevertheless we must consider that a society with many [people] over sixty has its problems, such as retirement funds which [have] dried up.

dual  /ˈdjuːəl/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C1] having two parts, or having two of something

Dictionary examples:
dual nationality
She's got a bit of a dual personality.

Learner example:
I have dual nationality.
dubious /ˈdjuː.bi.əs/

ADJECTIVE

NOT TRUE
[C2] thought not to be completely true, honest, or legal

Dictionary examples:
dubious evidence
a man with a dubious reputation

Learner example:
He was blackmailed, his children were twice kidnapped and his wife was badly injured in mysterious and dubious circumstances.

DOUBTING
[C2] not certain that something is good or true

Dictionary example:
He's dubious about the benefits of acupuncture.

Learner example:
As far as entertainers are concerned, I am rather dubious about their contribution to a better world.

duck /dʌk/

NOUN [c]

be (like) water off a duck's back
[C2] If criticisms, insults, etc. are like water off a duck's back to you, they do not affect you at all.

Dictionary example:
She calls him lazy and useless, but it's like water off a duck's back.

Learner example:
The main lesson I have learned is by looking at some people who have lived alone for most of their life and faced with neither contradiction nor argument, they stay in their ivory tower, so sure of their opinions that whatever you say is like water off a duck's back.
**due /djuː/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**in due course**
[B2] at a suitable time in the future

**Dictionary example:**
The results will be sent to you in due course.

**Learner example:**
I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

**be due for sth**
[C1] If you are due for something, it should happen very soon.

**Dictionary example:**
I'm due for a check-up at the dentist's.

**Learner example:**
The facilities and canteen are due for improvement too.

**DESERVE**
[C2] Something that is due to you is something that is owed to you or something you deserve.

**Dictionary example:**
He didn't get the praise and recognition that was due to him.

**Learner example:**
Slowly she walked into the living room, knowing that a big apology was due to her.

**BEHAVIOUR**
[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] FORMAL correct and suitable

**Dictionary example:**
He was fined for driving without due care and attention.

**Learner example:**
However, we should take due care not to make wrong assumptions and be prejudicial to others as a consequence.

---

**dull /dʌl/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT BRIGHT**

[C1] not bright
**Dictionary examples:**

- dull colours
- dull weather

**Learner example:**
Confronted with her childrens’ styles she changed from old-fashioned skirts in dull colours to comfortable jeans and colourful shirts.

---

**dumb /dʌm/**

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] physically unable to talk

**Dictionary example:**
The child is deaf and dumb.

**Learner example:**
The first one is "Lessons of Piano". It is the story of a dumb woman who uses a piano to express her feelings and moods.

---

**dump /dʌmp/**

**VERB**

**GET RID OF**

[C1] [ɪ] to put something somewhere to get rid of it, especially in a place where you should not put it

**Dictionary example:**
The company was fined for illegally dumping toxic chemicals.

**Learner example:**
I can pick up all the bottles and other rubbish that are dumped on the street where I live.

**dump sth on/in/down, etc.**

[C2] to put something somewhere quickly and carelessly

**Dictionary example:**
Henri dumped his bag on the table and went upstairs.

**Learner example:**
Annabel dumped her school bag on the floor and threw herself onto her bed.

**END RELATIONSHIP**

[C2] INFORMAL to suddenly end a romantic relationship
Dictionary example:
If he's so awful, why don't you just dump him?

Learner example:
I had just been dumped by a guy I thought I was in love with.

NOUN [C] (also UK tip)

WASTE
[C1] a place where people take things that they do not want

Dictionary example:
We took our old mattress to the dump.

Learner example:
Thankfully, with the help of the government, a recycling centre was built nearby and so the rubbish littering the streets, as well as that being taken to the dump, was cut down by 60%.

UNTIDY PLACE
[C2] informal a place that is dirty and untidy

Dictionary example:
His room is a dump.

be down in the dumps informal
[C2] to be unhappy

Dictionary example:
He looks a bit down in the dumps.

Learner example:
She felt happy when I was down in the dumps or in a fix and kept on being jealous of me concerning trivial matters.

duration /djuːˈreɪʃən/

NOUN [U] formal
[C1] the amount of time that something lasts

Dictionary example:
The singer remained in the hotel for the duration of his stay in the UK.

Learner example:
If you are between 18 and 30 years old, we offer you a wide range of jobs with a duration varying from two weeks to three months.
duty /ˈdjuː.ti/

NOUN

JOB
[B2] [c or u] something you do as part of your job or because of your position

Dictionary example:
professional/official duties

Learner example:
And it is the most important duty of the local police to keep an eye on hooligans.

on/off duty
[B2] If someone such as a doctor or a soldier is on duty, they are working, and if they are off duty, they are not working.

Dictionary example:
What time are you off/on duty tomorrow?

Learner example:
I was on duty in front of the major's house with another soldier.

dwell /dwel/

VERB
dwell on/upon sth PHRASAL VERB
[C1] to keep thinking or talking about something, especially something bad or unpleasant

Dictionary example:
I don't want to dwell on the past.

Learner example:
Considering this astonishing technical feature, I do not wish to dwell too long upon the subject.

dynamic /daɪˈnæm.ɪk/

ADJECTIVE

ACTIVE
[B2] full of ideas, energy and enthusiasm

Dictionary example:
She's young and dynamic and will be a great addition to the team.
Learner example:
I am a cheerful, dynamic and hardworking person.

CHANGING
[C2] continuously changing or moving

Dictionary example:
a dynamic economy

Learner example:
Consequently, the country has a less dynamic economy.
**Eager** /ˈiːˌgər/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** eagerness  
**Adjectives:** eager  
**Adverbs:** eagerly  

**Adjective**  
[B2] wanting to do or have something very much  

**Dictionary examples:**  
She sounded very eager **to** meet you.  
They crowded round the spokesperson, eager **for** any news.  

**Learner example:**  
We are six Italian teenagers eager to meet new people.  

**Eagerly** /ˈiːˌgə.li/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** eagerness  
**Adjectives:** eager  
**Adverbs:** eagerly  

**Adverb**  
[B2] in an eager way  

**Dictionary example:**  
an eagerly **awaited** announcement  

**Learner example:**  
I'm eagerly waiting for your reply.  

**Eagerness** /ˈiːˌgə.nəs/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** eagerness  
**Adjectives:** eager  
**Adverbs:** eagerly
NOUN [u]
[B2] when you are eager to do something

Dictionary example:
In their eagerness to find a solution, they have overlooked certain difficulties.

Learner example:
I really admire your stamina, your commitment and your eagerness to pursue a career as one of the youngest vice presidents ever in the company, but is it really worth it?

eagle /ˈiː.gl/  

NOUN [c]
[B2] a large, strong bird with a curved beak that hunts smaller animals

Learner example:
For many animals zoos are the only hope for survival: for example the Chinese panda or white eagle.

ear /ɪə/  

NOUN [c]

not believe your ears
[B2] to be very surprised when you hear what someone says

Dictionary example:
I couldn't believe my ears when Dan said they were getting married.

Learner example:
I couldn't believe my ears. All my wishes had come true.

have an ear for sth
[C1] to be good at hearing, repeating, or understanding a particular type of sound

Dictionary example:
He has no ear for music.

Learner example:
In terms of communication I believe that I have an ear for languages.

play sth by ear
[C2] to play a piece of music by remembering the notes

Dictionary example:
She plays all the songs by ear.
Learner example:
As the years went by, she found it hard to cope with her slow headway in classical piano and her endlessly unfinished songs played by ear.

play it by ear
[C2] to decide how to deal with a situation as it develops

Dictionary example:
I'm not sure what to tell Dad – I'll just have to play it by ear.

Learner example:
On the way to Cambridge, I had made up my mind to play it by ear.

fall on deaf ears
[C2] If advice or a request falls on deaf ears, people ignore it.

Dictionary example:
Our pleas for help fell on deaf ears.

Learner example:
His cry for help and for a more meaningful relationship between himself and Mildred invariably fell on deaf ears.

**early** /ˈɜː.li/ (earlier, earliest)

ADJECTIVE

early on
[C2] in the first stage or part of something

Dictionary example:
I lost interest quite early on in the book.

Learner example:
What luck that I found such a yardstick early on in my childhood.

at the earliest
[C2] used after a time or date to show that something will not happen before then

Dictionary example:
Building will not begin until July at the earliest.

**earn** /ɜːn/

Word family:
Nouns: earnings
Verbs: earn
**VERB**

**earn a/your living**

[B2] to work to get money for the things you need

**Dictionary example:**
You can't expect to earn a living from your painting.

**Learner example:**
We work to earn a living.

**DESERVE**

[C2] [ɪ] to get something that you deserve because of your work, qualities, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
As a teacher you have to earn the respect of your students.

**Learner example:**
Okonkwu was totally different. He was very disciplined and focussed. [...] He wanted to earn the respect of his society.

---

**earnings /ˈɜːnɪŋz/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** earnings

**Verbs:** earn

**NOUN [PLURAL]**

[B2] money that you get for working

**Dictionary example:**
Average earnings for skilled workers are rising.

**Learner example:**
Finally, I think that publishers are so worried about their earnings that they don't pay attention to new writers.

---

**earth /ɜːθ/**

**NOUN**

**SUBSTANCE**

[B2] [u] soil or ground

**Dictionary example:**
The ploughed earth looked rich and dark.
Learner example:
At the same time, the two sisters began to throw earth and stones.

**how/what/why, etc. on earth?** INFORMAL
[C1] used when you are extremely surprised, confused, or angry about something

**Dictionary example:**
Why on earth didn't you tell me before?

**Learner example:**
How on earth can you have a coach without a toilet?

down to earth
[C1] People or ideas that are down to earth are practical and work well.

**Dictionary example:**
David's a bit of a dreamer but Ruth's much more down to earth.

**Learner example:**
He has much practical knowledge, he is down to earth.

**earthquake** /ˈɜːθ.kweɪk/

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a sudden movement of the Earth's surface, often causing severe damage

**Dictionary example:**
A powerful earthquake **struck** eastern Turkey last night.

**Learner example:**
Human beings are afraid of dangers such as [a] tornado or earthquake.

**ease** /iːz/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** ease
**Adjectives:** easy, uneasy
**Adverbs:** easily, easy

**NOUN [U]**

**NOT DIFFICULT**
[B2] If you do something with ease, it is easy for you to do it.

**Dictionary examples:**
She won the 400m race **with** ease.
I was amazed at the ease with which she learnt the language.
Learner example:
She finally left the small village in the pursuit of her goal, which she achieved with relative ease.

at ease
[B2] feeling relaxed and comfortable

Dictionary example:
I felt completely at ease with him.

Learner example:
I really felt at ease: your house is very comfortable and the neighbours are nice people.

ill at ease
[C2] not relaxed and feeling anxious

Dictionary example:
I always felt very ill at ease in his company.

Learner example:
I was a bit annoyed, or rather, ill at ease at first; but his kindness soon made me feel relaxed in his company.

easily /ˈiː.zi.li/

Word family:
Nouns: ease
Adjectives: easy, uneasy
Adverbs: easily, easy

ADVERB

LIKELY
[C1] used to emphasize that something is likely

Dictionary example:
A comment like that could easily be misunderstood.

Learner example:
Considering the results of our research and the available alternatives, we came to the conclusion that there is no valid reason for replacing a valuable park with a car park that could easily be located somewhere else.

easily the best/worst/biggest, etc.
[C2] certainly the best/worst/biggest, etc.

Dictionary example:
It was easily the biggest dog I have ever seen.

Learner example:
In conclusion, the percentage of newly employed make up easily the biggest proportion of UK university students who graduated in 2001.
east (also East) /ˈiːst/

Word family:
Nouns: east
Adjectives: east, eastern

NOUN [U]

the East
[B2] the countries of Asia

Dictionary example:
She spent her childhood in the East – mostly in China and Japan.

eastern (also Eastern) /ˈiːstən/

Word family:
Nouns: east
Adjectives: east, eastern

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

Asia
[B2] in or from the countries of Asia

Dictionary example:
Buddhism and other Eastern religions fascinate me.

Learner example:
I would like to know if the restaurant [has] Eastern or Asian [food]?

easy /ˈiː.zi/  

Word family:
Nouns: ease
Adjectives: easy, uneasy
Adverbs: easily, easy

ADJECTIVE

(take) the easy way out
[C1] to do what is easiest in a difficult situation

Dictionary example:
I know you don’t approve of his working methods, but why not take the easy way out this time and agree to his request?
Learner example:
On the other hand you cannot survive without your pay-check and to be able to both make a car[ee]r and have the time to be green, sometimes you just have to take the easy way out.

ADVERB

easier said than done
[C1] used to say that something seems like a good idea but it would be difficult to do

Dictionary example:
I want to ask her out, but it’s easier said than done.

Learner example:
I know it’s easier said than done but you have to try.

**eat /iːt/ (ate, eaten)**

VERB

eat up (sth) or eat (sth) up PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to eat all the food you have been given

Dictionary example:
Be a good boy and eat up your dinner.

Learner example:
There wasn't any more time after eating it up.

**eccentric /ɪkˈsen.trɪk/**

ADJECTIVE
[C2] behaving in a strange and unusual way

Dictionary examples:
an eccentric professor
eccentric behaviour

Learner example:
Celebrities become eccentric to the point of godlike insanity.
echo /ˈe.kəʊ/

VERB (echoing, echoed)

SOUND
[C2] [I] If a sound echoes, or a place echoes with a sound, you hear the sound again because you are in a large, empty space.

Dictionary example:
Their voices echoed around the room.

Learner example:
Our cheer of delight united with the neighing of the horses and the din of the hens still echoes in my ears.

REPEAT
[C2] [I] to repeat something that someone else has said because you agree with it or to express similar ideas or feelings to someone else

Dictionary examples:
This report echoes some of the earlier research I've read.
Her feelings are echoed by other parents in the same situation.

Learner example:
I find myself echoing many of the points you have raised.

NOUN [C] (echoes)

SOUND
[C2] a sound that you hear more than once because you are in a big, empty space

Dictionary example:
I could hear the echo of the bell.

Learner example:
You can always hear the echo of a bell.

ecological /ˌiː.kəˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: ecology
Adjectives: ecological
Adverbs: ecologically

ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to ecology or the environment

Dictionary example:
The destruction of the rain forests is an ecological disaster.
Learner example:
There are ecological, technical, and social problems.

**ecologically** /ˌiː.kəˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: ecology
Adjectives: ecological
Adverbs: ecologically

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a way that relates to ecology or the environment

Dictionary example:
It’s an ecologically friendly/sound means of transport.

**ecology** /ɪˈkɒl.ə.dʒi/

Word family:
Nouns: ecology
Adjectives: ecological
Adverbs: ecologically

**NOUN [U NO PLURAL]**

[C1] the relationship between living things and the environment, or the scientific study of this

Dictionary example:
The oil spill caused terrible damage to the fragile ecology of the coast.

Learner example:
This solution supports business – well, then it's up to the residents to choose either business or ecology.

**economic** /ˌiː.kəˈnɒm.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: economics, economist, economy
Adjectives: economic, economical

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[B2] relating to trade, industry and money

Dictionary examples:
We have seen ten years of economic growth.
The government's economic policies have led us into the worst recession for years.
Learner example:
Nowadays there are economic problems in many countries.

economical /ˌiː.kəˈnɒm.ɪ.əl/  
Word family:  
Nouns: economics, economist, economy  
Adjectives: economic, economical

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] not using a lot of money, fuel, etc.

Dictionary examples:  
What's the most economical way of heating this building?  
There's increasing demand for cars which are more economical on fuel.

Learner example:  
Moreover a bike is a very economical means of transport because it does not need any fuel.

economist /ɪˈkɒn.ə.mɪst/  
Word family:  
Nouns: economics, economist, economy  
Adjectives: economic, economical

NOUN [c]  
[B2] a person who studies or has a special knowledge of economics

Learner example:  
I discovered that one of the examiners was a very famous economist.

economy /ɪˈkɒn.ə.mi/  
Word family:  
Nouns: economics, economist, economy  
Adjectives: economic, economical

NOUN [c]  
[B2] the system by which a country produces and uses goods and money
Dictionary examples:
the German/US economy
the **global** economy
a **weak**/**strong** economy
The economy has been **growing** at a rapid rate these past five years.
Tourism contributes millions of pounds to the country's economy.

**Learner example:**
As China's economy is growing fast, we will run low [on] resources soon.

---

**edge** /ˈedʒ/  
**NOUN [C]**

**BLADE**
[B2] the part of a blade of a knife or tool that cuts, or any sharp part of an object which could cut

**Dictionary example:**
Careful with that open tin – it's got a very sharp edge.

**Learner example:**
When I sat down, I didn't notice that the seat in front of me was broken on the side, and when it was time for me to get off the bus, I cut my hand on the sharp edge.

**have the edge on/over sb/sth**
[C2] to be slightly better than someone or something else

**Dictionary example:**
When it comes to food, I think France still has the edge over most countries.

**Learner example:**
The majority of people tend to believe that those who live in big cities have the edge over the others.

**be on edge**
[C2] to be nervous or worried

**Dictionary example:**
Sorry for shouting – I'm a bit on edge today.

**Learner example:**
I was consequently on edge all the time and was not able to have fun as much as the others did.

---

**edible** /ˈed.a.bɪl/  
*Word family:*

*Adjectives:* edible, inedible
ADJECTIVE
[C1] safe to eat and not harmful

Dictionary example:
edible berries

Learner example:
Part of your journey can be made through the forests where you can pick up some edible berries and wild mushrooms but be careful, you may need the local guide to help you with decisions there.

edit /ˈed.i.t/

Word family:
Nouns: edition, editor
Verbs: edit

VERB [T]
[B2] to prepare text, film, etc. by deciding what to include and by correcting mistakes

Dictionary examples:
Janet edited books for a variety of publishers.
The film's 129 minutes were edited down from 150 hours of footage.

Learner example:
If you can edit these errors, I would appreciate it.

edition /ɪˈdɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: edition, editor
Verbs: edit

NOUN [C]
[B2] a book, newspaper, etc. that is one of several that are the same and were produced at the same time

Dictionary examples:
a new edition
the paperback/hardback edition of the dictionary
The local/regional editions of the paper contain specific information for that area.

Learner example:
editor /ˈed.ɪ.tər/

Word family:
Nouns: edition, editor
Verbs: edit

NOUN [c]
[B2] a person who corrects or changes text, film, etc., or a person who is in charge of a newspaper or magazine

Dictionary examples:
She's a senior editor in the reference department of a publishing company.
Who is the current editor of the Times?

Learner example:
It seems to me that you don't take your job as seriously as every reader expects from an objective and informative newspaper editor.

educate /ˈed.jʊ.keɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: education
Verbs: educate
Adjectives: educated, educational

VERB [T]

TEACH
[B2] [OFTEN PASSIVE] to teach someone at a school, college or university

Dictionary examples:
She was educated at Crown Woods secondary school.
How much does it cost to educate a child privately?

Learner example:
Occasionally, students are not being educated equally. I strongly believe that students have to have the right to choose their subjects.

GIVE INFORMATION
[B2] to give people information about something so that they understand it better

Dictionary example:
The government say they are trying to do more to educate the public about the consequences of drug abuse.

Learner example:
Therefore, in my opinion, if people had been educated to love and respect nature, zoos would have already been abolished.
educated /ˈed.jʊ.keɪ.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: education
Verbs: educate
Adjectives: educated, educational

ADJECTIVE

[B2] Someone who is educated has learned a lot at school or in college and has a good level of knowledge.

Dictionary example:
These are all educated, professional people.

Learner example:
I'm going to buy a computer because I think it is a very useful and important thing for every educated person.

an educated guess

[C2] a guess that is probably correct because you have enough knowledge about something

Dictionary example:
I know you don't have the exact figures with you, but make an educated guess.

Learner example:
If we make an educated guess, we will probably suppose that this tendency will continue for the next few years and that there will be a time when we won't be able to do anything without medicines.

educational /ˌed.jʊˈkeɪ.ʃənl/

Word family:
Nouns: education
Verbs: educate
Adjectives: educated, educational

ADJECTIVE

[B2] providing education or relating to education

Dictionary examples:
educational toys
Reducing the size of classes may improve educational standards.

Learner example:
I want to ask you if the cinema could provide some extra services to the com[m]unity, such as showing educational films for free.
**effect /ɪˈfekt/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** effect, effectiveness  
**Adjectives:** effective  
**Adverbs:** effectively  

**NOUN**

**have little/no effect**  
[C1] make little/no difference

**Dictionary example:**  
The new measures have had little effect on ordinary people's lives.

**Learner example:**  
As for the weather, it was only a five-minute shower that soon went over and therefore had no effect on the show.

**take effect**  
[C1] to start to produce results or changes

**Dictionary example:**  
They had to wait ten minutes for the anaesthetic to take effect.

**Learner example:**  
Some factories tried to organize the transport for the employees, but it took effect in small towns only, where people live with shorter distances.

**in effect**  
[C2] used to say what the real situation is

**Dictionary example:**  
This means, in effect, that the plan has been scrapped.

**Learner example:**  
However, if the government increases the amount of money they pay to the unemployed, that in effect means higher taxes for the citizens which will cause strikes and various other problems.

**come/go into effect**  
[C2] to start being used

**Dictionary example:**  
New food safety rules come into effect on Monday.

**Learner example:**  
For a case in point consider London – ask any Londoner who lived in this city before this ban came into effect.
**effective**  /ɪˈfek.tɪv/  

Word family:
Nouns: effect, effectiveness
Adjectives: effective
Adverbs: effectively

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] successful or achieving the results that you want

**Dictionary examples:**
effective management
It's an extremely effective cure for a headache.
The lighting for the production made a very effective use of shadow.
She's a very effective teacher.

**Learner example:**
To be honest, I don't think it's very effective, but we have to do something against fat.

**effectively**  /ɪˈfek.tɪv.li/  

Word family:
Nouns: effect, effectiveness
Adjectives: effective
Adverbs: effectively

**ADVERB**

**SUCCESS**

[B2] in a way that is successful and achieves what you want

**Dictionary examples:**
Teachers need to be able to communicate ideas effectively.
The tablets work more effectively if you take a hot drink after them.

**Learner example:**
As well as learning English, we should be aware of the cultures of many countries in order to be able to communicate more effectively.

**REALLY**

[C2] used when you describe what the real result of a situation is

**Dictionary example:**
His illness effectively ended his career.

**Learner example:**
We have to remember that the Spanish language is becoming increasingly important, especially in countries like [the] US, where it is effectively THE second language of communication.
**effectiveness** /ɪˈfek.tɪv.nəs/

Word family:

Nouns: effect, effectiveness
Adjectives: effective
Adverbs: effectively

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] the degree to which something achieves its intended result

**Dictionary example:**
There are doubts about the effectiveness of the drug.

**Learner example:**
If this is done, the effectiveness of the lessons will no doubt be increased.

---

**efficiency** /ɪˈfɪʃ.ənt.i/  

Word family:

Nouns: efficiency
Adjectives: efficient, inefficient
Adverbs: efficiently

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] when someone or something uses time and energy well, without wasting any

**Dictionary examples:**
What is so impressive about their society is the efficiency of the public services.
energy/fuel efficiency

**Learner example:**
Finally, I think modern technology makes me do my business faster, with much more efficiency.

---

**efficiently** /ɪˈfɪʃ.ənt.li/

Word family:

Nouns: efficiency
Adjectives: efficient, inefficient
Adverbs: efficiently

**ADVERB**

[B2] quickly and effectively in an organized way

**Dictionary example:**
She runs the business very efficiently.

**Learner example:**
Needless to say, the computer plays a [key] role [in making] us use a library efficiently.
effort /ˈef.ət/

NOUN

be an effort
[C2] to be difficult, tiring or boring to do

Dictionary examples:
After his accident, walking was an effort.
Sometimes, just getting out of bed in the morning is an effort.

Learner example:
It was a bit of an effort but actually such a small thing for him to do.

egg /eg/

NOUN

BABY

[B2] [c] an oval object with a hard shell that contains a baby bird, insect or other creature

Dictionary examples:
The cuckoo lays her egg in another bird’s nest.
After fourteen days the eggs hatch.

Learner example:
The only thing they can do is to lay eggs.

a nest egg
[C2] a sum of money that has been saved or kept for a specific purpose

Dictionary example:
She used her nest egg to buy a really good piano.

Learner example:
She was the only heir of a rich family and her husband, who died ten years ago, left her a sizeable nest egg.

eighty /ˈeɪ.ti/
Dictionary example:
Many of the residents are in their eighties.

**the eighties**

Dictionary example:
They moved to Britain in the eighties.

Learner example:
He is a normal man with no special education but he became famous during the eighties as a musician.

either /ˈəɪ.ðə/

PRONOUN; DETERMINER

**either side/end, etc.**
[B2] each of two sides, ends, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Unfortunately I was sitting at the table with smokers on either side of me.
There are two entrances, one at either end of the campsite.

Learner example:
You can watch it while it's eating: standing up on its back legs and holding the nut with its front legs, then putting all of it into one [of] its two "sacks" on either side of its mouth.

elaborate /ɪˈlær.ət/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] complicated, detailed, or made carefully from many parts

Dictionary examples:
an elaborate system/scheme
an elaborate design

Learner example:
A nurse was standing nearby, adjusting an intravenous vial suspended by an elaborate array of tubes.
**elapse** /ɪˈlæps/

**VERB** [I] **FORMAL**

[C2] If time elapses, it passes.

**Dictionary example:**
Two years have elapsed since the attack.

**Learner example:**
Two weeks elapsed and, not receiving any message from the music shop, I had to confess to my mother my new expenses, because I was starting my classes and the postman could arrive at any moment.

**eled** /ɪˈleɪ.tɪd/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] extremely happy and excited

**Dictionary example:**
We were elated by/at the news.

**Learner example:**
When the show was over and I staggered from the scene I found myself in some kind of rose-tinted daze, elated by the sheer joy that, at least for me, only music can bring.

**elder** /ˈel.dər/

**NOUN**

the elder

[B2] the older person of two people

**Dictionary example:**
Of the two brothers, Harvey is the elder.

**Learner example:**
The most interesting characters of "Jamaica Inn" are the Merlyn brothers. We first meet Joss, the elder, when Mary, the heroine of the story, arrived at the inn.

your elders

[C2] people older than you

**Dictionary example:**
I was taught to respect my elders.
Learner example:
Little can our elders do to enlighten us if they are chained to a machine to keep on breathing.

elderly /ˈel.dəl.i/

NOUN

the elderly
[C1] people who are elderly

Dictionary example:
The elderly are given help with fuel bills.

Learner example:
I also heard complaints from the elderly, fearing the city streets due to the traffic, something that would not be resolved by a central parking lot, and certainly the elderly would be the ones [worst] affected by increased pollution, with their less effective immune systems.

eldest /ˈel.dɪst/

NOUN

the eldest
[B2] a person who is the oldest of three or more people

Dictionary example:
He was the eldest of four kids.

Learner example:
She's the eldest – 98 years old – and knows the whole history of our town.

elect /ɪˈlekt/

Word family:
Nouns: election
Verbs: elect

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]
[B2] to choose someone for a particular job or position by voting

Dictionary examples:
He was elected president in 1997.
She was elected to the US Senate in 2004.
We elected him as our representative.
Learner example:
In 1987 a young girl, Cecilia Bolocco, was elected Miss Chile.

electric /ɪˈlek.trɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: electrician, electricity
Adjectives: electric, electrical

ADJECTIVE

EXCITING
[C2] full of excitement and emotion

Dictionary example:
The atmosphere backstage was electric.

electrical /ɪˈlek.trɪkl/

Word family:
Nouns: electrician, electricity
Adjectives: electric, electrical

ADJECTIVE

SUPPLY
[C1] relating to the production and supply of electricity

Dictionary example:
an electrical engineer

Learner example:
As an electrical engineer, computer training is very important to me in several ways.

electrician /ˌe.lekˈtrɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: electrician, electricity
Adjectives: electric, electrical

NOUN [c]
[B2] someone whose job is to put in, check or repair electrical wires and equipment

Dictionary example:
We have an electrician coming round to put some new sockets in.
Learner example:
I rang up an electrician and told him about the problem.

electronically /eˌlekˈtrɒn.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: electronics
Adjectives: electronic
Adverbs: electronically

ADVERB
[B2] in a way that uses electronic equipment, especially a computer

Dictionary examples:
electronically generated graphics
electronically stored information

Learner example:
I hope that you can subscribe to [the] Internet as well so that we can communicate electronically.

electronics /eˌlekˈtrɒn.ɪks/

Word family:
Nouns: electronics
Adjectives: electronic
Adverbs: electronically

NOUN [u]
[B2] the scientific study of electric current and the technology that uses it

Dictionary examples:
a degree in electronics
the electronics industry

Learner example:
I am still studying electronics and computer science.

elegance /ˈel.ɪ.gən.təs/

Word family:
Nouns: elegance
Adjectives: elegant
Adverbs: elegantly
NOUN [u]
[C1] when someone or something is stylish or attractive in their appearance or
behaviour

Dictionary example:
We were impressed by the elegance of his clothes.

Learner example:
As with the sport I mentioned before, it also has the grace and elegance of a dancer and the
technique, of course, of a skater.

elegant /ˈel.ɪ.gənt/

Word family:
Nouns: elegance
Adjectives: elegant
Adverbs: elegantly

ADJECTIVE
[B2] stylish and attractive

Dictionary examples:
She’s a very elegant woman.
Tara looked very elegant in a simple black dress.
He led me to an elegant dining room.

Learner example:
The building itself looks grand and elegant.

elegantly /ˈel.ɪ.gənt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: elegance
Adjectives: elegant
Adverbs: elegantly

ADVERB
[B2] in a way that is elegant

Dictionary example:
elegantly dressed

Learner example:
You should alway[s] [be] dressed elegantly.
element /ˈel.ɪ.mənt/

NOUN [c]

PART
[B2] a part of something

Dictionary examples:
List the elements which make up a perfect dinner party.
The film had all the elements of a good thriller.

Learner example:
The main element of a novel is, of course, the story itself.

SIMPLE SUBSTANCE
[B2] a simple substance that cannot be reduced to smaller chemical parts, for example hydrogen

Dictionary example:
Iron is one of the elements of the Earth’s crust.

Learner example:
Cars produce CO2 and this combining of chemical elements pollutes our environment and promotes the Greenhouse effect.

an element of sth
[C2] a small amount of an emotion or quality

Dictionary example:
There's an element of truth in what she says.

Learner example:
I think the reason why I loved Marseille so much was because it brought an element of insecurity and danger into my life.

eligible /ˈel.ɪ.dʒə.bl/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] If you are eligible to do something, you can do it because you are in the right situation.

Dictionary examples:
Only people over 18 are eligible to vote.
You might be eligible for a grant for your studies.

Learner example:
I am [a] member of ACCA Council, am I eligible for any discount on this Course, as I have information from AAA College that they can charge discounted fees for ACCA students?
eliminate /ɪˈlɪm.ɪ.nət/

Word family:
Nouns: elimination
Verbs: eliminate

VERB [T]

GET RID OF
[C1] to remove something from something, or get rid of something

Dictionary example:
The doctor advised me to eliminate salt from my diet.

Learner example:
The parents should spend enough time with their offspring and teach them the good things and eliminate the bad things.

COMPETITION
[C1] to defeat someone so that they cannot go any further in a competition

Dictionary example:
She was eliminated after the first round of the tournament.

elimination /ɪˌlɪm.ɪˈneɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: elimination
Verbs: eliminate

NOUN [U]
[C2] when you eliminate someone or something

Dictionary examples:
the elimination of disease/pain
their elimination from the competition

Learner example:
Investments, education, birth control, political stability, jobs – all of these factors will contribute to [the] elimination of homelessness.

elite /ɪˈlɪt/
Dictionary examples:
a member of the elite
an elite group

Learner example:
But before you decide to become one of the elite, you should think about all the freedom you
would be giving up and all the freedom you would get.

else /els/  

ORVER

or else  
[B2] used to say what will happen if another thing does not happen

Dictionary example:
We must be there by six, or else we'll miss the beginning.

Learner example:
[He] told me to hurry up, or else I would miss my bus.

or else  
[C2] used to compare two different things or situations

Dictionary example:
He talks to her all the time, or else he completely ignores her.

Learner example:
Naturally Olivia's leaving affects Douglas, though not as strongly as one could have expected or
else he simply does not show it.

elsewhere /elsˈweə/  

ADVERB  
[B2] in or to another place

Dictionary examples:
The report looks at economic growth in Europe and elsewhere.
They couldn't find what they wanted and decided to look elsewhere.

Learner example:
As for communication with our relatives in Sweden or elsewhere, the fax-machine turned out to
be an excellent invention.
**elusive** /ɪˈluː.sɪv/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] difficult to describe, find, achieve, or remember

(Dictionary example):
The answers to these questions remain as elusive as ever.

(Learner example):
Nowadays, the picture of a clean environment seems to be an elusive goal moving ever further from us.

**embarrass** /ɪmˈbær.əs/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** embarrassment

**Verbs:** embarrass

**Adjectives:** embarrassed, embarrassing

**VERB [T]**

[C2] to make someone feel ashamed or shy

(Dictionary example):
My dad's always embarrassing me in front of my friends.

(Learner example):
He didn't deliberately lie to them and he comes to the conclusion that revealing the truth would have embarrassed them.

**embarrassment** /ɪmˈbær.ə.smənt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** embarrassment

**Verbs:** embarrass

**Adjectives:** embarrassed, embarrassing

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] when you feel embarrassed, or something or someone that makes you feel embarrassed

(Dictionary examples):
She blushed with embarrassment.
My parents were such an embarrassment to me.

(Learner example):
Looking at his face she could see his embarrassment.
embody /ɪmˈbɒd.i/

VERB [T]
[C2] to represent an idea or quality exactly

Dictionary example:
He embodies the values of hard work and fair play.

Learner example:
The triffids, an aggressive and dangerous species, a serious threat to the existence of mankind, embody the author’s fear of what could be the result of genetic mutation.

embrace /ɪmˈbreɪs/

VERB

ACCEPT
[C1] to accept new ideas, beliefs, methods, etc. in an enthusiastic way

Dictionary example:
We are always eager to embrace the latest technology.

Learner example:
They seem to have embraced “the new deal” symbolising “freedom”.

INCLUDE
[C1] to include a number of things

Dictionary example:
The report embraces a wide range of opinions.

Learner example:
This should embrace things like examination entries (I was not able to enter for any exam [due to] time constrain[t]s), as well as “social affairs”.

HOLD
[C2] If you embrace someone, you put your arms around them, and if two people embrace, they put their arms around each other.

Dictionary example:
She embraced him warmly.

Learner example:
Prior to this fulfilling statement, the elderly couple had been sitting in their GP’s waiting room, nervously embracing each other.

NOUN [c]
[C2] when you put your arms around someone
Dictionary example:
a passionate embrace

Learner example:
He took the baby home, nevertheless, and tried to learn how to deal with that quiet, funny-faced
girl, who didn't seem to ask for anything but kisses and embraces.

emerge /ɪˈmɜːdʒ/  
VERB [i]  
APPEAR 
[B2] to appear from somewhere or come out from somewhere

Dictionary example:
She emerged from the sea, blue with cold.

Learner example:
The owner of these eyes emerged from a nearby door, which was shabby and old, like the rest of 
the street.

BECOME KNOWN 
[C1] to become known

Dictionary example:
It emerged that she had lied to her employers.

Learner example:
It emerged from the students' survey conducted during the recent protest that unhealthy food and 
little choice were the main reasons to complain, followed by high prices, unfriendly service and 
limited opening hours.

eminent /ˈem.ɪ.nənt/  
ADJECTIVE  
[C2] famous, respected, or important

Dictionary example:
an eminent historian

Learner example:
Last year I was awarded a trip abroad with one of the most eminent professors of our University.
emission /ɪˈmɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: emission
Verbs: emit

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] when gas, heat, light, etc. is sent out into the air, or an amount of gas, heat, light, etc. that is sent out

Dictionary example:
Carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by 20%.

Learner example:
One may argue from the point of linking CO2 emissions to other known pollutants, like industry, but recent studies have shown traffic to be [one of] the most important causes of air pollution.

emit /ɪˈmit/

Word family:
Nouns: emission
Verbs: emit

VERB [T] (emitting, emitted)
[C2] to send out gas, heat, light, etc. into the air

Dictionary example:
The machine emits a high-pitched sound when you press the button.

Learner example:
All the vehicles and factories emit fumes, which cause grave diseases such as cancer.

emotion /ɪˈməʊ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: emotion
Adjectives: emotional
Adverbs: emotionally

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a strong feeling such as love or anger, or strong feelings in general

Dictionary examples:
Like a lot of men, he finds it hard to express/show his emotions.
My mother was overcome with emotion and burst into tears.

Learner example:
Unlike Annie Lennox, who[se] voice sound[s] so pure and full of emotion.
emotional /ɪˈməʊ.ʃən.l/  

Word family:
Nouns: emotion
Adjectives: emotional
Adverbs: emotionally

ADJECTIVE

EMOTIONS
[B2] relating to emotions

Dictionary examples:
a child's emotional development
My doctor said the problem was more emotional than physical.

Learner example:
Doctors have found that many health problems are linked with emotional changes in a person's life.

STRONG FEELINGS
[B2] having and expressing strong feelings

Dictionary examples:
an emotional speech
I felt quite emotional during the wedding ceremony.

Learner example:
It was so big and full of people that she felt very emotional.

emotionally /ɪˈməʊ.ʃən.l.i/  

Word family:
Nouns: emotion
Adjectives: emotional
Adverbs: emotionally

ADVERB
[B2] in a way that shows emotions or relates to emotions

Dictionary examples:
She spoke emotionally about her experiences as a war correspondent.
Many children have become emotionally disturbed as a result of the abuse they have suffered.

Learner example:
After two days, Laura was emotionally and physically exhausted.
empathy /ˈem.pə.θi/

NOUN [u]
[C2] the ability to imagine what it must be like to be in someone's situation

Dictionary example:
He lacks empathy.

Learner example:
I developed my intercultural skills by joining forces with foreign vice presidents to solve common problems and thus acquired skills such as empathy with other cultures, commitment to a common goal and tolerance.

emperor /ˈem.pərər/

NOUN [c]
[C1] the male ruler of an empire

Dictionary example:
Emperor Charlemagne

Learner example:
I would certainly go, because it fascinates me how more or less 2,000 years ago, the Roman emperors could build up such a big empire.

emphasis /ˈem.fə.sɪs/ (plural emphases)

Word family:
Nouns: emphasis
Verbs: emphasize

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] the particular importance or attention that you give to something

Dictionary examples:
There is a lot of emphasis on curing disease but too little emphasis on preventing it.
Schools here place/put great emphasis on written work and grammar.

Learner example:
[I]n the tale "It's a good life", the author gives much more emphasis to Anthony than to anyone else in the story.
**emphasize** (also UK emphasise)  /ˈem.fə.səz/

Word family:
Nouns: emphasis
Verbs: emphasize

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to show that something is especially important or needs special attention

Dictionary examples:
She emphasized the need for better diet.
He emphasized that the driver was not to blame for the accident.
You can use italics or capitals to emphasize a word in a piece of writing.

Learner example:
To put it in a nutshell, I would like to emphasize the fact that I did not spen[d] a “perfect evening out” at all.

**empire**  /ˈem.pərɪ/  

**NOUN [C]**

COUNTRIES
[C1] a group of countries that is ruled by one person or government

Dictionary example:
the British Empire

Learner example:
All the Greeks can be very proud of him and have to [hope] that a general with unlimited skills like Alexander will make Greece an unstoppable and worldwide empire again.

BUSINESSES
[C1] a large group of businesses that is controlled by one person or company

Dictionary example:
a publishing empire

Learner example:
This concerns products like pizzas, French fries and of course hamburgers and the empire MacDonald’s.

**empirical**  /ɪmˈprɪr.ɪ.kəl/

**ADJECTIVE** FORMAL

[C2] based on experience or scientific experiments and not only on ideas
Dictionary example:
empirical evidence

Learner example:
Nevertheless, empirical evidence confirms the importance of food in a country's culture.

**employ /ɪmˈplɔɪ/**

Word family:
Nouns: employee, employer, employment, unemployment, unemployed
Verbs: employ
Adjectives: unemployed

**VERB [T]**

USE
[C1] formal to use something

Dictionary example:
Companies employ clever tactics to persuade us to buy their products.

Learner example:
A friend that I made on the course shares the same opinion and insists on the fact that the course gave us the opportunity to employ some of the techniques we practi[s]ed in the "How to Negotiate" classes.

**empty /ˈem.pə.ti/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**NO MEANING**
[C1] having no meaning or value

Dictionary example:
an empty promise/threat

Learner example:
But on the other hand, I need to point out all the empty promises you made with your advertisements.

**enable /ɪˈneɪ.bl/**

Word family:
Nouns: ability, disability, inability
Verbs: enable
Adjectives: able, disabled, unable
**VERB [T]**

[B2] to make someone able to do something, or to make something possible

**Dictionary example:**
Computerization should enable us to cut production costs by half.

**Learner example:**
Furthermore, computers enable us to store any amount of necessary information, which probably would take plenty of room on our bookshelves, if in written form.

---

**enclose /ɪnˈkləʊz/**

**VERB [T]**

SEND

[B2] to send something in the same envelope or parcel as something else

**Dictionary example:**
I enclose a map of the area.

**Learner example:**
I enclose a copy of my curriculum vitae, which will give you further details about my career to date.

**BE ALL AROUND**

[C1] to be all around something and separate it from other things or places

**Dictionary example:**
The house is enclosed by parkland.

**Learner example:**
You know that Aragon is a deep valley which is enclosed by two ranges of mountains.

---

**encounter /ɪnˈkaʊn.tə/**

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to experience something unpleasant

**Dictionary example:**
We encountered quite a few problems at the beginning.

**Learner example:**
On the other hand, we could infer that teenage life is quite a good time, as there is no stress or anxiety that is usually encountered later on in life.
encouragement /ɪnˈkʌr.ɪdʒ.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: encouragement
Verbs: discourage, encourage
Adjectives: encouraging

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] when someone talks or behaves in a way that gives you confidence to do something

Dictionary examples:
Children need lots of encouragement from their parents.
I could never have achieved this without the encouragement of my husband and family.

Learner example:
Children need some encouragement, which parents can provide at any time.

encouraging /ɪnˈkʌr.ɪ.dʒɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: encouragement
Verbs: discourage, encourage
Adjectives: encouraging

ADJECTIVE
[B2] giving you confidence or hope

Dictionary examples:
The team’s performance was very encouraging.
an encouraging smile

Learner example:
She spoke about young people that want to start this kind of career: she was so encouraging!

end /end/

Word family:
Nouns: end, ending
Verbs: end
Adjectives: endless

NOUN
STOP
[B2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] when something stops happening
Dictionary examples:
They are calling for an end to the violence.
My contract comes to an end in June.

Learner example:
My job comes to an end in two weeks, and then I will have one month free, so it will be possible for me to go on your next journey to Africa.

for hours/days, etc. on end
[B2] for hours/days, etc. without stopping

Dictionary example:
He waited by the telephone for hours on end.

Learner example:
You can find information on whatever issue you want, science, technology, business, arts, etc., everything is there, without mentioning the fantastic and simplified way of buying by internet or just surfing for hours on end for whatever thing you are interested in.

no end INFORMAL
[B2] a lot

Dictionary example:
I've had no end of trouble finding a hotel room.

Learner example:
I had no end of fun when we were going to the beach and the car stopped and we had to go on foot.

put an end to sth
[B2] to make something stop happening or existing

Dictionary examples:
He's determined to put an end to these rumours.
Leg injuries put an end to his athletics career.

Learner example:
Maybe because I needed someone to know, or because I wanted to put an end to that feeling, and have a normal life.

make ends meet
[C1] to have just enough money to pay for the things that you need

Dictionary example:
I've taken a second job in the evenings just to make ends meet.

Learner example:
Most students support themselves and barely make ends meet every month.

bring sth to an end
[C1] to make something finish
Dictionary example:
The stories in the newspaper brought her career to a sudden end.

Learner example:
At the end of the year 2002 a great construction was brought to an end.

not be the end of the world
[C2] If something is not the end of the world, it will not cause very serious problems.

Dictionary example:
It won't be the end of the world if I don't get the job.

be at/reach the end of your tether
[C2] to be so tired, annoyed, or worried by something that you do not feel that you can deal with it

Dictionary example:
By the time the plumber arrived, I was at the end of my tether.

Learner example:
But when eventually Charles reaches the end of his tether and opts for the final solution, thus becoming for ever free, I think he is also subconsciously telling his mother: "This is how I punish you for what you did to me and for what you allowed others to do to me: you shall have to live with my death for the rest of your life!"

throw sb in at the deep end
[C2] to make someone start a new and difficult job or activity without helping them or preparing them for it

Dictionary example:
My first job was to organise a huge conference – they really threw me in at the deep end!

Learner example:
Sometimes we can be thrown in at the deep end and have qualms about making a decision.

to/till/until the bitter end
[C2] If you do something to/till/until the bitter end, you continue it until it is finished, although it is difficult and takes a long time.

Dictionary example:
I was determined to go on until the bitter end.

Learner example:
We are willing to talk and find alternatives to the situation, but we are also ready to fight till the bitter end to stand for our rights.

odds and ends
[C2] informal a group of small objects of different types which are not valuable or important
Dictionary example:
I use this box to keep odds and ends in.

**a means to an end**
[C2] something that you do because it will help you to achieve something else

Dictionary example:
I didn't particularly like the job – it was just a means to an end.

Learner example:
Major international sports competitions can either be understood as a means to an end or an end in their own right.

**the tail end of sth**
[C2] the last part of something

Dictionary example:
the tail end of the eighties

Learner example:
Both Olivia's and the narrator's stories show India at crucial times of its history: at the tail end of the "Raj" and at the [initial] stage of a modern and independent country.

---

**endangered** /ɪnˈdeɪn.dʒəd/

Word family:
**Nouns:** danger
**Adjectives:** dangerous, endangered
**Adverbs:** dangerously

ADJECTIVE
[B2] used of animals and plants which may soon disappear from the world because there are very few left alive

Dictionary example:
Tigers are now an endangered species.

Learner example:
Many endangered species have been saved by zoos which ha[ve] been able to make them reproduce.

---

**endeavour** /ɪnˈdev.ər/

VERB
endeavour to do sth FORMAL
[C1] to try very hard to do something
Dictionary example:
I endeavoured to help her, but she wouldn't let me.

Learner example:
I totally [agree] with the latter and I shall endeavour to look at both points of view.

NOUN [C or U]

[C2] an attempt to do something

Dictionary examples:
In spite of our best endeavours, it has proven impossible to contact her.
Getting to the South Pole was an amazing example of human endeavour.

Learner example:
No endeavour seems to be too great for him to achieve, no hurdle too high to overcome.

endless /ˈend.ləs/

Word family:
Nouns: end, ending
Verbs: end
Adjectives: endless

ADJECTIVE

[B2] never finishing, or seeming never to finish

Dictionary examples:
We used to have endless arguments about politics.
He seems to think that I have an endless supply of money.
The possibilities are endless.

Learner example:
But there were long, seemingly endless holidays ahead.

endorse /ɪnˈdɔːs/

VERB [T] FORMAL

[C2] to say publicly that you support a person, product or action

Dictionary example:
The idea was endorsed by a majority of members.

Learner example:
There is a dichotomy arising: on the one hand, they have an effect on the personal and national level, whilst on the other, an impressive profit-making enterprise has been built, mainly in the media and the area of sportswear endorsed by sports heroes.
**endow /ɪnˈdəʊ/**

**VERB [r] FORMAL**

be endowed with *sth*  
[C2] to have a particular quality or characteristic

**Dictionary example:**  
The country is richly endowed with natural resources.

**Learner example:**  
That some people should have been lucky enough to have been endowed with the talent to write such music, and that some others should have had the gift of voices to sing it, truly leaves me very humble.

---

**endurance /ɪnˈdʒʊə.rənts/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** endurance  
**Verbs:** endure

**NOUN [u]**  
[C2] the ability to keep doing something difficult, unpleasant, or painful for a long time

**Dictionary example:**  
a race to test athletes' endurance

**Learner example:**  
What's more, athletes need endurance.

---

**endure /ɪnˈdʒʊər/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** endurance  
**Verbs:** endure

**VERB [r]**  
[B2] to suffer something difficult, unpleasant or painful

**Dictionary examples:**  
We had to endure a nine-hour delay at the airport.  
She's already had to endure three painful operations on her leg.

**Learner example:**  
In addition to this, I have been doing various kinds of sports including swimming and jogging, so I could endure a long trip.
enemy /ˈen.ə.mi/

NOUN

COUNTRY/ARMY

[B2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] a country, or the armed forces of a country, which is at war with another country

Dictionary examples:
enemy forces/territory
The enemy had succeeded in stopping our supplies from getting through.

energetic /ˈen.əˈdʒet.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: energy
Adjectives: energetic

ADJECTIVE

[B2] having or involving a lot of energy

Dictionary examples:
an energetic young woman
I tried aerobics but it was too energetic for me.

Learner example:
I am a cheerful and energetic person.

enforce /ɪnˈfɔːs/

VERB [T]

[C1] to make people obey a rule or law

Dictionary example:
It is the duty of the police to enforce the law.

Learner example:
Traffic police rarely enforce the law on public transport vehicles, which leads to a lot of chaos.

engage /ɪnˈgeɪdʒ/

VERB [T] FORMAL

[C1] to interest someone in something and keep them thinking about it
Dictionary example:
The debate about food safety has engaged the whole nation.

Learner example:
It would be great if we could employ professional entertainers to set up activities to engage people and buy fun prizes and awards.

ingrossed /ɪnˈɡrəʊst/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] giving all your attention to something

Dictionary example:
He was so engrossed in what he was doing that he didn't hear the bell.

Learner example:
Youngsters these days are so engrossed in their studies that they do not have much free time to enjoy themselves or make use of the above ways of entertainment.

enhance /ɪnˈhɑːns/

VERB [T] FORMAL
[C1] to improve something

Dictionary example:
Winning that award greatly enhanced her reputation.

Learner example:
In addition, enhancing the reputation of the family might be another factor as well.

enjoy /ɪnˈdʒɔɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: enjoyment
Verbs: enjoy
Adjectives: enjoyable

VERB [T]

GOOD SITUATION
[C2] FORMAL to have or experience something good such as success

Dictionary example:
His play enjoyed great success on Broadway.
Learner example:
Before they can enjoy the flowers of success they have [to] endure [the] unbearable bitterness of failure.

enjoyment /ɪnˈdʒɔɪ.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: enjoyment
Verbs: enjoy
Adjectives: enjoyable

NOUN [u]
[B2] when you enjoy something

Dictionary example:
Knowing the ending already didn't spoil my enjoyment of the film.

Learner example:
It is worth seeing because of the wonderful actors who play their roles with inspiration and enjoyment.

enough /ɪˈnʌf/

DETERMINER; PRONOUN

NEGATIVE COMMENT
[B2] as much as or more than is wanted

Dictionary examples:
I've got enough work to do at the moment, without being given any more.
Half an hour in his company is quite enough!
Stop. You've made enough of a mess already.
You've drunk more than enough already.

Learner example:
Now I think I'm going to stay around here, as I have had enough disappointments for one summer.

have had enough
[C1] to want something to stop because it is annoying you

Dictionary example:
I've had enough of your excuses.

Learner example:
My neighbours and I have had enough of this sudden and deafening noise, which seems to affect our pets as well.

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**strangely enough**

[B2] although it may seem strange

**Dictionary example:**
Strangely enough, I was just speaking to him the other day.

**Learner example:**
Today, strangely enough, people out on the sea, often local fishermen, see the complete castle, like a ghost.

**fair enough** INFORMAL

[B2] used for saying that you can understand and accept someone's opinion or decision

**Dictionary example:**
"He says he'll only work on Sunday if he gets paid extra." "Fair enough."

**Learner example:**
Most of the streets are open [to] cars and therefore people tend to escape to a little area around the pedestrian streets. Fair enough, but it make[s] those streets terribly overcrowded.

**sure enough**

[C2] as expected

**Dictionary example:**
He said the book was on his desk, and sure enough, there it was.

**Learner example:**
And sure enough, these challenging problems come unsolicited most of the time.

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**enquire (UK also inquire)** /ɪnˈkwaɪər/ 

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** enquiry
**Verbs:** enquire

**VERB [I or T]**

[B2] to ask someone for information about something

**Dictionary examples:**
I'm enquiring about dentists in the area.
"Are you staying long?" she enquired.

**Learner example:**
I am writing to enquire about the job you are offering.
enquiry (UK also inquiry) /ɪnˈkwɛər.i/  
Word family:
Nouns: enquiry
Verbs: enquire

NOUN
OFFICIAL PROCESS
[C2] [c] an official process to discover the facts about something bad that has happened

Dictionary example:
The hospital is holding an enquiry into the accident.

enrich /ɪnˈrɪtʃ/  
Word family:
Nouns: riches, richness
Verbs: enrich
Adjectives: rich

VERB [T]
[C1] to improve the quality of something by adding something to it

Dictionary example:
Our culture has been enriched by the many immigrants who live here.

Learner example:
It can be of great assistance especially for those who start studying the Greek language and for those who want to enrich their knowledge, too.

ensure (US FORMAL
USALSO insure) /ɪnˈʃɔːr/  
Word family:
Verbs: ensure
Adjectives: sure, unsure
Adverbs: surely

VERB [T]
[B2] to make something certain to happen

Dictionary example:
Please ensure that all examination papers have your name at the top.
Learner example:
Please ensure [the] above corrections and new information about Lampton [are included in the next edition].

enter  /ˈen.tər/

Word family:
Nouns: entrance, entry
Verbs: enter

VERB

PERIOD OF TIME
[C1] [t] to begin a period of time

Dictionary example:
The violence is now entering its third week.

Learner example:
It is a family-run business which is now entering its tenth successful year.

enterprise  /ˈen.tə.prərz/

NOUN

BUSINESS
[C1] [c] a business or organization

Dictionary example:
a state-owned enterprise

Learner example:
It is true that many state enterprises went on strike several days ago, among others transport and medical services.

QUALITY
[C1] [u] when someone is enthusiastic and willing to do something new and clever, although there are risks involved

Dictionary example:
The scheme shows imagination and enterprise.

Learner example:
I am talking about a frank and sincere young lady with enterprise.

PLAN
[C2] [c] a difficult and important plan
**Dictionary example:**
Putting on the concert will be a joint enterprise between the two schools.

**Learner example:**
She succeeded in whatever enterprises she undertook all [through] her life and even the death of her husband did not prevent her from carrying on.

---

**entertainer /en.təˈteɪ.nər/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** entertainer, entertainment
- **Verbs:** entertain
- **Adjectives:** entertaining

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] someone whose job is to entertain people by singing, telling jokes, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
We've hired a children's entertainer for the party.

**Learner example:**
You could hire some entertainers.

---

**entertaining /en.təˈteɪ.nɪŋ/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** entertainer, entertainment
- **Verbs:** entertain
- **Adjectives:** entertaining

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] funny and enjoyable

**Dictionary examples:**
an entertaining story/film/talk
His books aren't particularly well-written, but they're always entertaining.

**Learner example:**
It is obvious that some people prefer reading books, [while] others claim that watching films is much more entertaining.
enthusiasm /ɪnˈθjuː.zi.æz.əm/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** enthusiasm
- **Adjectives:** enthusiastic
- **Adverbs:** enthusiastically

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] a feeling of energetic interest in a particular subject or activity and an eagerness to be involved in it

**Dictionary examples:**

One of the good things about teaching young children is their enthusiasm.
After the accident he lost his enthusiasm for the sport.

**Learner example:**

I am filled with enthusiasm about [spend]ing two weeks at Camp California in the U.S.A.

enthusiastic /ɪnˌθjuː.ziˈæstɪk/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** enthusiasm
- **Adjectives:** enthusiastic
- **Adverbs:** enthusiastically

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] showing enthusiasm

**Dictionary example:**

You don't seem very enthusiastic about the party – don't you want to go tonight?

**Learner example:**

I've got a lot of friends who are really enthusiastic about cycling and we often go cycling [together].

enthusiastically /ɪnˌθjuː.ziˈæstɪk.li/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** enthusiasm
- **Adjectives:** enthusiastic
- **Adverbs:** enthusiastically

**ADVERB**

[B2] in an enthusiastic way

**Dictionary example:**

She responded very enthusiastically to the idea.
Learner example:
She accepted my suggestion enthusiastically.

**entire** /ɪnˈtʌrər/  

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** entire  
**Adverbs:** entirely

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**  
[B2] whole or complete, with nothing missing

**Dictionary examples:**  
Between them they ate an entire cake.  
He'd spent the entire journey asleep.

**Learner example:**  
On behalf of the entire school, I would like to put forward a number of suggestions in regard to the improvement of the reception area.

**entirely** /ɪnˈtʌrəli/  

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** entire  
**Adverbs:** entirely

**ADVERB**  
[B2] completely

**Dictionary examples:**  
I admit it was entirely my fault.  
I'm not entirely convinced it will work.  
The company is run almost entirely by middle-aged men.

**Learner example:**  
I would like to do something entirely different before I start to study again.

**entitle** /ɪnˈtaɪtəl/  

**VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]**

**GIVE RIGHT**  
[B2] to give someone the right to do or have something
Dictionary examples:
I'm entitled to apply for citizenship.
Being unemployed entitles you to free medical treatment.

Learner example:
In conclusion, I believe that I am entitled to a partial refund.

GIVE TITLE
[C1] to give something a particular title

Dictionary example:
a lecture entitled "Language, Learning and Literacy"

Learner example:
In June, [the] club arranged a slide show and talk which was entitled 'Walking In The Black Hills'; this was very informative and the students had lots of tips for hill walking.

entity /ˈen.tɪ.ti/  

NOUN [c]
[C2] something which exists apart from other things

Dictionary example:
They want the area recognized as a separate political entity.

Learner example:
Even if these qualities are also quite useful in team sports, where the whole team works as an entity, a spirit of co-operation and teamwork is also needed in order to achieve the effective coexistence of all the players of the team.

entrance /ˈen.trənts/  

Word family:
Nouns: entrance, entry
Verbs: enter

NOUN

COMING IN
[C2] [c] when someone comes into or goes into a place, especially in a way that makes people notice them

Dictionary example:
The whole room went quiet when he made his entrance.
Learner example:
Or, you could imagine yourself prancing about in your Ferrari, Lotus, Lamborg[hi]ní, basic limousine, whatever, in the heart of the town, going to a party where everybody who is anybody is there, and the means of transportation would be by helicopter or by boat, to avoid traffic and, at the same time, to make an outstanding entrance.

environment /ɪnˈvaɪərən.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: environment, environmentalist
Adjectives: environmental
Adverbs: environmentally

NOUN

SURROUNDINGS
[B2] [c] the conditions that you live or work in and the way that they influence how you feel or how effectively you can work

Dictionary examples:
The office is quite bright and airy – it’s a pleasant working environment.
As a parent you try to create a stable home environment.

Learner example:
They need to live in a friendly environment with their relatives and their friends.

environmentalist /ɪnˌvaɪə.rən.tɪlist/

Word family:
Nouns: environment, environmentalist
Adjectives: environmental
Adverbs: environmentally

NOUN [c]
[C1] someone who tries to protect the natural environment from being damaged

Dictionary example:
She is a well-known environmentalist.

Learner example:
Others also, especially environmentalists, suggest that we should turn to electric–powered engines which are environmentally friendly, as these air pollutants bring about the thinning of the ozone layer.
environmentally /ɪnˌvaɪrən.ˈmen.təli/  

Word family:  
Nouns: environment, environmentalist  
Adjectives: environmental  
Adverbs: environmentally  

ADVERB  
[B2] in a way that is related to the environment  

Dictionary examples:  
environmentally damaging chemicals  
We need our industries to work in an environmentally responsible way.  

Learner example:  
All these [things] were made possible because we have the world's most dedicated and environmentally adaptable government, spearheaded by Lee Kuan Yew decades ago.  

environmentally friendly /ɪnˌvaɪrənˌmen.təliˈfrend.li/  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] not harmful to the environment  

Dictionary example:  
environmentally–friendly washing powder  

Learner example:  
A lot was said about creating more environmentally–friendly products.  

envisage /ɪnˈvɪz.iʤ/  

VERB [T]  
[C1] to imagine something happening, or think that something is likely to happen  

Dictionary example:  
The police don't envisage any trouble at the festival.  

Learner example:  
We envisage the size of the branch to be around 50 people to start with and expect to grow circa 20% a year.
**envision** /ɪnˈvɪʒ.ən/

**VERB** [T]
[C1] to imagine something happening, or think that something is likely to happen

**Dictionary example:**
He envisioned a partnership between business and government.

**Learner example:**
From the childhood, when you are only a kid, you envision you[r]self getting married and quite naturally it is a great feeling when you do get married.

---

**envy** /ˈen.vi/

**VERB** [T]
[B2] to wish that you had something that someone else has

**Dictionary examples:**
I envy her ability to talk to people she's never met before.
I don't envy you the job of cooking for all those people.

**Learner example:**
I really envy you, Pete.

**NOUN** [U]

**Feeling of Wanting**
[B2] the feeling that you wish you had something that someone else has

**Dictionary example:**
I watched with envy as she set off for the airport.

**Learner example:**
Sam, your last letter has filled me with envy.

**be the envy of sb**
[C2] to be liked and wanted by someone

**Dictionary example:**
Her new office was the envy of the whole company.

**Learner example:**
I enjoy being the envy of my friends as I take it out of its case and show it off.

**(be) green with envy**
[C2] to wish very much that you had something that another person has

**Dictionary example:**
Sam's got a job in the south of France and we're all green with envy!
Learner example:
The more successful players’ salary makes the others green with envy.

**episode** /ˈep.i.səʊd/

NOUN [C]

EVENT

[B2] a single event or group of related events

Dictionary examples:
This latest episode in the fraud scandal has shocked a lot of people.
The drugs, the divorce and the depression – it’s an episode in his life that he wants to forget.

Learner example:
This little episode happened when I was seven years old.

PART OF STORY

[B2] one of the single parts into which a story is divided, especially when it is broadcast on the television or radio

Dictionary example:
I missed the first episode.

Learner example:
I watch[ed] the news and one episode of "Friends".

**equal** /ˈiː.kwəl/

Word family:
Nouns: equality, inequality
Adjectives: equal
Adverbs: equally

ADJECTIVE

AS IMPORTANT

[B2] the same in importance and deserving the same treatment

Dictionary examples:
All people are equal, deserving the same rights as each other.
They’ve got a long way to go before they achieve equal pay/opportunities for men and women.

Learner example:
Then Napoleon did whatever he wanted to do under the motto of "all animals are equal", which was false.
NOUN [c]
[B2] someone or something that has the same importance as someone or something else and deserves the same treatment

Dictionary example:
The good thing about having her as a boss is that she treats us all as equals.

Learner example:
We must respect and treat them as our equals.

equality /ɪˈkwɒl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: equality, inequality
Adjectives: equal
Adverbs: equally

NOUN [u]
[B2] the right of different groups of people to have a similar social position and receive the same treatment

Dictionary examples:
equality between the sexes
racial/sexual equality

Learner example:
That’s why I think people who fight to defend equality are amazing, especially Nelson Mandela because he spent part of his life in jail for that.

equally /ˈiː.kwə.li/

Word family:
Nouns: equality, inequality
Adjectives: equal
Adverbs: equally

ADVERB

SAME WAY
[B2] fairly and in the same way

Dictionary example:
Everyone should be treated equally.

Learner example:
In [the] festival, all the performers were treated equally.
SAME AMOUNTS
[C1] into amounts or parts that are the same size

Dictionary example:
She shared the money equally between the four children.

Learner example:
The obligations should be divided equally between the members of the group.

SAME DEGREE
[C1] to the same degree or level

Dictionary examples:
an equally important question
She did equally well in the competition last year.

Learner example:
I think the choice of a good organization, which can provide good facilities and social conditions, along with good teaching, is equally important.

equate /ɪˈkwɛɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: equation
Verbs: equate

VERB [T]
[C2] to consider one thing to be the same as or equal to another thing

Dictionary example:
Many people equate wealth with happiness.

Learner example:
Because we live in a capitalist world where the notions of good life and happiness are largely, if not solely, equated with material prosperity, to achieve them requires the above listed qualities.

equation /ɪˈkwərən/

Word family:
Nouns: equation
Verbs: equate

NOUN [C]
[C1] when you show that two amounts are equal using mathematical symbols

Dictionary example:
In this equation, x = 6.
Learner example:
I would like to address the issue [using] a very simple equation of economics: Demand = supply.

equip /ɪˈkwɪp/ (-pp-)

Word family:
Nouns: equipment
Verbs: equip

VERB [T]
[B2] to provide someone or something with what is needed for a particular purpose

Dictionary examples:
They're raising money to equip the hospital.
The new trains are equipped with all the latest technology.

Learner example:
We were equipped with crampons, ropes, ice axes, gloves, sunglasses and so on.

equivalent /ɪˈkwɪv.əl.ənt/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] equal in amount, value, importance, or meaning

Dictionary example:
The UK's Brit Awards are roughly equivalent to the Oscars.

Learner example:
They go to the same school and I daresay that the same percentage of girls does the Abitur (equivalent to the English GCE A level).

NOUN [C]
[C1] something that has the same value, importance, size, or meaning as something else

Dictionary example:
She won the equivalent of $5 million.

Learner example:
As well as this I have passed the Cambridge First Certificate exam and another exam in Spain which is the equivalent of FCE.
era /ˈɪə.rə/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a period of time in history that is special for a particular reason

Dictionary examples:
the Clinton era
the post-war era
They had worked for peace during the long era of conflict.
The fall of the Berlin wall marked the end of an era.

Learner example:
The world is paddling through the era of technology.

eradicate /ɪˈræd.ɪ.keɪt/

VERB [T] FORMAL
[C2] to destroy or completely get rid of something such as a social problem or a disease

Dictionary example:
The government claims to be doing all it can to eradicate corruption.

Learner example:
Homelessness is not going to be eradicated unless we acknowledge that it is not anything else but a symptom of the imperfection of the society in which we live.

erode /ɪˈrəʊd/

Word family:
Nouns: erosion
Verbs: erode

VERB

REMOVE
[C2] [I or T] If soil, stone, etc. erodes or is eroded, it is gradually damaged and removed by the sea, rain, or wind.

Dictionary example:
The coastline is slowly being eroded by the sea.

Learner example:
The areas of Sayago – in the Spanish province of Zamora – and Tras-os-Montes, in Portugal, are joined by a natural border: the river Duero and the rocky canyon that has been eroded for millions of years by the action of the water.
DESTROY

[C2] [t³] FORMAL to gradually destroy a good quality or situation

Dictionary example:
Reports of corruption have eroded people's confidence in the police.

Learner example:
Competition can erode a child's confidence.

erosion /ɪˈrəʊ.ʒən/

Word family:
Nouns: erosion
Verbs: erode

NOUN [u]

PHYSICAL DAMAGE

[C1] when soil, stone, etc. is gradually damaged and removed by the sea, rain, or wind

Dictionary example:
soil/coastal erosion

Learner example:
Deforestation changes the climate and natural ability to stop soil erosion also plays a role here.

NEGATIVE EFFECT

[C2] when a good quality or situation is gradually destroyed

Dictionary example:
There has been a gradual erosion of confidence in the government.

Learner example:
For one [thing], shopping can cause an erosion in family values. Children now tend to give more importance to material things.

error /ˈer.ər/

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] a mistake

Dictionary examples:
He admitted that he'd made an error.
The letter contained a number of typing errors.
Human error has been blamed for the air crash.
The document was destroyed in error by the police.
Learner example:
There are a lot [of] factual errors in this article.

**margin of error**
[C2] the amount by which a calculation can be wrong but still produce a good result

Dictionary example:
a margin of error of 5 percent

Learner example:
It might be true that what is considered to be healthy or unhealthy changes over time, however, [as] science progresses the margin of error becomes smaller, and experts are then able to have a more accurate and precise say on all matters, including health.

**trial and error**
[C2] a way of learning the best way to do something by trying different methods

Dictionary example:
There aren't any instructions with it – it's just a matter of trial and error.

Learner example:
If you don't know the past, you're liable to live through it again as instead of deriving the lessons from someone else's experiences, you'll have to learn them the hard way, by trial and error.

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**erupt** /ˈɪɹʌpt/

**VERB [i]**
[C2] If a volcano erupts, it suddenly throws out smoke, fire, and melted rocks.

Dictionary example:
The volcano erupted last year.

Learner example:
Earth can easily be seen as a volcano which can suddenly erupt.

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**escalator** /ˈes.kə.leɪ.tər/

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] moving stairs that take people from one level of a building to another

Dictionary examples:
I'll meet you by the up/down escalator on the second floor.
Shall we use the lift or take the escalator?
Learner example:
The newly decorated section is fairly modern in style with escalators and touch-screen ticket machine[s].

**escape** /ɪˈskɛrp/

**VERB**

**AVOID**

[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] to avoid a dangerous or unpleasant situation

**Dictionary examples:**
She was lucky to escape serious injury.
Chelsea only just escaped defeat in the second round of the cup.

**Learner example:**
Happily they were found by some hunters and escaped with minor injuries.

**FORGET**

[C2] [ɪ] If something such as a name escapes you, you cannot remember it.

**Dictionary example:**
The name of her book escapes me at the moment.

**Learner example:**
My first teacher was an elderly woman (her name escapes me now), who had worked in that school for many years.

**NOT NOTICE**

[C2] [ɪ] If something escapes your notice or attention, you do not notice or see it.

**Dictionary example:**
Nothing that goes on in this office escapes her attention.

**Learner example:**
It has hardly escaped the attention of anyone that the football World Cup is coming up, and it seems that virtually everybody has something to say about this event or about international sports competitions in general.

**NOUN**

**FORGETTING PROBLEMS**

[B2] [u no plural] something that helps you to forget about your usual life or problems

**Dictionary example:**
I love old movies – they're such an escape from the real world.
Learner example:
Going on holiday is a great idea and I think it’s the best way to relax and have fun, but it would also be an escape from the daily routine and a break from your tiring job.

GETTING OUT
[C1] [c or u] when someone succeeds in getting out of a place or a dangerous or bad situation

Dictionary examples:
He made his escape on the back of a motorbike.
an escape route

Learner example:
Being impatient in the jail, Tom planned for his escape.

a narrow escape
[C2] If you have a narrow escape, you only just avoid danger.

Dictionary example:
He had a narrow escape when a falling tree crushed his car.

Learner example:
Ralph will have a narrow escape: he is saved by the arrival of a ship which has at last come to rescue them all.

evenly /'e.venli/ ADVERB

ADVERB

ONLY
[B2] for one particular person, purpose, or reason

Dictionary example:
I cooked this meal especially for you.

Learner example:
I remember the taste of the pineapple cake that you baked especially for me and your home-made gooseberry wine.

essence /'es.əns/ Word family:
Nouns: essence
Adjectives: essential
Adverbs: essentially
**NOUN**

**BASIC QUALITY**

[C2] the basic or most important idea or quality of something

**Dictionary example:**
The essence of his argument is that we should not eat meat.

**Learner example:**
But growth is in the essence of every living being, and it is a part of the educational process, as the child grows older, that parents learn to "let go".

**in essence**

[C2] used to emphasize the most important idea or quality of something

**Dictionary example:**
In essence, its purpose is to contain information.

**Learner example:**
In essence, homelessness means that you don't have a home and because of this you are living on the streets.

---

**essential** /ɪˈsen.tʃəl/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** essence

**Adjectives:** essential

**Adverbs:** essentially

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**ADJECTIVE**

**BASIC**

[C2] the most basic and important

**Dictionary example:**
There's one essential point I think you've forgotten.

**Learner example:**
There is an essential difference between Germans from Germany and native Germans from abroad.

---

**essentially** /ɪˈsen.tʃəli/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** essence

**Adjectives:** essential

**Adverbs:** essentially
ADVERB
[B2] relating to the most important characteristics or ideas of something

Dictionary examples:
It's essentially a dictionary but it differs in one or two respects.
What he's saying is essentially true.

Learner example:
Although we are essentially a rock band, we integrate elements of traditional Indian music (such as sitar).

establish /ɪˈstæb.lɪʃ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: establishment  
Verbs: establish  

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]  

START
[B2] to start a company or organization that is likely to continue for a long time

Dictionary example:
The brewery was established in 1822.

Learner example:
The first restaurant, which was established 10 years ago, is called Paris.

establish communication/relations, etc.
[C1] to start having a relationship or communicating with another person, company, country, or organization

Dictionary example:
The two countries have only recently established diplomatic relations.

Learner example:
[As] everyone knows, English is called "the universal language", which is used in all the airports of the world, to establish communication between the airports and the planes that arrive from all over the world.

establish sb/sth as sth
[C1] to put someone or something into a successful and lasting position

Dictionary example:
He quickly established himself as a talented actor.

Learner example:
In fact, after ending his career as a football player, Pele managed to establish himself as a successful businessman.
DECIDE
[C2] to decide something

Dictionary example:
Our first step must be to establish priorities for the weeks ahead.

Learner example:
As well as this, parents have to establish clear guidelines in relation to expenditure.

DISCOVER
[C2] to find out information or prove something

Dictionary example:
The police are trying to establish how he died.

Learner example:
In summary, it is difficult to establish how people choose to buy what they buy.

establishment /ɪˈstæb.lɪʃ.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: establishment
Verbs: establish

NOUN

ORGANIZATION
[C1] [C] formal a business or other organization, or the place where an organization operates

Dictionary example:
an educational/religious establishment

Learner example:
Even if you do not enjoy novel eating experiences, this establishment is worth a visit due to its architecture and atmosphere.

STARTING
[C1] [u] when an organization, school, business, etc. is started

Dictionary example:
the establishment of a new national bank

Learner example:
That explains the establishment of various fast-food restaurants in our countries, which spread in an incredibly quick way, and have changed our eating habits in a short time.
estate /ˈestət/  

NOUN [C]  

LAND  
[B2] a large area of land in the country which is owned by a family or an organization and is often used for growing crops or raising animals  

Dictionary example:  
a country estate  

Learner example:  
There is a special law in Sweden which allows everyone to wander [through] any private estate unless one causes harm.  

BUILDINGS  
[B2] a group of houses or factories built in a planned way  

Dictionary examples:  
a housing estate  
an industrial estate  

Learner example:  
I live [o]n a big housing estate.  

estimate /ˈes.trɪ.meɪt/  

Word family:  

Nouns: estimate  
Verbs: estimate, underestimate, overestimate  
Adjectives: estimated  

VERB [T]  
[B2] to guess the cost, size, value, etc. of something  

Dictionary examples:  
Government sources estimate a long-term 50% increase in rail fares.  
They estimate that the journey will take at least two weeks.  
It was difficult to estimate how many trees had been destroyed.  
The number of dead is estimated at over three hundred.  

Learner example:  
I estimate it will take only 7 minutes to walk from the conference center to the hotel.  

NOUN [C] /ˈes.trɪ.mat/  
[B2] a guess of what the size, value, amount, cost, etc. of something might be
Dictionary examples:
The number of people who applied for the course was 120 compared with an initial estimate of between 50 and 100.
This is only a rough estimate.

estimated /ˈes.tr.ə.mə.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: estimate
Verbs: estimate, underestimate, overestimate
Adjectives: estimated

ADJECTIVE
[B2] guessed

Dictionary example:
an estimated cost/value

Learner example:
My estimated [time of] arrival [at] Heathrow airport is nine o'clock in the morning and my flight number is OK 1312.

ethic /ˈeθ.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: ethic
Adjectives: ethical, unethical

NOUN
ethics
[C2] ideas and beliefs about what type of behaviour is morally right and wrong

Dictionary examples:
a code of ethics
the ethics of genetic engineering

Learner example:
By experiencing difficult situations in life, they become wiser and they never forget their values and ethics.

[C2] [NO PLURAL] a belief or idea that influences the way you think or behave

Dictionary example:
He has a very strong work ethic.

Learner example:
Though I am no longer a believer, I agree with the whole religious ethic, and I shall transmit it to my children.
ethic  /'eθ.ɪkl/

Word family:
Nouns: ethic
Adjectives: ethical, unethical

ADJECTIVE

RIGHT/WRONG
[C2] relating to what is right or wrong

Dictionary example:
The book raises some serious ethical questions.

Learner example:
In spite of this, I am not in favour of euthanasia and I even think that mercy killing holds severe ethical problems.

GOOD
[C2] morally correct and good

Dictionary example:
He dealt with this case in a completely professional and ethical manner.

Learner example:
It's not so much a problem of funds now, for I and my husband earn our living easily, but the question [of] how to bring across those moral and ethical values I believe in, namely reliability, honesty, self-confidence, to a certain degree endurance and discipline, paired with friendly and polite manners.

ethnic  /ˈeθ.nɪk/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] relating to a particular race of people

Dictionary example:
ethnic minorities

Learner example:
Over 98% of the population are ethnic Chinese.

evaluate  /ɪˈvæl.ju.eɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: evaluation
Verbs: evaluate
VERB [7] FORMAL

[C1] to consider or study something carefully and decide how good or bad it is

Dictionary example:
We need time to evaluate the proposal.

Learner example:
The aim of this report is to evaluate and describe how successful our College Film Club has been so far.

evaluation  /ɪˌvæl.juˈeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: evaluation
Verbs: evaluate

NOUN [c or u]

[C1] the act of considering something carefully and deciding how good or bad it is

Dictionary examples:
There was no evaluation of the risks involved.
She carried out an evaluation of their services.

Learner example:
And that is what counts in the evaluation of job candidates.

even  /ˈIː.vən/

ADVERB

even if

[B2] whether or not

Dictionary example:
Even if you take a taxi, you'll still miss your train.

Learner example:
I often go to parks, with or without the children, even if the weather is not good.

even though

[B2] although

Dictionary examples:
Even though he left school at 16, he still managed to become a millionaire.
He still smokes even though he's got asthma.

Learner example:
They didn't give up hope even though they were tired and wet to the bone.
**even so**
[C1] used to emphasize that something surprising is true despite what you have just said

**Dictionary example:**
Car prices have gone down a lot, but even so, we couldn’t afford to buy one.

**Learner example:**
I’m sure many of [these things] happened due to bad luck, but even so, there are some arrangements that, I believe, can easily be improved.

**break even**
[C1] to not make money but also not lose money

**Dictionary example:**
The company only managed to break even this year.

**Learner example:**
Company C does not seem to be doing well. In the year 2000, it just seems to be breaking even.

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**event** /ɪˈvent/  

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** event  

**Adjectives:** eventful, uneventful

**NOUN [C]**

**in the event of sth** FORMAL
[C1] if something happens

**Dictionary example:**
An airbag could save your life in the event of an accident.

**Learner example:**
In the event of bad weather, it would be wise to plan an alternative to the boat trip, for example a visit of Buckingham Palace or the Houses of Parliament.

**in any event**
[C1] whatever happens

**Dictionary example:**
I’m not sure if I’m coming on Friday, but in any event, I’ll see you next week.

**Learner example:**
In any event, it is incumbent upon all of us to carefully plan our travel matters, so as to take advantage of their several benefits.
turn of events
[C2] the way in which a situation develops, especially a sudden or unexpected change

Dictionary example:
We were all shocked by this tragic turn of events.

Learner example:
She was not prepared for such an unexpected turn of events!

eventful /ˈɪvent.fʊl/

Word family:
Nouns: event
Adjectives: eventful, uneventful

ADJECTIVE
[C2] full of interesting or important events

Dictionary example:
a very eventful day/journey

Learner example:
She informed me of her exciting and eventful life in London in her letters, which made me decide to follow suit in order to study English.

eventual /ˈɪven.tʃu.əl/

Word family:
Adjectives: eventual
Adverbs: eventually

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] happening or existing at the end of a process or period of time

Dictionary example:
the eventual winner of the competition

Learner example:
Finally, the most important consequence – and in some way quite a perverse one – is that setting the island on fire leads to the boys’ eventual rescue; so, pure destruction here means [c]atharsis (speaking in terms of drama).
eventually  /ɪˈven.tju.əl.i/

Word family:
Adjectives: eventual
Adverbs: eventually

ADVERB

[B2] in the end, especially after a long time

Dictionary examples:
Eventually they reached an agreement.
He eventually got round to fixing the bike.

Learner example:
Anyway Pat eventually apologized to me.

ever  /ˈev.ə/

ADVERB

ever so

[B2] very

Dictionary example:
It was ever so kind of you to meet us at the airport.

Learner example:
It was ever so kind of you to take the trouble and make room for us although we arrived quite unexpectedly.

better/faster/happier, etc. than ever

[C1] better/faster/happier, etc. than at any time before

Dictionary example:
She is running faster than ever.

Learner example:
First of all, I would like to thank you for your invitation to the new opening of Longridge Arts Centre, the centre looks better than ever and I enjoyed the arts exhibition that is on now.

ever such a

[C2] a very

Dictionary example:
She's ever such a good dancer.

Learner example:
The psychiatrist was a very nice young girl that helped me ever such a lot.
ever-changing/growing/increasing, etc.
[C2] always changing/growing/increasing, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
We live in an ever-changing world.

**Learner example:**
In our ever-changing society, in the affluent cities of the Western world, life moves at such a fast pace that parents are the reflection and the result of our times, the cogs of a large, rather uncontrollable wheel.

every /ˈev.rɪ/

**DETERMINER**

**POSSIBLE**
[B2] as much as is possible

**Dictionary examples:**
I'd like to wish you every success in your new job.
She has every reason to be unhappy after losing her job and her home.
You had every opportunity to make a complaint.
Every effort is being made to minimise civilian casualties.
She has every right to be proud of her tremendous achievements.

**Learner example:**
The man realized that people should take every opportunity that life offers them, because all we are is dust in the wind.

every now and then
[C1] sometimes, but not often

**Dictionary example:**
We still meet up every now and then.

**Learner example:**
Each day choose 10 new words and learn them by heart. In a week you will have learned 70 new words, and in a year 3640, a lot of words. Please, do not forget to repeat them every now and then.

every so often
[C2] sometimes, but not often

**Dictionary example:**
He went into town every so often to buy supplies.

**Learner example:**
Elizabeth and others visited her every so often until [one] day she left them.
every other day/week, etc.
[C2] happening one day/week, etc. but not the next

Dictionary example:
Alice goes to the gym every other day.

Learner example:
The rubbish is collected every other day, which is quite often.

everything /ˈev.rɪ.θɪŋ/

PRONOUN

be/mean everything
[B2] to be the most important part of someone's life

Dictionary examples:
His children mean everything to him.
Money isn't everything.

Learner example:
I think that every person has a different opinion, but for me, money and fame isn't everything in life.

do everything in your power to do sth
[C1] to do everything that you are able and allowed to do in order to achieve something

Dictionary example:
I've done everything in my power to help him.

Learner example:
I think of myself as an open-minded and cheerful person and if I get the job I will do everything in my power to make sure your visitors will have a great time at the theme park.

evidence /ˈev.i.dənts/

Word family:
Nouns: evidence
Adjectives: evident
Adverbs: evidently

NOUN [U]

PROOF
[B2] something that makes you believe that something is true or exists
**Dictionary examples:**
evidence of global warming
There is no evidence that the theory is true.
New evidence suggests/shows this argument is flawed.
There is scientific evidence that the drug is addictive.
All the evidence points to a substantial rise in traffic over the next few years.
There is growing/increasing evidence that people whose diets are rich in vitamins are less likely to
develop some types of cancer.

**Learner example:**
David started looking for evidence, but he found nothing.

**LAW**
[C2] information that is given or objects that are shown in a court of law to help to prove if someone has committed a crime

**Dictionary example:**
He was arrested despite the lack of evidence against him.

**Learner example:**
My new neighbour murdered his wife and although the circumstantial evidence against him was enormous, the case was dismissed because of the lack of some clinching piece of evidence.

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**evident /ˈev.i.dənt/ FORMAL**

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** evidence
- **Adjectives:** evident
- **Adverbs:** evidently

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] obvious to everyone and easy to see or understand

**Dictionary examples:**
The full extent of the damage only became evident the following morning.
From the smell it was evident that the drains had been blocked for several days.

**Learner example:**
In conclusion, it is evident that it is better to do shopping in big supermarkets or shopping centres than small local shops in terms of time, money, working hours and family life.

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**evidently /ˈev.i.dənt.li/ FORMAL**

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** evidence
- **Adjectives:** evident
- **Adverbs:** evidently
ADVERB
[B2] in a way that is easy to see

Dictionary example:
He evidently likes her.

Learner example:
There are, evidently, points in favour and points against.

evil /ˈiː.vəl/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] very cruel, bad or harmful

Dictionary examples:
an evil monster
These people are just evil.

Learner example:
She is a very dark and evil person who can't forget the first Mrs. de Winter.

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] something that is very bad and harmful

Dictionary examples:
Drug-addiction is one of today's great social evils.
The theme of the play is the battle between good and evil.

Learner example:
It is not simply [the] confronting of good and evil.

evolution /ˌiː.vəˈlu.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: evolution
Verbs: evolve

NOUN [U]

NATURAL WORLD
[B2] the way in which living things change and develop over millions of years

Dictionary example:
Darwin's theory of evolution

Learner example:
I think it is good to have zoos, but we shouldn't try to control natural evolution as we have done until now.
**GRADUAL CHANGE**

[B2] a gradual process of change and development

**Dictionary example:**
the evolution of language

**Learner example:**
[Leonardo’s] studies and projects on mechanics puzzle us and foresee the future evolution of science and technology.

| evolve /ɪˈvɒlv/ |

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** evolution

**Verbs:** evolve

**VERB**

[C1] to develop or make something develop, usually gradually

**Dictionary example:**
rapidly evolving technology

**Learner example:**
This device has evolved from being a large machine into the size of a notebook.

| exactly /ɪgˈzæk.t.ɪ/ |

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** exact

**Adverbs:** exactly

**ADVERB**

**AGREEMENT**

[B2] something you say when you agree completely with someone

**Dictionary example:**
“Surely they should have told us about this problem sooner?” “Exactly!”

**not exactly**

[B2] used to say that something is not completely true

**Dictionary example:**
“So you gave her your book?” “Not exactly, I lent it to her.”

**not exactly easy/new/rich, etc.** INFORMAL

[C1] used to emphasize that someone or something does not have a particular quality
Dictionary example:
Let’s face it, we’re not exactly rich, are we?

Learner example:
The Hotel Royal was not exactly luxurious.

**exaggerate /ɪɡˈzædʒ.ə.reɪt/**

Word family:
Nouns: exaggeration
Verbs: exaggerate

VERB [I or T]
[C1] to make something seem larger, better, worse, etc. than it really is

Dictionary example:
Don’t exaggerate – it didn’t cost that much!

Learner example:
Without exaggerating, I would like to mention that she is dependable and trustworthy but also tactful and supportive.

**exaggeration /ɪɡˌzædʒ.ərˈeɪ.ʃən/**

Word family:
Nouns: exaggeration
Verbs: exaggerate

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] when you describe something as larger, better, worse, etc. than it really is

Dictionary example:
a slight/gross exaggeration of the facts

Learner example:
You wrote about “a sudden downpour of rain” which was a huge exaggeration.

**examination /ɪɡˈzæm.ɪˈneɪ.ʃən/**

Word family:
Nouns: exam, examination, examiner
Verbs: examine
NOUN

CAREFUL LOOK
[B2] [c or u] when someone looks at or considers something carefully in order to discover something

Dictionary examples:
a medical examination
I had to have a medical examination when I started my new job.
The evidence is still under examination.
I thought it was paint at first, but on closer examination I realised it was dried blood.

Learner example:
Finally we went to the hospital for a medical examination and fortunately we were all right.

examine /ɪgˈzæm.ɪn/

Word family:
Nouns: exam, examination, examiner
Verbs: examine

VERB [T]

LOOK AT
[B2] to look at or consider a person or thing carefully and in detail in order to discover something about them

Dictionary examples:
She picked up the knife and examined it closely.
He was examined by a doctor as soon as he arrived.
Experts are examining the wreckage for clues about the cause of the explosion.

Learner example:
I examined both of them and finally I discovered [that it] was a virus changed genetically in order to kill people.

TEST
[C2] formal to test someone to see how much they know or how well they can do something

Dictionary example:
You’ll be examined in three main areas: speaking, listening, and reading comprehension.

Learner example:
Be prepared, not only in the [areas] you will be examined in.
example /ɪgˈzɑːm.pl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: example  
Verbs: exemplify  

NOUN [C]  

set an example  
[B2] to do something in a good way so that other people might try to copy you  

Dictionary example:  
Try to set a good example to the children.  

Learner example:  
It sets a good example for other museums.  

VERY GOOD  
[B2] someone or something that is very good and should be copied  

Dictionary example:  
He is a very good example to the rest of the class.  

Learner example:  
You are a shining example for you[r] colle[a]gues.  

a/the prime example  
[C2] a very good example of something  

Dictionary example:  
This is a prime example of what happens when communication is poor.  

Learner example:  
In this context in the analyses of Piggy's character, it strikes me as a first spontaneous impression that he personifies the typical proper schoolboy who will later on undoubtedly grow up to be the prime example of a good and responsible citizen.  

exceed /ɪkˈsiːd/  

Word family:  
Nouns: excess  
Verbs: exceed  
Adjectives: excess, excessive  

VERB [T]  

BE MORE  
[C1] to be more than a particular number or amount
Dictionary example:
Sales have exceeded $1 million so far this year.

Learner example:
Our administration costs didn't exceed 5%, the other 10% were the pure costs of the entertainment.

**exceed sb's expectations**
[C1] to be much bigger or better than expected

Dictionary example:
The location of the apartment exceeded our expectations.

Learner example:
They might exceed our expectations with the top-quality cuisine, which is fine as long as it is value for money; we don't want an unaffordable canteen.

**exceed the speed limit**
[C1] to drive faster than you are allowed to according to the law

Dictionary example:
She was caught exceeding the speed limit.

Learner example:
There are three ground rules you have to follow: stop at stop-signs, don't exceed the speed limit and don't be in the way of other cars.

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**excel**  /ɪkˈsel/  [verb]

Word family:
Verbs: excel
Adjectives: excellent

**VERB** [v] FORMAL (excelling, excelled)

BE GOOD
[C2] to be very good at something

Dictionary example:
Paula always excelled in languages at school.

Learner example:
If a school is successful, it will provide opportunities for the child to excel in other areas such as the creative arts, like music, dance, painting and drama, and also sports.

**excel yourself**
[C2] to do something better than you usually do

Dictionary example:
The British team have excelled themselves this year to reach the finals.
Learner example:
As far as the acting is concerned, the interaction between the lead actors is amazing while Catherine Zeta Jones excels herself in the highly demanding role of the client.

**exception /ɪkˈsepʃən/**

Word family:
Nouns: exception
Adjectives: exceptional
Adverbs: exceptionally

**NOUN [C or U]**

NOT INCLUDED
[B2] someone or something that is not included in a rule, group or list or that does not behave in the expected way

Dictionary examples:
There are exceptions to every rule.
I like all kinds of films with the exception of horror films.
Her books are always entertaining and this one is no exception.
You must report here every Tuesday without exception.

Learner example:
The animals looked so sad to me. So I decided to set them free, all of them, without exception.

**make an exception**
[C1] to not treat someone or something according to the usual rules

Dictionary example:
They don’t usually take cheques, but they said they’d make an exception in my case.

Learner example:
Unfortunately, they were not flexible enough to make an exception, but on the other hand we know about the problem now and can avoid it in the future.

**take exception to sth** formal
[C2] to be annoyed or insulted by something

Dictionary example:
He took exception to being asked to sweep the floor.

Learner example:
I hope you will not take exception to my words, but I think that this course of action is rather foolish and illogical.
exceptional /ɪkˈsep.ʃən.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: exception
Adjectives: exceptional
Adverbs: exceptionally

ADJECTIVE

GOOD
[B2] extremely good

Dictionary example:
He really is an exceptional student.

Learner example:
This trip constitutes an exceptional challenge for me.

UNUSUAL
[C2] very unusual and not likely to happen very often

Dictionary example:
Visitors are only allowed in exceptional circumstances.

Learner example:
However, there are always some exceptional circumstances in which they fail to understand what is appropriate for them.

evenly /ʻevnli/
excess

Word family:
Nouns: excess
Verbs: exceed
Adjectives: excess, excessive

NOUN /ɪkˈses/
[C1] more of something than is usual or needed

Dictionary examples:
An excess of oil on the markets has caused prices to fall sharply.
He earns in excess of £60,000 a year.

Learner example:
We should change our behaviour and buy what we need and not in excess, giving the children a pattern to follow.

do /də/ sth to excess
[C2] to do something too much

Dictionary example:
He occasionally has a beer, but he never drinks to excess.

Learner example:
We eat and drink to excess only to face the consequences later on.

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] /ˈek.ses/
[C1] more than is usual or allowed

Dictionary example:
We had to pay £100 for excess baggage.

Learner example:
Most students feel that they need to get rid of excess energy at the end of the day and also convey that they are hampered by the fact that not enough sports facilities are available.

excessive /ɪkˈses.ɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: excess
Verbs: exceed
Adjectives: excess, excessive

ADJECTIVE
[C1] more than is necessary or wanted

Dictionary example:
They accused the police of using excessive force.
Learner example:
On the other hand the excessive use of mobile telephones has given us the excuse to decrease our face to face contact.

exchange /ɪksˈtʃeɪndʒ/  

VERB [T]  

SHOP  
[B2] to take something back to the shop where you bought it and change it for something else  

Dictionary examples:  
Goods can only be exchanged on production of the original receipt.  
Could I exchange this shirt for a larger size?  

exchange looks, opinions, views, etc.  
[B2] If two people exchange looks, opinions, views, etc., they look at each other, talk to each other, etc.  

Dictionary example:  
The group meets every month to exchange their views on a book they have all read.  

Learner example:  
You can exchange opinions with them as to the way of life in Japan and your country.

exclaim /ɪksˈkleɪm/  

VERB [I or T]  
[C2] to say something suddenly and loudly because you are surprised, annoyed, excited, etc.  

Dictionary example:  
"How terrible!" she exclaimed.  

Learner example:  
Then he would exclaim, "What a wonderful selection," with a robust laugh.

exclamation mark /ɪk.skləˈmeɪ.ʃənˌmɑːk/  

NOUN [C]  
[B2] a punctuation mark (!) used at the end of a sentence that expresses surprise, excitement or shock
**Dictionary example:**
Her emails are full of exclamation marks.

**Learner example:**
The day was wonderful as I got two A's with [an] exclamation mark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>exclude</strong></th>
<th>/ɪksˈkluːd/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**
- **Verbs:** exclude
- **Adjectives:** exclusive
- **Adverbs:** exclusively

**VERB [T]**

**KEEP OUT**
[C1] to not allow someone or something to take part in an activity or enter a place

**Dictionary example:**
Women are still excluded from the club.

**Learner example:**
Sometimes the range of sports offered is small and they feel excluded from some sports because they are not fit enough or the sport is too violent.

**NOT INCLUDE**
[C1] to intentionally not include something

**Dictionary example:**
The insurance cover excludes particular medical conditions.

**Learner example:**
Thus, excluding the cost of organising the day, we were able to give 85% of what we earned to the hospital.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>exclusive</strong></th>
<th>/ɪkˈskluː.sɪv/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**
- **Verbs:** exclude
- **Adjectives:** exclusive
- **Adverbs:** exclusively

**ADJECTIVE**

**EXPENSIVE**
[B2] expensive and only for people who are rich or of a high social class
Dictionary examples:
an exclusive club/hotel/shop
an exclusive part of town

Learner example:
We can also discern sophisticated, exclusive shops with expensive clothes in the city centres.

NOT SHARED
[C1] not shared with another person, organization, newspaper, etc.

Dictionary example:
an exclusive interview

Learner example:
They don't have a personal life anymore because of this and photographers are following them everywhere because they want to take an exclusive picture, so they can earn a lot of money with it when a magazine wants to buy it.

exclusive of sth
[C2] not including something

Dictionary example:
The price of the meal is exclusive of drinks.

Learner example:
Preferred areas are [mainly] in North, North West, South East and South West London with a budget of £800 per month exclusive of Council Tax and Bills.

exclusively /ɪksˈkluː.sɪv.li/

Word family:
Verbs: exclude
Adjectives: exclusive
Adverbs: exclusively

ADVERB
[C1] only

Dictionary example:
an exclusively female audience

Learner example:
In addition, the reduced price mentioned refers exclusively to UK students, which caused significant problems.
**excuse**

**VERB [ɪkˈskjuːz]**

**EXPLAIN**

[B2] to be given as a reason for someone's bad behaviour, so that it does not seem so bad

**Dictionary example:**
Nothing can excuse that sort of behaviour.

**Learner example:**
Their main goals are to save the animals and/or to show the animals to the public in order to make us take an interest in the animals and in ecology. I think that these purposes can excuse [the fact] that the animals are locked up, if they [have] enough space and [are] treated very well.

**execute** /ˈek.sɪ.kjuːt/

**VERB [ɪkˈsɪ.kjuːt]**

**KILL**

[C2] to kill someone as a legal punishment

**Dictionary example:**
He was executed for murder.

**Learner example:**
She might even have had some cruel aspects in her personality for she did not hesitate to execute traitors.

**DO**

[C2] to do something, such as follow a plan or order

**Dictionary example:**
to execute a deal/plan

**Learner example:**
When he controls the work of the other staff members, he wants to find out [whether] they executed their duties perfectly.

**executive** /ɪgˈzek.jə.tɪv/

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[C1] relating to making decisions and managing businesses
**Dictionary example:**
an executive director

**Learner example:**
So I am now an executive director, I have a job and I know very important people in the Romanian Government.

**NOUN**

[C1] [c] someone who has an important job in a business

**Dictionary example:**
a company executive

**Learner example:**
The main reason why I attended this conference was to learn how international companies select their employees and how I could improve my qualifications as a finance executive.

**exemplify** /ɪɡˈzɛm.plɪˌfaɪ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** example

**Verbs:** exemplify

**VERB** [T] **FORMAL**

[C2] to be or give a typical example of something

**Dictionary example:**
This painting perfectly exemplifies the naturalistic style which was so popular at the time.

**Learner example:**
Okonkwo serves to exemplify to the reader the consequences that the Igbo people were suffering.

**exercise** /ˈek.səˌsaɪz/

**NOUN**

**MILITARY**

[C2] [c] a set of actions that a group of soldiers do to practise their skills

**Dictionary example:**
The cadets are out on military exercises.

**Learner example:**
I am not opposed to military exercises, but such a noisy activity cannot be tolerated in a world in which environmental protection should be promoted by everybody, [including] the army.
use
[C2] [t] formal to use a power, right, or ability

Dictionary example:
You should always exercise your right to vote.

Learner example:
However, if you believe that nothing can be done, I have to inform you that we will exercise our legal rights and take action against you.

exhaust /ɪgˈzɔːst/

Word family:
Nouns: exhaustion
Verbs: exhaust
Adjectives: exhausted, exhausting, exhaustive

verb [t]
[C1] to make someone very tired

Dictionary example:
The long journey exhausted the children.

Learner example:
I think that the students were expecting to be given a job that would actually improve their English and not just exhaust them physically.

noun

gas
[C1] the waste gas from a vehicle's engine

Dictionary example:
Exhaust fumes

Learner example:
Therefore, it might cause a great deal of pollution because of exhaust fumes.

pipe
[C1] (exhaust pipe) the pipe that waste gas from a vehicle's engine flows through

Dictionary example:
The car needs a new exhaust.

Learner example:
There are traffic jams and it becomes a real hell to drive or simply to walk (because of the noise and pollution of exhaust pipes).
exhausting /ɪgˈzɔːstɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: exhaustion
Verbs: exhaust
Adjectives: exhausted, exhausting, exhaustive

ADJECTIVE
[B2] making you feel extremely tired

Dictionary example:
I've had an exhausting day.

Learner example:
We will also have the opportunity to drink a coffee or have a snack after an exhausting day in the swimming pool!!

exhaustion /ɪgˈzɔːs.tʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: exhaustion
Verbs: exhaust
Adjectives: exhausted, exhausting, exhaustive

NOUN [U]
[B2] when you are extremely tired

Dictionary examples:
She felt ill with exhaustion.
The tennis star is said to be suffering from exhaustion.

Learner example:
Eighty kilometres is a pretty long distance and there is a threat that our trip would turn out to be a gruelling experience because of physical exhaustion.

exhaustive /ɪgˈzɔːstɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: exhaustion
Verbs: exhaust
Adjectives: exhausted, exhausting, exhaustive

ADJECTIVE
[C1] complete and including everything

Dictionary example:
an exhaustive account of the incident
Learner example:
I think this report is exhaustive and that we can rely on this institution, should other colleagues be sent on a similar course there.

**exhibit** /ɪɡˈzɪb.ɪt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** exhibition, exhibit
**Verbs:** exhibit

**VERB**

**SHOW OBJECTS**
[C1] to show objects such as paintings to the public

**Dictionary example:**
She's exhibiting her roses at the local flower show.

**Learner example:**
One of the most important pictures of Van Gogh will be exhibited at the London Museum during the summer holidays.

**SHOW FEELINGS**
[C2] to show a feeling, quality, or ability

**Dictionary example:**
The crew exhibited great courage when the plane crashed.

**Learner example:**
I consider my father a successful man because he exhibits all the qualities I've mentioned above.

**NOUN [C]**
[C1] an object such as a painting that is shown to the public

**Dictionary example:**
a museum exhibit

**Learner example:**
Apart from that, there are English-speaking tourist guides in museums and historical sites, so that visitors can enjoy them and understand what the exhibits are.

**exile** /ˈek.sairl/

**NOUN**
[C2] when someone has to leave their home and live in another country, often for political reasons
Dictionary examples:
He spent the war years in exile in New York.
The King was forced into exile.

Learner example:
In the exhibition I would like to depict the years he has spent in exile in India, a neighbouring country of Tibet.

exist /ɪgˈzɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: existence
Verbs: exist
Adjectives: existing, non-existent

VERB [i]

LIVE

[C1] to live in difficult conditions

Dictionary example:
You can’t exist without water for more than a week.

Learner example:
It’s hard to exist without water, so there were long queues to our local wells.

existence /ɪgˈzɪs.tənts/

Word family:
Nouns: existence
Verbs: exist
Adjectives: existing, non-existent

NOUN

BEING

[B2] [u] when something or someone exists

Dictionary examples:
Many people question the existence of God.
According to modern cosmology, the Universe came into existence about fifteen billion years ago.
The theatre company that they started is still in existence today.

Learner example:
The book gives explanations about all these popular beliefs about ghosts and their supposed existence among living people.
LIFE
[C1] [c] a particular way of life

Dictionary example:
We could have a much more peaceful existence in the countryside.

Learner example:
People from all over the world emigrated to the fifth continent and it was believed that they would have a better existence there.

existing /ɪgˈzɪstɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: existence
Verbs: exist
Adjectives: existing, non-existent

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] describes something that exists now

Dictionary examples:
The existing church was built in the sixteenth century.
The existing laws are inadequate.

Learner example:
The computer upgraded most of the existing inventions, and made them more efficient, faster and [more user-friendly].

exotic /ɪgˈzɒt.ɪk/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] unusual, interesting and often foreign

Dictionary example:
exotic flowers/fruits

Learner example:
Even if you do not have any cooking skills you can enjoy exotic meals.

expand /ɪkˈspænd/

Word family:
Nouns: expansion
Verbs: expand
**VERB [I or T]**

[B2] **to increase in size or amount, or to make something increase in this way**

**Dictionary examples:**
- The air in the balloon expands when heated.
- They expanded their retail operations during the 1980s.

**Learner example:**
- I would like to expand my library.

expansion /ɪkˈspæn.tʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** expansion
**Verbs:** expand

**NOUN [U]**

[B2] **when something increases in size or amount**

**Dictionary example:**
- These years saw the rapid expansion of the software industry.

**Learner example:**
- More effective ways includ[e] the construction of bridges [in] heavy traffic areas and the expansion of METRO to even more areas of Athens.

expect /ɪkˈspekt/ 

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** expectation
**Verbs:** expect
**Adjectives:** expected, unexpected
**Adverbs:** unexpectedly

**VERB**

**BEHAVE**

[B2] **to think that someone should behave in a particular way or do a particular thing**

**Dictionary example:**
- You will be expected to work some weekends.

**Learner example:**
- You have to satisfy your boss [but] you do not have to do more than you are expected to.

I expect

[B2] **used to show that you think something is likely to be true**
Dictionary examples:
I expect Isabel's told you about me?
"Will you be coming to the party?" "I expect so."

be expecting (a baby)
[B2] to be going to have a baby

Dictionary example:
I'm expecting our first baby in May.

Learner example:
When I was nine or ten years old, my mother was expecting a baby.

expectation /ˌek.spekˈteɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: expectation
Verbs: expect
Adjectives: expected, unexpected
Adverbs: unexpectedly

NOUN
[B2] [C USUALLY PLURAL] when you expect good things to happen in the future

Dictionary examples:
The holiday lived up to all our expectations.
I have high expectations for this job.
We did so well - beyond all our expectations.

Learner example:
The talks given by writers were up to my expectations and it was a pleasure to attend all of them.

exceed sb's expectations
[C1] to be much bigger or better than expected

Dictionary example:
The location of the apartment exceeded our expectations.

Learner example:
They might exceed our expectations with the top-quality cuisine, which is fine as long as it is value for money; we don't want an unaffordable canteen.
**expected**  /ɪkˈspektɪd/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** expectation
- **Verbs:** expect
- **Adjectives:** expected, unexpected
- **Adverbs:** unexpectedly

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] thought likely to happen or be true

**Dictionary example:**
The expected power cuts never happened.

**Learner example:**
I went into the theatre on time but became a little bit angry [at having to] wait until 20:15, forty-five minutes after the expected starting time.

---

**expenditure**  /ɪkˈspen.dɪ.tʃərɪ/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** expense, expenditure, expenses
- **Adjectives:** expensive, inexpensive

**NOUN [U] FORMAL**

[C2] the total amount of money that a government or person spends

**Dictionary example:**
The government’s annual expenditure on arms has been reduced.

**Learner example:**
First of all, and it is the most obvious solution, government expenditure on subsidies for [the] homeless should increase.

---

**expense**  /ɪkˈspɛnts/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** expense, expenditure, expenses
- **Adjectives:** expensive, inexpensive

**NOUN [C or U]**

**MONEY SPENT**

[B2] the money that you spend on something
**Dictionary examples:**
Buying a bigger car has proved to be well **worth the** expense.
We've just had a new garage built **at great** expense.
It's silly to **go to the** expense of buying new clothes when you don't really need them.
You have to **pay/cover** your own medical expenses.

**Learner example:**
We couldn't afford the expense of a new car [at] that time.

**at the expense of sth**
[C1] If you do one thing at the expense of another, doing the first thing harms the second thing.

**Dictionary example:**
He spent a lot of time at work, at the expense of his marriage.

**Learner example:**
Unfortunately one is usually done at the expense of the other.

**at sb's expense**
[C2] in order to make someone look stupid

**Dictionary example:**
Stop making jokes at my expense.

**Learner example:**
But despite his intellectual superiority, Piggy was subject to derision because of his physical outward appearance and the group of boys played jokes at his expense.

**expenses  /ɪkˈspens.ɪz/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** expense, expenditure, expenses

**Adjectives:** expensive, inexpensive

**NOUN [PLURAL]**
[C1] money that you spend when you are doing your job, that your employer will pay back to you

**Dictionary examples:**
travel expenses
They pay us two hundred pounds a week, plus expenses.

**Learner example:**
They actually helped me a lot with relocation and even reimbursed my travel expenses.
experiment

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** experiment  
**Verbs:** experiment  
**Adjectives:** experimental

**VERB [i] /ɪkˈsper.a.ment/**

**TRY**

[B2] to try something in order to discover what it is like

**Dictionary example:**
Did he ever experiment with drugs?

**Learner example:**
Last year I started to take a lot of black and white photos and I wanted to follow the process all the way through so I bought an enlarger. I was now able to experiment with all sorts of techniques.

**DO TESTS**

[C2] to do an experiment

**Dictionary example:**
Experimenting on mice can give us an idea of the effect of the disease in humans.

**Learner example:**
Firstly, scientists are the best contributors for a better world around us being smarter and hard-working, gaining knowledge and experimenting in laboratories.

experimental /ɪkˌsper.ɪˈmen.təl/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** experiment  
**Verbs:** experiment  
**Adjectives:** experimental

**ADJECTIVE [C2]** relating to tests, especially scientific ones

**Dictionary example:**
The two scientists used very different experimental methods.

**Learner example:**
But in my opinion this is no excuse to discard the findings of numerous well-educated nutritionist[s] and food specialists who devote long [h]ours to researching the eating habits of the people of the world, who sift through data from times gone by to find out about our predecessors’ habits and who build and test hypotheses in strictly controlled experimental conditions.
**expert /ˈek.spɜːt/**

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[B2] having or showing a lot of knowledge or skill

**Dictionary examples:**
The centre provides expert **advice** for people with financial problems.
What's your expert **opinion**?

**Learner example:**
We're not expert cyclists and we could [get] tired before we get to the Mountain Hostel.

---

**expire /ɪkˈspaɪər/**

**VERB [I]**

[C2] If a legal document or agreement expires, you can no longer use it.

**Dictionary example:**
Your contract expired six months ago.

**Learner example:**
My rental contract expired last month and I wanted to find a bigger place, which I am delighted to say I did.

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**explicit /ɪkˈsplɪs.ɪt/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**CLEAR**

[C2] clear and exact

**Dictionary examples:**
She was very explicit **about** her plans.
He made no explicit **references** to Tess.

**Learner example:**
Rules have to be explicit and well explained so that they [can] be strictly followed.

**SHOWING SEX**

[C2] I showing or talking about sex or violence in a very detailed way

**Dictionary example:**
an explicit film
Learner example:
One is not supposed to watch explicit movies under the age of 16 [nor] drink alcohol under the age of 18.

exploit /ekˈsploʊt/

VERB [T]

USE UNFAIRLY
[B2] to treat someone unfairly for your own advantage

Dictionary example:
Laws exist to stop companies exploiting their employees.

Learner example:
I suppose those people are often exploited and do not have real friends with whom they can share feelings and emotions. Therefore I believe being a famous person is also synonymous with being lonely.

USE WELL
[B2] to use or develop something to your advantage

Dictionary example:
We need to make sure that we exploit our resources as fully as possible.

Learner example:
John would certainly exploit this unique opportunity and meet the interviewer’s expectations easily.

exploration /ˌek.spləˈreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: exploration
Verbs: explore

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] a journey to a place to find out about something

Dictionary examples:
Livingstone was the first European to make an exploration of the Zambesi river.
She’s always loved travel and exploration.

Learner example:
In the near future robots will take part in space exploration, as well as ocean exploration.
explore /ɪkˈsploʊr/  

Word family:  
Nouns: exploration  
Verbs: explore

VERB

LOOK INTO  
[B2] [ɪ] to find out more about something, often something that you might do in the future

Dictionary example:  
We're exploring the possibility of buying a holiday home.

Learner example:  
It is a great camera and I still have not explored all the possibilities it holds.

explosion /ɪkˈspləʊ.ʒən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: explosion, explosive  
Verbs: explode  
Adjectives: explosive

NOUN [C]

BOMB  
[B2] when something such as a bomb explodes

Dictionary examples:  
Forty people were killed in the explosion.  
The fire was thought to have been caused by a gas explosion.

Learner example:  
I was doing my homework when I heard an explosion.

INCREASE  
[C1] when something increases suddenly by a large amount

Dictionary example:  
the recent population explosion

Learner example:  
The factors leading to this population explosion in cities of the world might vary from country to country and city to city, but there is one common denominator – the quest for a better life.
**explosive** /ɪkˈspləʊ.sɪv/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** explosion, explosive
- **Verbs:** explode
- **Adjectives:** explosive

**ADJECTIVE**

**EQUIPMENT**

[C2] An explosive substance or piece of equipment can cause explosions.

**Dictionary examples:**
The explosive device was hidden in a suitcase.
an explosive mixture of oil vapour and oxygen

**Learner example:**
The small piece of an explosive material caused chaos in the streets of London.

**SITUATION**

[C2] An explosive situation or subject causes strong feelings, and may make people angry or violent.

**Dictionary example:**
a highly explosive political issue

**Learner example:**
Moreover, there are some explosive issues that give them food for thought, such as the environmental pollution, and the poverty.

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a substance or piece of equipment that can cause explosions

**Dictionary example:**
He was caught smuggling explosives into the building.

**Learner example:**
It was in this background of events that Riyaz Mohammed drove a van loaded with a thousand kilos of explosives into the US embassy compound in Nairobi, Kenya, causing the deaths of hundreds of Kenyans and dozens of American citizens.

---

**export**

**VERB [i or t] /ɪkˈspɔːt/**

[B2] to send goods to another country for sale

**Dictionary examples:**
French cheeses are exported to many different countries.
Our clothes sell so well in this country that we have no need to export.
Learner example:
And of course, while Italy is exporting pizza, spaghetti and food like that, Italian people are able
to try different food from foreign countries, like hamburger[s], Chinese food, or pudding.

**NOUN** [C or U] /ˈɛkˌspɔːt/  
[B2] a product that you sell in another country or the business of selling products in another country

**Dictionary examples:**  
Coffee is one of Brazil’s main exports.  
The export of ivory is now strictly controlled.  
India grows tea for export.  
We are planning to develop our export market.

Learner example:  
At present I work for a Multinational company as export officer.

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**expose** /ɪkˈspəʊz/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** exposure  
**Verbs:** expose

**VERB [T]**  
MAKE PUBLIC

[B2] to make public something bad or dishonest

**Dictionary examples:**  
The review exposed widespread corruption in the police force.  
The newspaper story exposed him as a liar.

Learner example:  
If I do not receive full satisfaction, I will expose your operation by writing to the newspaper.

**be exposed to sth**  
[B2] to experience something or be affected by something because you are in a particular situation or place

**Dictionary example:**  
It was the first time I’d been exposed to violence.

Learner example:  
Also, with television, we might be exposed to violence in some films and advertisements, which does not happen [if] we read a book.
exposure /ɪkˈspəʊ.ʒə/

Word family:
Nouns: exposure
Verbs: expose

NOUN
[C1] [u] when someone experiences something or is affected by it because they are in a particular situation or place

Dictionary examples:
There is a risk of exposure to radiation.
Many young children now have exposure to computers in the home.

Learner example:
Due to exposure to low temperatures throughout the tour I developed pneumonia and had to be admitted to hospital on arrival [in] London.

express /ɪkˈspres/

Word family:
Nouns: expression
Verbs: express
Adjectives: expressive

VERB [T]
[B2] to show what you think or how you feel using words or actions

Dictionary examples:
I’m simply expressing my opinion.
I would like to express my thanks for your kindness.
I’m sorry, I’m not expressing myself very clearly.
Words can’t express how happy I am.

Learner example:
Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing to express my dissatisfaction about the show you presented two weeks ago at your theatre.

expression /ɪkˈspreʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: expression
Verbs: express
Adjectives: expressive
**NOUN**

**PHRASE**

[B2] [c] a word or phrase

**Dictionary examples:**
He uses a lot of informal expressions.
'A can of worms' is an expression which means 'a difficult situation'.

**Learner example:**
With th[ese] kind[s] of videos, they could learn words and expressions used every day by normal people talking to normal people.

**LOOK**

[B2] [c] the look on someone's face, showing what they feel or think

**Dictionary examples:**
facial expressions
He had such a sad expression on his face.
I could tell from her expression that something serious had happened.

**Learner example:**
He had a funny expression on his face.

**SHOWING THOUGHTS**

[B2] [c or u] when you show what you think or how you feel using words or actions

**Dictionary examples:**
He wrote her a poem as an expression of his love.
We've received a lot of expressions of support for our campaign.
Freedom of expression is a basic human right.
It's better to give expression to your anger, rather than hiding it.

**Learner example:**
It always thrilled me, the energy and expression this dance had.

---

**expressive /ɪkˈspres.ɪv/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** expression
**Verbs:** express
**Adjectives:** expressive

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] showing your feelings

**Dictionary examples:**
expressive language
a very expressive face
**Learner example:**
Ann was a beautiful girl with wonderful hair and expressive brown eyes.

**exquisite /ɪkˈskwɪz.ɪt/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] very beautiful or perfect

**Dictionary example:**
a garden of exquisite flowers

**Learner example:**
On the forefinger of my left hand they can see the most exquisite diamond ring that they ever did see.

**extend /ɪkˈstend/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: extension, extent
Verbs: extend
Adjectives: extensive

**VERB**

**MAKE BIGGER**
[B2] [ɪ] to make something bigger or longer

**Dictionary examples:**
We have plans to extend our house.
They've extended their range of products.

**Learner example:**
The existing lighting loop would be extended and [the] capacity of the illumination would be increased.

**MAKE LAST**
[B2] [ɪ] to make an activity, agreement, etc. last for a longer time

**Dictionary examples:**
They have extended the deadline by one week.
A lot of shops have extended their opening hours.
I need to extend my visa.

**Learner example:**
If we decide to extend our stay for two more days, does the offer still stand?
**extend from/into/over, etc.**

[C2] to continue or stretch over a particular area of land or period of time

**Dictionary examples:**
a mountain range that extends down the Italian peninsula
Will the building work extend into next week?

---

**extension** /ɪkˈsten.tʃən/

**Word family:**
Nouns: extension, extent
Verbs: extend
Adjectives: extensive

**NOUN [c]**

**EXTRA TIME**

[B2] extra time that you are given to do or use something

**Dictionary example:**
I've applied for an extension to my visa.

**TELEPHONE**

[B2] a telephone that is connected to the main telephone in an office or other large building

**Dictionary example:**
Call me on extension 3104.

**Learner example:**
For further information call 990–643 extension 93.

**DEVELOPMENT**

[B2] something that has developed as a result of something else

**Dictionary example:**
The book is an extension of ideas he set out in an earlier article.

**Learner example:**
So we might say the computer is the extension of our brain.

---

**extensive** /ɪkˈsten.tʃəns/
ADJECTIVE

[B2] large in amount or size

Dictionary examples:
Fire had caused extensive damage to the building.
This is probably the most extensive modern art collection in Europe.
The school has extensive grounds.
The motorway was in need of extensive repairs.
Both events received extensive coverage in the newspapers.

Learner example:
You see, this medi[e]val city has [an] extensive collection of antique[s].

extent /ɪkˈstent/  

Word family:
Nouns: extension, extent
Verbs: extend
Adjectives: extensive

NOUN [NO PLURAL]

SIZE

[B2] the size or importance of something

Dictionary examples:
They are just beginning to realize the full extent of the damage.
Her face was injured to such an extent that we didn’t recognize her.
Rosie’s teacher was impressed by the extent of her knowledge.
The River Nile is over 6500 kilometres in extent.

Learner example:
[For the] past couple of decades, TV has been diffused in Japan to such an extent that nowadays, one household is likely to have more than 2 TV sets that [show] a wide range of programmes nearly 24 hours a day.

to a great/large, etc. extent

[B2] mainly

Dictionary example:
Their anger was to a large extent justified.

Learner example:
As we all know, TV, video and cinema have replaced books to an enormous extent.

to some extent/to a certain extent

[B2] in some ways
Dictionary examples:
To some extent, she was responsible for the accident.
I agree with you to a certain extent.

Learner example:
To a certain extent, this point of view seems to be very respectable.

the extent to which
[C2] the degree to which something happens or is likely to happen

Dictionary example:
The research should show the extent to which these changes are being implemented.

Learner example:
Several factors determine the extent to which a person’s character may influence our own opinions and even our way of life, such as the time spent with that particular person, or the importance that figure has in our li[v]es.

**exterior /ɪkˈstɪə.rɪə/**

Noun [C]
[C1] the outside part of something or someone

Dictionary example:
The exterior of the house was painted white.

Learner example:
Thus, it is best for the management to improve the look of this building as other buildings in this area have a better looking exterior than ours.

**external /ɪkˈstɜː.nəl/**

Adjective

Outside
[B2] relating to the outside part of something

Dictionary examples:
the external walls of the house
This cream is for external use only.

Learner example:
If you see all this external decoration, you will probably fall in love [with] this art.

From a different place
[B2] coming from or relating to another country, group, organization, etc.
**Dictionary examples:**
Most news magazines have a section devoted to external affairs.
All exams are marked by an external **examiner**.

---

**extinct** /ɪkˈstɪŋkt/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** extinction
- **Adjectives:** extinct

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] If a type of animal is extinct, it does not now exist.

**Dictionary example:**
These creatures could soon be extinct.

**Learner example:**
We are destroying the Earth by polluting it and we do not realise [this], and the thing is, we will not do so until we have made some species become extinct and we have damaged it all.

---

**extinction** /ɪkˈstrɪŋk.ʃən/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** extinction
- **Adjectives:** extinct

**NOUN [U]**

[C1] when a type of animal no longer exists

**Dictionary example:**
Many species of animal are **threatened with** extinction.

**Learner example:**
I wholeheartedly suggest that it should be returned to nature and to the turtles, as they face extinction after the loss of their natural home.

---

**extra** /ˈek.strə/

**NOUN [c]**

**ACTOR**

[C1] an actor in a film who does not have a main part and usually plays someone in a crowd
Dictionary example:
He was an extra in the crowd scene.

Learner example:
A theatre troop at the beginning of a new project is more often than not a flabbergasting rabble of actors, technicians, extras, back-stage workers and so forth.

**extract**

**VERB** [ɪkˈstrækt] /ˈstrækt/
[B2] to remove or take out something

**Dictionary examples:**
The oil which is extracted *from* olives is used mainly for cooking.
The tooth was eventually extracted.

**Learner example:**
I'm really sorry, but I can't come on the day before because I need to have my teeth extracted.

**NOUN** [ˈek.strækt] /ˈek.strækt/
[B2] a short part of a book, poem, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
They published an extract *from* his autobiography.

**Learner example:**
The number of copied and read articles or book extracts ha[s] increased steadily.

**extraordinarily** /ɪkˈstrɔːɹ.əli/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** extraordinary
**Adverbs:** extraordinarily

**ADVERB**
[B2] very

**Dictionary example:**
She is, it must be said, extraordinarily beautiful.

**Learner example:**
Besides, the trip will be extraordinarily helpful for my course at school.
extravagant /ɪkˈstræv.ə.gənt/

ADJECTIVE

[C2] costing too much, or spending a lot more money than you need to

Dictionary example:
the extravagant lifestyle of a movie star

Learner example:
In some extreme cases, young people are known to have extravagant lifestyles and wasteful spending habits.

extreme /ɪkˈstriːm/

Word family:
Nouns: extremist
Adjectives: extreme
Adverbs: extremely

ADJECTIVE

VERY LARGE

[B2] very large in amount or degree

Dictionary example:
extreme pain/danger/wealth

Learner example:
This time I promise that I will take extreme caution with your things.

SERIOUS

[B2] the most unusual or the most serious possible

Dictionary examples:
extreme weather conditions
In extreme cases, the disease can lead to blindness.

Learner example:
It seems to be an extreme case but it is a fact that modern children have no more contact with animal life.

OPINIONS

[C2] having such strong opinions or beliefs that most people cannot agree with you

Dictionary examples:
extreme views
the extreme right/left
Learner example:
Consequently, I can now express my disagreement [with] both articles, mostly because of the extreme opinions they [cont]ain.

extremist /ɪkˈstriː.mɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: extremist
Adjectives: extreme
Adverbs: extremely

NOUN [c]
[C2] someone who has such strong opinions or beliefs that most people cannot agree with them

Dictionary example:
political/religious extremists

Learner example:
Be[ar]jing in mind all these strict rules my children have to follow they seem to be bound to become anarchic extremists.

extrovert /ˈek.strə.vɜːt/

NOUN [c]
[C1] someone who is very confident and likes being with other people

Dictionary example:
She is an extrovert.

Learner example:
She is an extrovert, a sociable person, who loves talking to people and is always ready to sacrif[i]ce her free time to make them happy.

eye /aɪ/

NOUN [c]

in sb's eyes
[C2] in someone's opinion

Dictionary example:
In my parents' eyes, I'll always be a child.
Learner example:
To answer your question right away, the boat trip is highly recommendable in my eyes!

**keep your/an eye on sb/sth**
[B2] to watch or look after someone or something

Dictionary example:
Could you keep an eye on this pan of soup for a moment?

Learner example:
You have to supply [e]verything they need and keep an eye on them all the time.

**can't keep/take your eyes off sb/sth**
[B2] to be unable to stop looking at someone or something because they are so attractive or interesting

Dictionary example:
He couldn't take his eyes off her all night.

Learner example:
Her daughter, Lourdes Maria, is such a pretty little girl that I couldn't take my eyes off her.

**have an eye for sth**
[B2] to be good at noticing a particular type of thing

Dictionary example:
Your son has a very good eye for detail.

Learner example:
She's got an eye for details but a mind like anybody else's.

**look sb in the eye/eyes**
[B2] to look at someone in a direct way, without showing fear or shame

Dictionary example:
Look me in the eye and say that you didn't steal it.

Learner example:
One day she looked me in the eyes with a sharp deep look – never have I seen such a deep look – and asked me what was happening and I told her.

**keep an eye out for sb/sth**
[C1] to watch carefully for someone or something to appear

Dictionary example:
Keep an eye out for the delivery van.

Learner example:
Although individually we try to deliver the best care possible for our individual patients, we do keep an ear or an eye out for the other members of the team that day.

**turn a blind eye (to sth)**
[C1] to choose to ignore something that you know is wrong or illegal
Dictionary example:
Restaurant staff often took food home, and their boss turned a blind eye.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, we can't turn a blind eye to this reality.

**be in the public eye**
[C1] to be famous and often featured in the media

Dictionary example:
Her new role means that she will be in the public eye.

Learner example:
But being famous also means that you are always in the public eye, which is a major drawback.

**catch sb's eye**
[C2] to get someone's attention by looking at them

Dictionary example:
I tried to catch her eye, but she had already turned away.

Learner example:
All of a sudden she caught my eye and smiled in a sad way.

**catch sb's eye**
[C2] to be attractive or different enough to be noticed by people

Dictionary example:
It was the colour of his jacket that caught my eye.

Learner example:
Dear Sir, I am writing regarding your newly published article about nutrition, which immediately caught my eye as I was reading your magazine.

**see eye to eye (with sb)**
[C2] If two people see eye to eye, they agree with each other.

Dictionary example:
Our teachers don't always see eye to eye with the headmaster.

Learner example:
Although I agree with some of the statements given by the young people, I do not see eye to eye with all of their viewpoints.

**keep your eyes peeled (for sb/sth)**
[C2] to watch carefully for someone or something

Dictionary example:
Keep your eyes peeled, he should be here any minute.

Learner example:
Ever since, I try to keep my eyes peeled for anything similar.
cry your eyes out
[C2] If someone cries their eyes out, they cry a lot about a problem or situation.

Dictionary example:
She cried her eyes out when he left her for another girl.

Learner example:
It wasn’t an easy decision to make. Melanie spent many nights crying her eyes out in bed and trying to convince herself that she wasn’t doing the right thing.

in the blink of an eye
[C2] extremely quickly

Dictionary example:
In the blink of an eye, he was gone.

Learner example:
And for all those who keep nagging about losing their favourite regular programmes during such an event, be patient: TV routine will be back into your living rooms in the blink of an eye.

eye contact
[C2] when people look at each other, for instance when they are talking to each other

Dictionary example:
There was very little eye contact between them.

Learner example:
I tried to avoid having eye contact with people just because of this humility.

keep your eyes open (for sb/sth)
[C2] to watch carefully for someone or something

Dictionary example:
Keep your eyes open for anything unusual.

Learner example:
It has helped us identify and successfully combat many a nutritional hazard, keeping our eyes open to immoderate consumption of some substances and its effects.

the naked eye
[C2] If something can be seen by the naked eye, it is big enough to be seen without special equipment.

Dictionary example:
These bugs are so tiny you cannot see them with the naked eye.

in your mind's eye
[C2] in your imagination or memory

Dictionary example:
In my mind’s eye, she remains a little girl of six although she’s actually a grown woman.
Learner example:
He sees her in his mind's eye, running around barefoot, laughing and squealing, wading in the water and running back out, screaming, trying to get away from the breaking waves.

**roll your eyes**
[C2] DISAPPROVING to move your eyes so that they are looking up, usually to show surprise or disapproval

**Dictionary example:**
When I asked her when she thought the building work would be finished, she just rolled her eyes.

**Learner example:**
This attitude is obvious when, for instance, shop assistant[s] show no patience for the slower reaction of elder[y] [people]; when nobody offers a seat to an older person in [an] overcrowded tube; when we roll our eyes about older people's desire for quiet, etc.

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### eyebrow /ˈaɪ.braʊ/

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] the thin line of hair that is above each eye

**Dictionary example:**
He's got really bushy eyebrows.

**Learner example:**
He woke up and cleaned off the blood from his injured eyebrow.

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### eyelash /ˈaɪ.læʃ/

**NOUN [c USUALLY PLURAL]**
[B2] one of the short hairs which grow from the edge of your eyelids

**Dictionary example:**
false/long eyelashes

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### eyelid /ˈaɪ.lɪd/

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] the piece of skin that covers your eyes when you close them

**Dictionary example:**
His eyelids drooped with tiredness.
eyesight /ˈaɪ.saɪt/  

NOUN [u]

[B2] the ability to see

Dictionary example:
My eyesight is getting worse.

Learner example:
I had some trouble with my eyesight, so he advised me to wear glasses and not to strain my eyes.
fabric /ˈfæb.rɪk/

NOUN

[C1] [c or u] cloth

Dictionary example:
a light/woollen fabric

Learner example:
Do small pieces of coloured fabric really have the might to change how people live their lives? (1533768; Certificate in Advanced English; Germany; C1 EFFECTIVE OPERATIONAL PROFICIENCY; 2004; German; Pass) Lifestyle-changing fashion Do small pieces of coloured fabric really have the might to change how people live their lives?

the fabric of sth

[C2] the basic way in which a society or other social group is organized

Dictionary example:
The family is part of the fabric of society.

Learner example:
You cannot infringe individual liberties and ban the purchase of cars – it would go against the very fabric of modern society.

fabulous /ˈfæb.jə.ləs/

ADJECTIVE

[C1] extremely good

Dictionary examples:
They've got a fabulous house.
We had an absolutely fabulous holiday.

Learner example:
Everybody admitted that the entertainment was absolutely fabulous.
at face value
[C1] If you accept something at face value because of the way it first looks or seems, you do so without thinking carefully about it.

Dictionary examples:
You can’t just accept everything you read in the newspapers at face value.
These results should not be taken at face value – careful analysis is required to assess their full implications.

Learner example:
People are assessed at face value [by] the type of cars they drive.

lose face
[C2] to become less respected by others because of something you did

Dictionary example:
The party has lost face with the public by abandoning their original policy on education.

Learner example:
However, many popular people like Pierce Brosnan managed to keep their lives out of the press and yet be present to meet public demand without losing face.

keep a straight face
[C2] to manage to stop yourself from smiling or laughing

Dictionary example:
I can never play jokes on people because I can't keep a straight face.

on the face of it
[C2] used when you are describing how a situation seems on the surface

Dictionary example:
On the face of it, it seems like a bargain, but I bet there are hidden costs.

Learner example:
On the face of it, both sides have valid arguments, and it’s a difficult balancing act to manage.

in the face of sth
[C2] while having to deal with a difficult situation or problem

Dictionary example:
She refused to leave him, in the face of increasing pressure from friends and family.
Learner example:
No doubt, it was rather difficult to like Enid X. She was hardly likely to arouse sympathy in anybody even in the face of death.

fly in the face of SLIGHTLY FORMAL
[C2] to be the opposite of what is usual or accepted

Dictionary example:
These recommendations fly in the face of previous advice on safe limits of consumption.

Learner example:
But when we have a look outside our wonderful world, we can easily see that this argument flies in the face of the facts.

a slap in the face
[C2] something someone does that insults or upsets you

Dictionary example:
After all that hard work, losing my job was a real slap in the face.

Learner example:
My father noticed that and decided it was high time to take me down a peg or two. He used to work as a volunteer in hospital for children dying for cancer. One day, he took me there. It was like a slap in the face – suddenly I saw a different world. It was a bleak world, without smiles and happy faces.

VERB

PROBLEM
[B2] [T] If you face a problem, or a problem faces you, you have to deal with it.

Dictionary examples:
This is one of the many problems faced by working mothers.
Passengers could face long delays.
You're faced with a very difficult choice there.

Learner example:
Grandparents are experienced people and they can help their child[ren] to avoid a lot of problems which they have faced.

can't face sb/sth/doing sth
[B2] to not want to do something or deal with someone, often because it is difficult or unpleasant

Dictionary examples:
I can't face walking up all those steps again.
I knew someone had to tell her but I couldn't face it.
How can I face him now that he knows what I've done?

Learner example:
Everybody at [the] swimming pool was laughing about me. I couldn't face my family.
ACCEPT
[B2] [ɪ] to accept that something unpleasant is true and start to deal with the situation

Dictionary examples:
I think Phil has to face the **fact** that she no longer loves him.
We have to face **facts** here – we simply don’t have enough money.
He’s dying but he refuses to face **the truth**.

Learner example:
But Mary has a strong personality, she faces the facts.

face the music
[C1] to accept punishment or criticism for something bad that you have done

Dictionary example:
At the end of the day I had to go home and face the music.

Learner example:
Teenagers who live with their parents have to face the music about the long bills their parents receive monthly!

let’s face it
[C2] something that you say before you say something that is unpleasant but true

Dictionary example:
Let’s face it, none of us are getting any younger.

Learner example:
Let’s face it, a life with [no] physical and mental exercise is something none of us relishes.

facial /ˈfeɪ.ʃəl/

Word family:
Nouns: face
Verbs: face
Adjectives: facial

ADJECTIVE
[C2] of or on the face

Dictionary example:
facial **expressions**/hair

Learner example:
I can still recall the doctor’s facial expression when he announced the exciting news [to me].
facilitate /fəˈsɪl.ɪ.teɪt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** facilities, facility

**Verbs:** facilitate

**VERB [T] FORMAL**

[C1] to make something possible or easier

**Dictionary example:**
I will do everything in my power to facilitate the process.

**Learner example:**
I found that the presentations and talks about CVs and letters of application were really useful, [but] we should have been divided into smaller groups to facilitate conversation.

facility /faˈsɪl.ə.ti/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** facilities, facility

**Verbs:** facilitate

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a part of a system or machine which makes it possible to do something

**Dictionary example:**
an overdraft facility

**Learner example:**
I would suggest free Internet access as an extra facility in our library.

fact /fækt/

**NOUN**

**despite the fact that**

[B2] used to refer to a situation which is surprising in relation to something that is true or happens

**Dictionary example:**
The company has been forced to reduce its price, despite the fact that the offer has been very popular.

**Learner example:**
The advantages of the kind of life that people ha[d] years ago is that they could eat more fruit and vegetables than us. However, there are advantages for us too, because despite the fact that we eat more fast food, we do more exercise than they [did].
REAL THINGS
[B2] [u] real events and experiences, not things that are imagined

Dictionary example:
It's sometimes hard to separate fact from fiction.

in actual fact
[B2] used to emphasize what is really true, or to give more information

Dictionary example:
I thought she was Portuguese, but in actual fact she's Brazilian.

Learner example:
Nowadays almost all people own a car and in actual fact more and more people have been facing death as a consequence of careless driving.

as a matter of fact
[B2] used to give more information, or to correct something that has been said

Dictionary examples:
John plays golf professionally. As a matter of fact, he has just won a big competition.
"So you’re from Cambridge?" “No, as a matter of fact, I’m from Bristol.”

Learner example:
I think it would be better to choose somewhere outdoors. As a matter of fact, I prefer the open air and the sunlight!

the fact (of the matter) is
[B2] used to tell someone that something is the truth

Dictionary example:
I wouldn't usually ask for your help, but the fact is I'm desperate.

Learner example:
You may find [it] unusual for a woman to play football, but the fact is I'm Brazilian and in Brazil [it] is really common.

factor /ˈfæk.tə/

NOUN [c]
[B2] one of the things that has an effect on a situation, decision, event, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Money was an important factor in their decision to move.
Price is an important/key/major factor in the success of any product.
economic factors

Learner example:
[Modern technology] is another important factor which affects our life.
**deciding factor**

[C2] the thing that helps to make the final decision

**Dictionary example:**
Cost was the deciding factor in choosing these builders.

**Learner example:**
Personally, I think the quality of teachers, school reputation and facilities should be the deciding factor for parents [for] which schools their children should be educated in.

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**faculty** /ˈfæk_signed “əl.ti/  

**NOUN**

the English/law/science, etc. faculty  
[C1] a particular department at a college or university, or the teachers in that department

**Dictionary example:**
He works in the law faculty.

**Learner example:**
I graduated from Warsaw University, where I studied [in] the faculties of applied linguistics and journalism.

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**fade** /feɪd/  

**VERB [I or T]**

[B2] to become less bright, strong or clear, or to make something become less bright, strong or clear

**Dictionary examples:**
If you hang your clothes out in the bright sun, they will fade.  
My suntan is already fading.  
They arrived home just as the light was fading.  
The music began to fade.  
The sun had faded the blue walls.

**Learner example:**
Since the cottage is quite isolated, the electric power supply is not always the best. Anyway, the first night, the lights started to fade.
fail  /feɪl/

Word family:
Nouns: failure
Verbs: fail

VERB

**fail to do sth**

[B2] to not do what is necessary or expected

**Dictionary examples:**
He failed to turn up for football practice yesterday.
He failed to mention that we wouldn't be paid for the work.

**Learner example:**
Your advertisement also failed to mention the fact that there were no discounts.

**NOT SUCCEED**

[B2] [i] to not be successful

**Dictionary examples:**
She moved to London in the hope of finding work as a model, but failed.
He failed in his attempt to break the record.
This method of growing tomatoes never fails.

**Learner example:**
I tried to make him give up, but all my attempts failed.

**STOP WORKING**

[B2] [i] to stop working normally, or to become weaker

**Dictionary example:**
Two of the plane's engines had failed.

**Learner example:**
The sound system failed.

**I fail to see/understand**

[C2] used to say that you do not accept something

**Dictionary example:**
I fail to see why you cannot work on a Sunday.

**Learner example:**
I fail to understand why they still refuse to use this media; it could possibly be the main solution to the present problems [in] the library.
failure /ˈfeɪ.lɪər/  

Word family:
Nouns: failure
Verbs: fail

NOUN

NO SUCCESS
[B2] [c or u] when someone or something does not succeed

Dictionary examples:
Their attempt to climb Everest ended in failure.
I'm a bit of a failure at making cakes.
I feel such a failure.

Learner example:
David told her that the reason [for] his failure was her, because she used to press him and she couldn't accept that he wanted to be an actor.

failure to do sth
[B2] when you do not do something that you are expected to do

Dictionary examples:
Failure to pay within 14 days will result in interest being charged.
It was his failure to return her phone call that told her that something was wrong.

STOP WORKING
[B2] [c or u] when something does not work, or stops working as well as it should

Dictionary examples:
All trains were delayed due to a power failure.
He died of heart/liver failure.

Learner example:
[There] has been a power failure but it will be solved in [a] few minutes.

faint /ˈfɛnt/  

ADJECTIVE

SLIGHT
[B2] slight and not easy to notice, smell, hear, etc.

Dictionary examples:
a faint sound/noise/smell
She gave me a faint smile.
Learner example:
I heard a faint sound.

**feel faint**
[C2] to feel very weak and as if you might fall down

Dictionary example:
Seeing all the blood made me feel faint.

Learner example:
Starting to feel faint, Fred quickly roused himself and ran out of the hotel as quickly as he could.

**not have the faintest idea**
[C2] used to emphasize that you do not know something

Dictionary example:
I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about.

Learner example:
Some twenty years ago, when I left my parents' home to go and live on my own, I was [given] four mugs. By whom? I haven't the faintest idea.

**VERB [I]**
[B2] to suddenly become unconscious for a short time, usually falling down

Dictionary examples:
He faints at the sight of blood.
I nearly fainted in the heat.

Learner example:
The young girl was about to faint.

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**fair** /ˈfeə/  

Word family:
Nouns: fairness  
Adjectives: fair, unfair  
Adverbs: fairly, unfairly

**ADJECTIVE**

**fair enough** INFORMAL  
[B2] used for saying that you can understand and accept someone's opinion or decision

Dictionary example:
"He says he'll only work on Sunday if he gets paid extra." "Fair enough."

Learner example:
Most of the streets are open [to] cars and therefore people tend to escape to a little area around the pedestrian streets. Fair enough, but it make[s] those streets terribly overcrowded.

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AVERAGE
[C1] not very good but not very bad

Dictionary example:
Her German is very good, but her knowledge of French is only fair.

Learner example:
As for grammar, listening and writing skills, they were only fair.

a fair amount/distance/size, etc.
[C2] quite a large amount, distance, size, etc.

Dictionary example:
There's still a fair bit of work to be done on the house.

Learner example:
Of course it is important to find a job we enjoy and which leaves us a fair amount of free time, but it is equally important to find a job that pays the bills, especially nowadays.

fair play
[C2] behaviour that is fair, honest, and does not take advantage of people

Dictionary example:
The public needs to feel a sense of fair play from the government.

Learner example:
He still believes in justice or just the rule of fair play.

NOUN [C]

SHOW OF GOODS/SERVICES
[C1] an event where people show and sell goods or services relating to a particular business or hobby

Dictionary example:
a trade fair

Learner example:
Starting on 18th May 2003, the Birmingham NEC hosted the annual British trade fair.

fairly ˈfeə.li/

Word family:
Nouns: fairness
Adjectives: fair, unfair
Adverbs: fairly, unfairly
ADVERB

IN THE RIGHT WAY
[B2] If you do something fairly, you do it in a way which is right and reasonable and treats people equally.

Dictionary examples:
He claimed that he hadn't been treated fairly by his employers.
Officials will ensure that the election is carried out fairly.

fairness  /ˈfeə.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: fairness
Adjectives: fair, unfair
Adverbs: fairly, unfairly

NOUN [u]
[C1] when you treat everyone in the same way, so that no one has an advantage

Dictionary example:
He believes in fairness and decency.

Learner example:
I think you have not treated us with fairness and truthfulness and therefore I do think that an apology in the newspaper would be in order.

faith  /feɪθ/

Word family:
Nouns: faith
Adjectives: faithful
Adverbs: faithfully

NOUN

TRUST
[B2] I [u] great trust or confidence in something or someone

Dictionary examples:
She has no faith in modern medicine.
You'll be fine – I have great faith in you.
After the trial, his family said they had lost all faith in the legal system.

Learner example:
We must do our best to help [these children] to have faith in their future.
**STRONG BELIEF**

[B2] ! [u] strong belief in a god or gods

**Dictionary examples:**
Even in the bad times she never lost her faith.
Her faith in God was shattered when her baby died.
It's my faith that keeps me going.

**Learner example:**
Your story about Christianity was very interesting and I was shocked at your deep faith in God.

**RELIGION**

[B2] ! [c] a particular religion

**Dictionary examples:**
The Muslim/Christian/Jewish faith
A multi-faith society

**Learner example:**
Everybody was praying, asking for help according to their faith or religion.

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**faithful** /ˈfeɪθ.fəl/

**Word family:**
Nouns: faith
Adjectives: faithful
Adverbs: faithfully

**ADJECTIVE**

**LOYAL**

[B2] loyal

**Dictionary examples:**
A faithful friend
They are faithful supporters of the Labour Party.
His faithful old dog accompanied him everywhere he went.

**Learner example:**
An ideal pet should be a faithful friend [to] people, especially [to] its owner.

**RELATIONSHIP**

[C2] If your husband, wife, or partner is faithful, they do not have a sexual relationship with anyone else.

**Dictionary examples:**
A faithful husband
They remained faithful to each other throughout their long marriage.
Learner example:
Making a commitment to be faithful to another, and to love a person for the rest of your life is no small thing.

NOT CHANGED
[C2] not changing any of the original details, facts, style, etc.

Dictionary example:
Does the film adaptation stay faithful to the novel?

Learner example:
Working with deconstruction in music, he remained faithful to his main motto: Be yourself, express yourself, never repeat or imitate.

faithfully /ˈfeɪθ.fəli/  

Word family: 
Nouns: faith  
Adjectives: faithful  
Adverbs: faithfully  

ADVERB  

Yours faithfully  
[B2] used to end a formal letter to someone whose name you do not know

Dictionary example:  
Yours faithfully, Katherine Smith  

Learner example:  
Yours faithfully, SAMSON LAM (READER)

fake /fɛk/  

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] not real, but made to look or seem real

Dictionary examples:  
fake fur  
a fake passport  

Learner example:  
On the walls there are paintings which are very artistic – one of them is a fake Picasso.
NOUN [c]

COPY
[C2] a copy of something that is intended to look real or valuable and deceive people

Dictionary example:
Experts say that the painting is a fake.

Learner example:
Many of the pictures taken are fakes.

PERSON
[C2] someone who pretends to have particular skills or qualities so that they can deceive people or get their admiration

Dictionary example:
He said he was a doctor, but we soon realized he was a fake.

Learner example:
So, after all he was a fake!

VERB [t]

COPY
[C2] to copy something in order to deceive people

Dictionary example:
The documents had been faked.

Learner example:
People liked it so much that another author, using the [pseudonym] of "Arellaneda", faked Cervante's novel by writing a second part.

PRETEND
[C2] to pretend that something has happened when it has not or to pretend to have a feeling that you do not have

Dictionary examples:
They faked illness to avoid having to work.
He said he was feeling sick, but he was just faking it.

Learner example:
This situation lasted about two years until Caroline had a great idea: they would fake their death and run away to live a quiet life on a secret island they would have bought under an alias.
fall /fɔːl/

VERB [I] (fell, fallen)

fall flat
[C1] If an event or joke falls flat, it fails to have the effect that you wanted, such as making people laugh.

Dictionary example:
All the jokes in his speech fell flat.

Learner example:
The cultural visits fell flat [in comparison] to their expectations, although the sightseeing tour of Willstown was, as the students said, "fascinating".

darkness/night falls LITERARY
[C2] used to say that it is becoming dark

Dictionary example:
When darkness fell, I began to feel worried.

Learner example:
He greeted the worms and the slugs, and as darkness fell he retired to the shelter he had built for the night.

BE DEFEATED
[C2] to be defeated and start to be controlled by a different leader

Dictionary example:
In 1453 the city fell to the Turks.

BECOME WORSE
[C2] to become worse, or start to be in a bad situation or condition

Dictionary examples:
Education standards are continuing to fall.
Empty for 30 years, the building had fallen into ruin.

Learner example:
This impressive, massive 18th-century building which accommodated the Town Hall until recently (5 years ago) has now fallen into disuse.

HANG DOWN
[C2] to hang down

Dictionary example:
Her long blonde hair fell softly over her shoulders.

Learner example:
She had gorgeous black hair falling down her back, a creamy complexion and a figure models dream of.
fall on deaf ears
[C2] If advice or a request falls on deaf ears, people ignore it.

Dictionary example:
Our pleas for help fell on deaf ears.

Learner example:
His cry for help and for a more meaningful relationship between himself and Mildred invariably fell on deaf ears.

fall into place
[C2] When events or details that you did not understand before fall into place, they become easy to understand.

Dictionary example:
When Jo told me she had a twin sister, everything fell into place.

fall prey to sth
[C2] to be hurt or deceived by something or someone bad

Dictionary example:
He fell prey to a gang of criminals pretending to be council officials.

Learner example:
As young people do not have experience in living independently in society and are not fully aware of social problems such as drugs and violence, they may easily fall prey to adults who would like to exploit them.

fall short of sth
[C2] to not reach a particular level, but only by a small amount

Dictionary example:
Sales for the first half of this year fell just short of the target.

Learner example:
Furthermore, it cannot be denied that public transport falls short of the target set during the planning process.

fall short of sth
[C2] to fail to achieve something

Dictionary examples:
His behaviour falls short of what we expect.
She just fell short of the grades she needed.

Learner example:
This routine was really wearing me out, but, I didn't want to fall short of my parents’ expectations.
NOUN [C usually no plural]

MOVEMENT
[B2] when someone or something falls down to the ground, often without intending to or by accident

Dictionary examples:
He had a nasty fall and hurt his back.
The boulder smashed several small trees during its fall.

Learner example:
I was terrified and I heard the noise of a fall just by my side.

DEFEAT
[C1] when a city, government, leader, etc. loses power or control

Dictionary example:
the fall of communism

Learner example:
After the fall of the previous system everything changed.

false /fɔːls/

ADJECTIVE

NOT REAL
[B2] not real, but made to look or seem real

Dictionary examples:
false eyelashes/teeth
false documents

Learner example:
Asking what made her do so she answered that she had forgotten her false teeth, without which she couldn't have faced the fire-brigade.

NOT SINCERE
[C1] not sincere or expressing real emotions

Dictionary examples:
false promises
I hate the way he smiles at everyone. It's so false.

Learner example:
The actor is really getting on my nerves because he is so selfish and so false.
fame /ˈfeɪm/

Word family:
Nouns: fame
Adjectives: famous

NOUN [u]
[B2] when you are known by many people because of your achievements, skills, etc.

Dictionary examples:
She first rose to fame as a singer at the age of 16.
She moved to London in search of fame and fortune.

Learner example:
It is certain that these people have fame, fortune and success, and that many of them are very rich.

familiar /ˈfəməliər/

Word family:
Verbs: familiarize
Adjectives: familiar, unfamiliar

ADJECTIVE

be familiar with sth/sb
[B2] to know something or someone well

Dictionary example:
I’m sorry, I’m not familiar with your poetry.

Learner example:
I’m familiar with many kinds of sports activities such as ball games, recreation games, swimming and Japanese budo–karate, judo etc.

familiarize /ˈfəmələriz/  

Word family:
Verbs: familiarize
Adjectives: familiar, unfamiliar

VERB (ALSO UK familiarise)

familiarize sb/yourself with sth
[C2] to teach someone more about something new, or try to understand more about it yourself
Dictionary example:
We spent a few minutes familiarizing ourselves with the day’s schedule.

Learner example:
The presenter should be acting as a teenager in order to familiarise the youth of the area with the programme immediately.

famine /ˈfæm.ɪn/

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] when people living in a particular area do not have enough food for a long time causing suffering and death

Dictionary example:
The floods were followed by a terrible famine.

Learner example:
Pictures of the famine in Africa or the deforestation of the Amazon raise important issues for humanity as a whole, urging us to be more active citizens.

fanatic /fəˈnæt.ɪk/

NOUN [C]
[C2] someone whose interest in something or enthusiasm for something is extreme

Dictionary examples:
a religious fanatic
fitness/exercise fanatics

Learner example:
This can give way to fanatics, religious or political, who may easily influence the frustrated masses into doing something they would under other circumstances refrain from.

fancy /ˈfænt.si/

VERB [T]

PERSON
[B2] to feel sexually attracted to someone

Dictionary example:
I fancied him the first time I saw him.
Learner example:
He had 3 very nice boys and everybody in my class knew that I fancied his youngest son Nicolai.

**SURPRISE**
[C2] used at the beginning of a sentence to show that you are surprised or shocked by something

**Dictionary example:**
Fancy seeing you here!

**Learner example:**
Fancy meeting a man who looked like an ancient knight!

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**fantastically** /fænˈtæs.tɪk.li/

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** fantastic

**Adverbs:** fantastically

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**fantasy** /ˈfæn.tə.si/

**Noun [C or U]**

[B2] a situation or event that you imagine, which is not real or true

**Dictionary examples:**
Steve’s favourite fantasy was to own a big house and a flashy car.
**sexual fantasies**
She retreated into a fantasy **world**, where she could be anything she wanted.

**Learner example:**
Reading a book stimulates one's fantasy and imagination.
far  /ˈfɑːr/  

**ADVERB** *(farther, farthest or further, furthest)*

**VERY MUCH**

[B2] very much

**Dictionary examples:**
This car is far better than our old one.
It cost far more (money) than I could afford.
He loses his temper far too often.
I'd far rather/sooner go to the theatre than watch a DVD.

**Learner example:**
I think restaurant B is far better than restaurant A.

**as far as I know**

[B2] used to say that you think something is true, but cannot be sure

**Dictionary example:**
As far as I know, he's never been in trouble with the police.

**Learner example:**
As far as I know, accommodation at Camp California is in tents or log cabins.

**as far as **sb** is concerned**

[B2] used to say what someone's opinion is

**Dictionary example:**
It's all over as far as I'm concerned.

**Learner example:**
As far as I am concerned, Bernard is similar to him.

**as far as **sth** is concerned**

[B2] used to say what you are talking about

**Dictionary example:**
As far as sport is concerned, I like tennis and football.

**Learner example:**
As far as studying abroad is concerned, I totally agree with this idea.

**by far**

[B2] by a great amount

**Dictionary example:**
They are by far the best students in the class.

**Learner example:**
I have travelled to many countries, but New Zealand is by far the best.
far from sth
[C1] certainly not something

Dictionary example:
The situation is far from clear.

Learner example:
The quality of catering was far from ideal as well, as a meal in a hamburger restaurant can hardly be called a typical English lunch.

far from it INFORMAL
[C1] used to tell someone that something is certainly not true

Dictionary example:
He's not handsome - far from it.

Learner example:
The Hotel Royal cannot be considered as being luxury - far from it – i.e. our rooms were dirty and situated on the 4th floor without a lift.

how far
[C1] used to talk about how true something is

Dictionary example:
How far do politicians represent the views of ordinary people?

Learner example:
How far and to what extent would the characteristics we are born with influence our future development in life?

so far so good INFORMAL
[C2] used to say that something has gone well until now

Dictionary example:
It's the first time I've done any decorating, but so far so good.

Learner example:
So far so good, only no one told us they held this point of view before the actual christening took place.

far from doing sth
[C2] certainly not doing something

Dictionary example:
Far from being pleased, he was embarrassed by the praise.

Learner example:
Far from asking you to close the airport, which would be quite an irrational request, I am suggesting that you should take some action to improve the situation.

go so far as to do sth
[C2] to take the extreme action of doing something
Dictionary example:
He even went so far as to stop her using the telephone.

Learner example:
Our present course of action may go so far as to cause irreversible damage not only to our planet but also to the people living upon it.

go too far
[C2] to behave in a way that upsets or annoys other people

Dictionary example:
He’s said some stupid things in the past, but this time he’s gone too far.

Learner example:
Lucia let her speak and calmly said: "You really have gone too far this time."

few and far between
[C2] not happening or existing very often

Dictionary example:
Opportunities like this are few and far between.

Learner example:
Jobs in those days were few and far between and for a number of years he was alternating between temporary jobs and unemployment benefit.

be far removed from sth
[C2] to be very different from something

Dictionary example:
The princess's world was far removed from reality.

Learner example:
It is the same problem with planned excursions to street markets in Asia, souks in Arabia or even tribes that are far removed from industrialized life in Papua New Guinea or the rainforest of Brazil.

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

DISTANT
[B2] describes the part of something that is most distant from the centre or from you

Dictionary examples:
His office is at the far end of the corridor.
The children ran to the far side/corner of the room.

Learner example:
The dark spot at the far end of the wall seemed to be coming after her this time.

be a far cry from sth
[C1] to be very different from something
Dictionary example:
Her luxury mansion is a far cry from the house she grew up in.

Learner example:
The museum was a far cry from what we expected. Not only were the machines really old and should have been replaced a long time ago, but they were boring as well.

the far left/right
[C2] used to describe political groups whose opinions are very extreme

Dictionary example:
He belongs to a far right group.

faraway /ˈfɑːrəˈweɪ/

ADJECTIVE

LONG DISTANCE
[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] LITERARY a long distance away

Dictionary example:
faraway places

Learner example:
They trans[port] me to faraway places and to a magic world.

a faraway look/expression
[C2] an expression on someone's face that shows that they are not thinking about what is happening around them

Dictionary example:
He had a faraway look in his eyes.

Learner example:
But her most noticeable feature[s] are her large [brown] eyes and her happy smile. Yet, sometimes you could see a faraway look in her eyes.

fascinate /ˈfæs.ɪ.nət/

Word family:
Nouns: fascination
Verbs: fascinate
Adjectives: fascinated, fascinating

VERB [T]
[C1] to interest someone a lot
Dictionary example:
Science has always fascinated me.

Learner example:
What fascinates me about it is that this style of music allows the artist to bring in crazy new ideas such as African or Indian rhythms.

**fascinated** /ˈfæs.ə.nə.tid/  
Word family:
Nouns: fascination  
Verbs: fascinate  
Adjectives: fascinated, fascinating

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] extremely interested  

Dictionary example:
They were fascinated by his stories.

Learner example:
I am sure you will be fascinated by his work and his multi-faceted character.

**fascinating** /ˈfæs.ɪ.neɪ.tɪŋ/  
Word family:
Nouns: fascination  
Verbs: fascinate  
Adjectives: fascinated, fascinating

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] extremely interesting  

Dictionary examples:  
a fascinating person/place  
I found the movie fascinating.

Learner example:
You can enjoy not only Hungarian food but also fascinating Hungarian music.

**fascination** /ˌfæs.ɪˈneɪ.ʃən/  
Word family:
Nouns: fascination  
Verbs: fascinate  
Adjectives: fascinated, fascinating
NOUN [U NO PLURAL]
[C1] when you find someone or something fascinating

Dictionary example:
Her fascination with fashion started at an early age.

Learner example:
Anyhow, even if you can't grasp the deep meaning behind [the] words, its beautiful rhyme and rhythm will exert a fascination on you.

fast /faːst/

ADJECTIVE

a fast track (to sth)
[C2] a very quick way of achieving or dealing with something

Dictionary example:
These intensive courses claim to offer a fast track to wealth and success.

Learner example:
If I ever found a job which lives up to these expectations, I would consider myself on [a] fast track already.

ADVERB

FIRMLY
[C2] in a firm or tight way

Dictionary example:
He tried to get away, but she held him fast.

Learner example:
Thankfully, there are those who still cling to such age-old values as personal contentment and growth, regarding them as the anchors which hold happiness fast.

fast asleep
[C2] completely asleep

Dictionary example:
I looked into her room but she was still fast asleep.

Learner example:
Karen's grandson walks into the room to find her fast asleep on her favourite chair.

the fast lane
[C2] the busy and exciting way of life that a successful person has

Dictionary example:
Fed up with life in the fast lane, Jack gave up his job and moved to the countryside.
Learner example:
Finally, should you ask why people are not happier than before, the answer is that nowadays they spend more hours on work than before, because modern life is mostly a life in the fast lane.

**thick and fast**
[C2] quickly and in large numbers

**Dictionary example:**
Calls were coming in thick and fast by the end of the programme.

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**fasten /ˈfæstn/**

**VERB**

*fasten sth on/to/together, etc.*
[B2] to fix one thing to another

**Dictionary example:**
He fastened the rope to a tree.

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**fat /fæt/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** fat
**Adjectives:** fat, fatty

**NOUN [C or U]**
[B2] a solid or liquid substance that is taken from animals or plants and used in cooking

**Dictionary examples:**
This product contains no animal fat.
I only use vegetable fats in cooking.

**Learner example:**
They should also consume[e] as much salad as they can, due to the fact that it does not contain fat.

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**fatal /ˈfeɪ.təl/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**CAUSING DEATH**
Dictionary examples:
This illness is fatal in almost all cases.
the fatal shooting of an unarmed 15-year-old

Learner example:
Paul received a fatal shot in [the] head.

SERIOUS
[B2] Fatal actions have very bad effects.

Dictionary example:
He made the fatal mistake/error of believing what they told him.

Learner example:
That was a fatal mistake because that [person] was my teacher and he wasn't so pleased about my behaviour.

fate /ˈfæt/  
NOUN

WHAT HAPPENS
[B2] [c] what happens to someone, especially something bad

Dictionary examples:
We want to decide our own fate.
His fate is now in the hands of the jury.

Learner example:
No one as powerless as him deserves this fate.

POWER
[B2] [u] a power that some people believe decides what will happen

Dictionary examples:
When we met again by chance in Cairo, I felt it must be fate.
Fate has brought us together.

Learner example:
But, little we did know what fate had in store for us.

father-in-law /ˈfaːðər.ɪn.ˈlɔː/  
NOUN [c] (plural fathers-in-law)  
[B2] the father of your husband or wife
Dictionary example:
My father-in-law was a banker.

Learner example:
My father-in-law, I'm pretty sure, [will] be able to answer all your questions.

fatty /ˈfæt.i/

Word family:
Nouns: fat
Adjectives: fat, fatty

ADJECTIVE
[C1] Fatty foods contain a lot of fat.

Dictionary example:
Try to cut down on eating fatty foods.

Learner example:
There is a greater reliance on fast food and fatty foods.

default /fɒlt/  

Word family:
Nouns: fault
Adjectives: faulty, faultless

NOUN
at fault
[B2] responsible for something bad that has happened

Dictionary example:
I was at fault and I would like to apologize.

Learner example:
I really felt at fault.

PROBLEM
[B2] [c] something that is wrong with something

Dictionary examples:
The car has a serious design fault.
They think the fire was caused by an electrical fault.

Learner example:
I went out of the house and I saw that the other houses had not got any lights, so it was not an electrical fault.

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BAD QUALITY
[B2] [c] something that is wrong with someone's character

Dictionary example:
He has many faults, but dishonesty isn't one of them.

Learner example:
He had a fault: he talked a lot.

find fault with sb/sth
[C2] to criticize someone or something, especially without good reasons

Dictionary example:
She was always finding fault with our work.

Learner example:
Sometimes I take offence at their trying to find fault with me and I am not allowed to answer back.

faultless /ˈfɔːlt.1əs/

Word family:
Nouns: fault
Adjectives: faulty, faultless

ADJECTIVE
[C2] perfect, or without any mistakes

Dictionary example:
a faultless performance

Learner example:
Children also need to be taught that parents are not faultless and the best way to teach a child to apologise is by doing it oneself after having treated the child [unfairly].

faulty /ˈfɔl.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: fault
Adjectives: faulty, faultless

ADJECTIVE
[B2] not working correctly or not in perfect condition

Dictionary example:
faulty brakes/goods

Learner example:
Big supermarkets always [give] you a complete refund if an item is of poor quality or faulty.
favour /ˈfeɪ.vər/

Word family:
Nouns: favour, favourite
Verbs: favour
Adjectives: favourable, favourite, unfavourable

NOUN

be in favour of *sth
[B2] to agree with or approve of a plan or idea

Dictionary example:
Most people are in favour of reducing traffic in cities.

Learner example:
I am certainly in favour of holding the music festival next year.

in *sb*'s favour
[C1] If something is in your favour, it helps you to win or succeed.

Dictionary example:
Both sides have strong arguments in their favour.

Learner example:
Unfortunately the weather conditions were not in our favour, but the rain only lasted a few minutes and did not look at all like a downpour.

in favour of *sb/*sth
[C2] If you refuse or get rid of someone or something in favour of someone or something else, you choose them instead.

Dictionary example:
They dropped him from the team in favour of a much younger player.

Learner example:
The city council should revise the airport project [...] and change the current location of the airport in favour of a more isolated area.

VERB [T]

[C2] to choose or prefer one possibility

Dictionary example:
These are the running shoes favoured by marathon runners.

Learner example:
This development probably would not be really favoured by individuals either, as most people use their own car to do the shopping mostly and just to go on their daily business.
favourable /ˈfeɪ.vərə.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: favour, favourite  
Verbs: favour  
Adjectives: favourable, favourite, unfavourable  

ADJECTIVE  
LIKING
[B2] showing that you like or approve of someone or something, or making you support or approve of someone or something  
Dictionary example:  
She made a very favourable impression on us.

Learner example:  
It is the first thing people see from our village and if their first impression is favourable, they will feel like going further into the village.  

CONDITIONS
[C2] making something more likely to be successful  
Dictionary example:  
We had favourable weather conditions for the sailing competition.

Learner example:  
As far as bringing up my own children is concerned, I would like to follow my mother in the above-mentioned aspects (I feel I had a rare opportunity to be raised in extremely favourable conditions).  

favourite /ˈfeɪ.vərət/  

Word family:
Nouns: favour, favourite  
Verbs: favour  
Adjectives: favourable, favourite, unfavourable  

NOUN [C]  
LIKELY TO WIN
[C2] the person, animal or thing that is most likely to win a competition  
Dictionary examples:  
The Dallas Cowboys are now favourites to win.  
Her novel was the favourite to win the prize, but the judges chose differently.
fear  /fɪə/  

Word family:  
Nouns: fear  
Verbs: fear  
Adjectives: fearful, fearless  

NOUN [C or U]  

for fear of sth/doing sth  
[C2] because you are worried about something/doing something  

Dictionary example:  
I didn't want to move for fear of waking her up.  

Learner example:  
No one dared to turn around for fear of being bitterly disappointed.  

VERB [T]  

BE WORRIED  
[B2] to be worried or frightened that something bad might happen or might have happened  

Dictionary examples:  
Police fear (that) the couple may have drowned.  
It is feared (that) as many as two hundred passengers may have died in the crash.  

Learner example:  
Lots of changes which may occur during these next fifty years [might] make us fear that our sons' and grandsons' lives will not be as happy as ours.  

BE FRIGHTENED OF  
[B2] to be frightened of something or someone  

Dictionary examples:  
Most older employees fear unemployment.  
What do you fear most?  

Learner example:  
I've always feared the dark.  

fear the worst  
[C2] to worry that something very bad will happen or that something very bad has happened  

Dictionary example:  
When there was no sign of the children, the rescuers feared the worst.
Learner example:
Her parents had been quarrelling constantly now for almost half a year, and she feared the worst.

**fearful /ˈfɪə.l/**

Word family:
Nouns: fear
Verbs: fear
Adjectives: fearful, fearless

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] frightened or worried

Dictionary example:
Many women are fearful of travelling alone.

Learner example:
My mother is a very fearful person and when I was playing with other children in the sea I could not stand it when she interrupted our game all the time with the same words: "Do not do that and do not do this, it is too dangerous."

**fearless /ˈfɪə.ləs/**

Word family:
Nouns: fear
Verbs: fear
Adjectives: fearful, fearless

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] not frightened of anything

Dictionary example:
a fearless fighter

Learner example:
It is something which associates in my mind with extreme, fearless guys who tend to live on the edge of life, always searching for new strong feelings and a 'dose of adrenaline'.

**feasible /ˈfiː.zə.bl/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] possible to do
Dictionary examples:
a feasible plan
It may be feasible to clone human beings, but is it ethical?

Learner example:
In the context of Singapore, where land is scarce and [the] widening or building of more roads is just not feasible, we have no choice but to choose what is best for everyone.

feast /fiːst/

NOUN [c]
[C1] a large meal, especially to celebrate something special

Dictionary example:
a wedding feast

Learner example:
Finally, they have a feast with a lot of food and wine.

VERB

feast on sth PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to eat a lot of food and enjoy it very much

Dictionary example:
We feasted on fried chicken, ice cream, and chocolate cake.

Learner example:
Some people think that travelling entails feasting on typical food and buying lots of clothes.

feat /fiːt/

NOUN [c]
[C2] an act or achievement that shows great skill or strength

Dictionary example:
The Eiffel Tower is a remarkable feat of engineering.

Learner example:
It can be argued that, on this level, sport is close to becoming a form of art but it is undoubtedly a feat of strength just to have qualified [in] an event of this kind.

be no mean feat
[C2] used when you want to emphasize that an act or achievement is very difficult

Dictionary example:
Learning to ski at 60 is no mean feat!
Learner example:
There was an interesting discussion about whether it was harder or easier for them to enter the world of cinema, given their famous names. Both said that it was no mean feat because people were more demanding as to their abilities.

**feather** /ˈfeð.ər/

NOUN [c]
[B2] one of the soft, light things that grow from and cover a bird's skin

Dictionary example:
I found a peacock's feather.

Learner example:
Birds were cleaning their feathers and singing morning songs, monkeys were jumping at the top of an old tree in the corner of the monastery yard.

**feature** /ˈfiː.tʃər/

NOUN [c]

PART
[B2] a typical quality, or an important part of something

Dictionary examples:
The town's main features are its beautiful mosque and ancient marketplace.
Our latest model of phone has several new features.

Learner example:
He explained the features of the new product to the rest of his colleagues.

FACE
[B2] Someone's features are the parts of their face that you notice when you look at them.

Dictionary example:
His eyes are his best feature.

Learner example:
They have similar figures, and the features of their faces are nearly the same.

NEWSPAPER
[C2] a special article in a newspaper or magazine, or a special television programme
Dictionary example:
a double-page feature on global warming

Learner example:
As a regular reader of the student magazine 'Uni', I read with particular interest last week's feature on political thrillers.

VERB [i or T]
[B2] to include someone or something as an important part

Dictionary examples:
The film features James Dean as a disaffected teenager.
This week's broadcast features a report on victims of domestic violence.

Learner example:
My favourite song is "Candy Shop", by 50 Cent, featuring Olivia.

fed up /ˌfedˈʌp/

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN] INFORMAL
[B2] annoyed or bored by something that you have experienced for too long

Dictionary examples:
I'm fed up with my job.
He got fed up with all the travelling he had to do.

Learner example:
I'm sure that the whole world is fed up with Mozart.

feeble /ˈfiː.bl/

ADJECTIVE

WEAK
[C2] extremely weak

Dictionary example:
She became too feeble to get out of bed.

Learner example:
Most of the times, the owner is a decrepit and feeble old man, who can hardly hear you, but who can be a magnificent narrator.

NOT GOOD
[C2] not very good or effective
Dictionary example:
a feeble argument/excuse

Learner example:
Some of the passengers began to pray under their breath, in a feeble attempt to suppress their panic.

feed /fiːd/

VERB (fed, fed)

EAT FOOD
[C1] [I] If an animal or a baby feeds, it eats.

Dictionary example:
The caterpillars feed on cabbage leaves.

Learner example:
In the same way, animals killed plants and fed on them.

SUPPLY
[C1] [I] to supply something such as information to a person or a machine, especially in a regular or continuous way

Dictionary examples:
We fed them false information about our plans.
Nicola fed the pages into the photocopier.

Learner example:
For heaven’s sake, the strike lasted for three weeks not three years. [...] They feed you with lies.

feedback /ˈfiː.d.ˈbæk/ 

NOUN [u]
[B2] information or opinions about something, such as a new product, that provide an idea of whether it is successful or liked

Dictionary examples:
Have you had any feedback from customers about the product?
positive/negative feedback

Learner example:
I am writing to you to give you feedback about [the] social programme.
feel /fiːl/

Word family:
Nouns: feeling
Verbs: feel

VERB (felt, felt)

TOUCH
  [B2] [ı or ɪ] to touch something, especially with your hands, in order to examine it

Dictionary examples:
I felt his head and it was hot.
Just feel how cold my hands are!
I was feeling around in my bag for the keys.

Learner example:
I tried to open the heavy door; I could feel the iron bar with my almost frozen fingers.

feel different/strange, etc.
  [B2] If a place, situation, etc., feels different, strange, etc., that is how it seems to you, or that describes your experience of it.

Dictionary examples:
It felt strange to see him again after so long.
The house feels empty without the children.

Learner example:
It felt strange and yet so wonderful to ski in the summer!

BE AWARE
  [B2] [ı] to be aware of something

Dictionary example:
I could feel them watching me.

Learner example:
I could feel the silence.

feel compelled to do sth
  [C1] to feel that you should do something

Dictionary example:
He felt compelled to resign from his job.

Learner example:
As a member of the International Student's Sports Club, I felt compelled to write this article in answer to the previous article about how today's youth is putting sports and healthy activities aside.
**feel faint**
[C2] to feel very weak and as if you might fall down

**Dictionary example:**
Seeing all the blood made me feel faint.

**Learner example:**
Starting to feel faint, Fred quickly roused himself and ran out of the hotel as quickly as he could.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeling /ˈfiː.lɪŋ/</th>
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**Word family:**
**Nouns:** feeling
**Verbs:** feel

**NOUN**

**OPINION**
[B2] [c] an opinion or belief

**Dictionary example:**
My feeling is that we had better act quickly or it will be too late.

**Learner example:**
My feeling is that we should simply buy what we want to buy [and] not what we are prompted to buy.

**bad/ill feeling**
[C1] when people are upset or angry with each other

**Dictionary example:**
I don't want to cause any bad feeling between us.

**Learner example:**
For those who can't afford to shop, this might cause them to envy and harbor ill feeling [towards] those they can see are enjoying and splurging.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fellow /ˈfel.əʊ/</th>
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**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**
[B2] describes someone who has the same job or interests as you, or is in the same situation as you

**Dictionary examples:**
She introduced me to some of her fellow students.
Our fellow travellers were mostly Spanish–speaking tourists.
Learner example:
In conclusion, I have to declare that [I] myself and my fellow students will be available to help [with] this short video.

**female** /ˈfiː.məl/  
NOUN [C]  
[B2] a female animal or person  
**Dictionary examples:**  
The kitten was actually a female, not a male.  
Females represent 40% of the country’s workforce.  
**Learner example:**  
We all know the problems that [are] cause[d] [by] having animals kept in a zoo: females refuse the males, or they become mad [from] the lack of freedom.

**feminine** /ˈfem.ə.nɪn/  
ADJECTIVE  
[C1] showing qualities that people generally think are typical of women  
**Dictionary examples:**  
a feminine voice  
feminine beauty  
**Learner example:**  
When my grandmother was a young women, it was a must for her to wear a dress or at least a skirt and a very feminine blouse.

**fence** /fɛntʃ/  
NOUN [C]  
[B2] a wood, wire or metal structure which divides or goes around an area of land  
**Dictionary example:**  
a garden fence  
**Learner example:**  
I looked around to make sure that no-one saw me and jumped [over] the fence.
fend  /fend/  

VERB

fend for yourself PHRASAL VERB  
[C2] to take care of yourself without help

Dictionary example:  
When you go away to college, you have to learn to fend for yourself.

Learner example:  
For such people to be able to provide for their families and fend for themselves, they have to work irrespective of how they do the job.

fertile  /ˈfɜː.təl/  

ADJECTIVE

[C2] Fertile land or soil produces a lot of healthy plants.

Dictionary example:  
They settled in the fertile river valleys.

Learner example:  
We had an enormous backyard with the most fertile soil where we grew all sorts of vegetables.

fever  /ˈfiː.vər/  

NOUN

EXCITEMENT

[C2] [u] when people are very excited about something

Dictionary example:  
Election fever has gripped the nation.

Learner example:  
It was then when they started to build enormous buildings and skyscrapers all around. The "building fever" had started.
few /fjuː/

DETERMINER, ADJECTIVE, PRONOUN

few and far between
[C2] not happening or existing very often

Dictionary example:
Opportunities like this are few and far between.

Learner example:
Jobs in those days were few and far between and for a number of years he was alternating between temporary jobs and unemployment benefit.

fibre /ˈfaɪ.bər/

NOUN

[C1] [u] the substance in plants which cannot be digested and helps food pass through your body

Dictionary example:
Broccoli is a good source of fibre.

Learner example:
We try to eat less fat and more fibre, like oats, instead of sandwiches with butter and cheese.

fiction /ˈfɪkʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: fiction
Adjectives: fictional

NOUN

NOT TRUE
[C1] [u or no plural] something that is not true or real

Dictionary examples:
Nobody knows whether his statement is fact or fiction.
Everything she had said turned out to be a complete fiction.

Learner example:
With regret I have to admit that [the] lively social programme was a total fiction and the only thing participants could do was to find and make friend[s] oneself, as I did.
fictional /ˈfɪk.ʃən.al/  

Word family:
Nouns: fiction  
Adjectives: fictional  

ADJECTIVE
[C2] existing only in fiction  

Dictionary example:
a fictional character  

Learner example:
What he is especially known and admired [for] are his fictional but memorable characters, which became almost archetypes in literature.

field /fiːld/  

NOUN
AREA OF STUDY
[B2] [c] an area of study or activity  

Dictionary example:
He's an expert in the field of biochemistry.  

Learner example:
This time [it] is the case of telecommunications, tomorrow it will be the time of advances in the field of medicine.  

IN RACE/BUSINESS
[C2] [NO PLURAL] the people who are competing in a race, activity, or business  

Dictionary example:
We lead the field in genetic research.  

Learner example:
Brian Moore leads the field with a style that can only be called immaculate.  

CONTAINING SUBSTANCE
[C2] [c] an area of land covered with or containing a lot of a particular substance  

Dictionary examples:
a gas/oil field  
The upper part of the volcano is a vast field of black lava.  
They searched for meteorites on the frozen ice fields of Antarctica.
Learner example:
Our tour took also us to see the lower fields; from where the tour bus stops to the end of the lava fields, which is in the sea, it takes about thirty minutes walking.

fierce /fɪəs/

ADJECTIVE

VIOLENT

[B2] violent or angry

Dictionary examples:
a fierce dog
da fierce attack/battle
Two men were shot during fierce fighting last weekend.

Learner example:
This may surprise some of you who have always thought of the tiger as a fierce and dangerous beast.

STRONG

[B2] very strong or powerful

Dictionary examples:
Fierce winds/storms battered the coast all weekend.
Fire fighters had to retreat from the fierce heat.

Learner example:
The need for darkness was justified by the fierce thunderstorm, which seemed likely to smash the house into pieces.

FEELING

[B2] showing strong feeling or energetic activity

Dictionary examples:
The expansion plans will face fierce opposition/resistance from environmentalists.
There is fierce competition to join the Special Branch.

Learner example:
Nowadays, family life importance is a matter that arouses fierce passions.

fifty /ˈfɪf.ti/

NUMBER

(be) in your fifties

[B2] to be aged between 50 and 59
Dictionary example:
He retired when he was still in his fifties.

Learner example:
Despite being in my fifties I am healthy and in good shape.

the fifties
[B2] the years from 1950–1959

Dictionary example:
Many new towns were built in the fifties.

Learner example:
I love bands from the fifties, sixties, seventies... and most of the radio stations seem to forget that the music has a history and it is always nice to remember past songs, because a good song will always be a good song.

fight /faɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: fight, fighting
Verbs: fight

VERB (fought, fought)

JOIN WAR
[B2] I or T to take part in a war

Dictionary example:
Millions of young men fought in World War One.

Learner example:
He fought in the Spanish Civil war and in World War II.

ARGUE
[B2] I to argue

Dictionary example:
We've got to stop fighting in front of the children.

Learner example:
Then I became angry again because although I spent my day doing nothing, I didn't buy a present for my sister, and when I went home we fought.

TRY TO STOP
[B2] I or T to try hard to stop something bad happening

Dictionary examples:
He fought against racism.
New measures have been introduced to fight crime.
Learner example:
The other great advantage is that it is a nice way of fighting against pollution.

TRY TO ACHIEVE
[B2] I [i] to try hard to achieve something you want or think is right

Dictionary examples:
They are fighting for their freedom.
He had to fight hard to keep his job.

Learner example:
All of them were fighting for their cause.

NOUN [C]
EFFORT
[B2] when you use a lot of effort to achieve or stop something

Dictionary examples:
Join us in our fight for freedom!
We must continue the fight against homelessness.
He died last week after a long fight with cancer.
This year has brought some good news in the fight to save the whales.

Learner example:
I was sitting like every evening in my armchair, reading my favorite book "My fight for Irish freedom" and suddenly the lights went out.

ARGUMENT
[B2] an argument

Dictionary example:
I don't want to have a fight over this.

Learner example:
I had a fight with my mother and she told me off in front of my friends.

fighting /ˈfaɪ.tɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: fight, fighting
Verbs: fight

NOUN [U]
[B2] when people fight, especially in a war

Dictionary example:
Fierce fighting has continued all day.
**Learner example:**
[Kung-fu] is not only a way of fighting, it is also a way of life.

**figure /ˈfɪg.ə/**

**noun [c]**

**type of person**
[B2] a particular type of person, often someone important or famous

**Dictionary example:**
Lincoln was a major figure in American politics.

**Learner example:**
She is an important figure in Argentina.

**person**
[B2] a person that you cannot see clearly

**Dictionary example:**
I could see two tall figures in the distance.

**Learner example:**
Suddenly a figure appeared in front of us.

**amount**
[C1] a number that expresses an amount, especially in official documents

**Dictionary example:**
Government figures show a rise in unemployment.

**Learner example:**
They do not have any avenues of change until they migrate to cities, which only 15% of villagers do in Pakistan according to government figures.

**picture**
[C1] (written abbreviation fig.) a picture or drawing in a book or document, usually with a number

**Dictionary example:**
Look at the graph shown in Figure 2.

**Learner example:**
Figure 1 demonstrates the use of electricity in England in summer and winter.

**single/double, etc. figures**
[C2] numbers from 0 to 9/numbers from 10 to 99, etc.
Dictionary example:
I don’t know exactly how many times the train has been late this month, but it’s certainly in double figures.

VERB

THINK

[C2] [ɪ] to decide something after thinking about it

Dictionary example:
I figured that it was time to tell her the truth.

Learner example:
Everything around us is constantly cutting down on budget, leaving fewer and less attractive work places, so I figure the best way to actually obtain a job is to go after something you’re truly passionate about.

fill /fɪl/

VERB

fill sb with anger/joy/pride, etc.

[B2] to make someone feel very angry/happy/proud, etc.

Dictionary example:
The thought of losing him filled her with fear.

Learner example:
Nobody was talking and the 50 passengers were filled with terror.

JOB

[C1] [ɪ] to give a job or position to someone

Dictionary examples:
I’m sorry, the job/position/post/vacancy has already been filled.
We would prefer to fill the position with a recent graduate.

Learner example:
Suppose if ten people retire from an organization, the vacancies are filled by bringing up the middle management and their previous positions will be filled be lower management.

fill a need/gap/demand

[C2] to provide something that people need or want

Dictionary example:
The new nursery is really filling a need.

Learner example:
I had nearly finished my study and had an idea to start a small software company, filling a gap in the market that was overlooked by the larger I.T. companies.
**film**  /fɪlm/

**NOUN**

**LAYER**

[C2] [NO PLURAL] a thin layer of something on a surface

**Dictionary example:**
A thick film of dust covered the furniture.

**Learner example:**
The walls were covered with a thin film of water.

**filter**  /ˈfɪltər/

**VERB**

[C2] [T] to pass a liquid or gas through a piece of equipment in order to remove solid pieces or other substances

**Dictionary example:**
The water was filtered to remove any impurities.

**Learner example:**
The sun’s rays, filtered through the black lenses, seemed harmless.

**filter down/in/through, etc.**

[C2] to gradually appear

**Dictionary example:**
The sunlight filtered through the bedroom curtains.

**Learner example:**
Outside, the moonlight filtered through the leaves of the roadside trees like a sheet of burnished silver.

**filter down/through/out, etc.**

[C2] to gradually become known

**Dictionary example:**
News is filtering in of an earthquake in Mexico.

**Learner example:**
At first I didn’t realise what Nicole was saying, because she spoke French. Then the message slowly filtered down – Pregnant.

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] a piece of equipment that you pass a liquid or gas through in order to remove particular substances
Dictionary example:
a coffee filter

Learner example:
Finally, the governments of all countries should implement heavy pecuniary punishments to the factory owners who do not use special filters on their chimneys or on their waste systems.

**filthy** /ˈfɪl.θi/

**ADJECTIVE**

**DIRTY**
[C1] extremely dirty

Dictionary example:
Wash your hands, they’re filthy!

Learner example:
Creaking, worn-out beds, dripping taps and filthy rugs have nothing in common with 'luxury'!

**OFFENSIVE**
[C1] rude or offensive

Dictionary examples:
filthy language/jokes
Smoking is a filthy habit.

Learner example:
As far as books are concerned, pornography and filthy language is evident everywhere, to lure people to buy these books.

**final** /ˈfaɪ.nəl/

Word family:
**Nouns:** final
**Adjectives:** final
**Adverbs:** finally

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

**NO MORE DISCUSSION**
[C2] If a decision, agreement, or answer is final, it will not be changed or discussed any more.

Dictionary example:
The committee’s decision is final.
Learner example:
It was the sort of statement that you know is final, and Mr. Cameron perceived this.

**finance /ˈfaɪ.nænts/**

Word family:
Nouns: finance
Verbs: finance
Adjectives: financial
Adverbs: financially

**NOUN**

CONTROL OF MONEY
[B2] [u] the control of how large amounts of money should be spent

Dictionary examples:
the finance minister
You need to speak to someone in the finance department.
The finance committee controls the school's budget.

Learner example:
Therefore we decided to invite a minister of finance to explain it.

**sb's finances**
[B2] the money which a person, company or country has

Dictionary examples:
We keep a tight control on the organization's finances.
She needs to sort out her finances.

Learner example:
First of all, we should budget our finances better.

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to provide the money needed for something to happen

Dictionary example:
The local authority has refused to finance the scheme.

Learner example:
I am applying for this job because I want to earn some money to finance my study.
**financially** /farˈnæn.tɪˈl.i/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** finance
- **Verbs:** finance
- **Adjectives:** financial
- **Adverbs:** financially

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a way that relates to money or how money is managed

**Dictionary example:**
He's still financially dependent on his parents.

**Learner example:**
They advise them or help them financially.

---

**find** /faind/

**VERB [T] (found, found)**

**find yourself somewhere/doing sth**

[B2] to become aware that you have gone somewhere or done something without intending to

**Dictionary example:**
I suddenly found myself making lunch.

**Learner example:**
The most embarrassing moment of my life [was] when, during a school trip to Paris, a friend of mine and I went to the wrong room and found ourselves in front of our teacher who, having had a shower, was looking for his glasses.

**be found**

[B2] to exist or be present somewhere

**Dictionary examples:**
Many plant and animal species are found only in the rainforests.
Vitamin C is found in citrus fruit.

**Learner example:**
An example might be the koala bear, which could be found almost everywhere in Australia not so long ago.

**find sb guilty/not guilty**

[B2] to judge that someone is guilty or not guilty in a law court

**Dictionary example:**
She was found guilty of murder.
Learner example:
To the surprise of everyone in the village, the judge found her guilty but didn't send her to jail
because he thought she should take care of Linda, who had no other relatives.

find fault with sb/sth
[C2] to criticize someone or something, especially without good reasons

Dictionary example:
She was always finding fault with our work.

Learner example:
Sometimes I take offence at their trying to find fault with me and I am not allowed to answer back.

find common ground
[C2] to find shared beliefs, interests or ideas

Dictionary example:
It's difficult for me to find any common ground with my dad.

Learner example:
The bottom line is we have to find some common ground and some balance between development
and nature...

fine /fiːn/  

Word family:
Adjectives: fine
Adverbs: finely

ADJECTIVE

EXCELLENT
[B2] excellent or much better than average

Dictionary examples:
fine wines
This building is the finest example of its type.

Learner example:
There [we] will be served a fine dinner.

THIN
[C2] thin or made of very small pieces

Dictionary examples:
fine, brown hair
fine sand
Learner example:
They got their hands on some anthrax bacteria, grew them in petri dishes and with all her knowledge in biology managed to make anthrax spores. Her friends ground the clumps of spores into fine particles.

**VERB** [T]  
[B2] to charge someone an amount of money as a punishment for not obeying a rule or law

**Dictionary examples:**  
Drivers who break the speed limit can expect to be fined **heavily**.  
They fined him $100 **for** using threatening behaviour.

**Learner example:**  
Besides, you can be fined by the police.

**ADVERB**  
[B2] very well or without any problems

**Dictionary examples:**  
"How did your exam go?" "It went fine, I think."  
The car was working fine yesterday.

**Learner example:**  
The couple was great and everything went fine.

---

**finely** /ˈfaɪn.li/  

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:** fine  
**Adverbs:** finely

**ADVERB**  
[B2] into small pieces

**Dictionary example:**  
Finely chop the onion.

---

**finger** /ˈfɪŋ.gər/  

**NOUN [C]**

**keep your fingers crossed/ cross your fingers** **INFORMAL**  
[C2] to hope that things will happen in the way that you want them to
**Dictionary examples:**
Let's keep our fingers crossed that she gets the job.
We're crossing our fingers and hoping that the weather stays fine.

**Learner example:**
Wish me luck, Winnie," she sighed "keep your fingers crossed, please".

**put your finger on sth**
[C2] to understand exactly why a situation is the way it is

**Dictionary example:**
Something was wrong, but I couldn't put my finger on it.

**Learner example:**
Something sinister about the picture, he felt, but he couldn't put his finger on what made him [think this].

**have/keep your finger on the pulse**
[C2] to be/stay familiar with the most recent changes or improvements

**Dictionary example:**
The situation changes daily, so you've got to keep your finger on the pulse.

**Learner example:**
It wouldn't be clever to hire people who are completely ignorant about music and they must constantly keep their finger on the pulse of [the] music industry.

---

**fingernail /ˈfɪŋ.gə.nəl/ (also nail)**

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] the hard part that covers and protects the top of the end of your finger

**Dictionary examples:**
dirty/long fingernails
She had bright red fingernails.

**Learner example:**
Half way through dinner we had discussed almost everything about him: his lips, fingernails, how he would look in swimming pants, how he would dance etc.

---

**fingertip /ˈfɪŋ.gə.tɪp/**

**NOUN [c]**

**at your fingertips**
[C2] If you have something at your fingertips, you can get it and use it very easily.
Dictionary example:
He had all the information needed at his fingertips.

Learner example:
An Internet connection literally means having the world at your fingertips.

**finish /ˈfɪn.ɪʃ/**

**VERB**

**finish off** (sth) or **finish** (sth) **off** **PHRASAL VERB**

[C1] to complete the last part of something that you are doing

Dictionary example:
I want to finish off this essay before I go to bed.

Learner example:
I am going to finish off with the sad story about the exam that we didn't get to take.

**finish with** **sb** **PHRASAL VERB**

[B2] to end a romantic relationship with someone

Dictionary example:
Paula's just finished with her boyfriend after three years.

Learner example:
I lived in the United States for three year[s], and when I moved to Brazil, I had to finish with my boyfriend.

**NOUN [C]**

**from start to finish**

[C1] from the beginning of something to its end

Dictionary example:
I enjoyed the film from start to finish.

Learner example:
I found out that the service itself should last at least one and half hour[s] from start to finish.

**finite /ˈfaɪ.naɪt/**

Word family:
**Adjectives**: finite, infinite
**Adverbs**: infinitely

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] having a limit or end
Dictionary example:
We only have a finite amount of time to complete this task.

Learner example:
Some analysts suggest that the price increase is due to the facts that petrol is a finite resource which could become unavailable in the next 20–30 years.

fire /faɪə/

NOUN

SHOOTING
[C2] [u] the shooting of guns and other weapons

Dictionary example:
The soldiers opened fire.

Learner example:
Suddenly, one of the thieves opened fire.

come under fire
[C2] to be criticized

Dictionary example:
The government has come under fire for closing the hospital.

set fire to sth; set sth on fire
[C2] to make something start burning, usually to cause damage

Dictionary example:
Enemy troops set fire to the village.

Learner example:
At this point nothing made sense anymore, so I just watched while Jake set the car on fire.

play with fire
[C2] to be involved in an activity that could be dangerous

Dictionary example:
We’re playing with fire if we continue with genetic modification of our food.

Learner example:
Stop playing with fire or World War 3 might come in [the] shape of a nuclear war.

VERB

SHOOT
[B2] [I or T] to cause a weapon to shoot bullets, arrows or missiles
Dictionary examples:
He fired his **gun** into the air.
He fired three **shots**.
Someone started firing at us.
Without warning he started firing into the crowd.

Learner example:
Martins found Lime on an iron staircase and fired a last shot, killing Lime.

**REMOVE FROM A JOB**

[B2] **[T OFTEN PASSIVE] INFORMAL** to tell someone they must leave their job

Dictionary examples:
She was fired after she was caught stealing from her employer.
He was fired from his last job for poor performance.
She has just been fired as editor of the newspaper.

Learner example:
Last month I was fired from my job in a bank.

**fire sb's imagination**

[C2] to make someone very excited or interested in something

Dictionary example:
His paintings really fired my imagination.

Learner example:
The newspaper article on education that I read really fired my imagination and urged me to think about the points raised.

**fire brigade** /ˈfaɪə.brɪˌɡeɪd/

**NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL]**

[B2] an organization that is in charge of preventing and stopping unwanted fires

Dictionary example:
Call the fire brigade.

Learner example:
By that time the fire brigade had arrived – luckily som[e] neighbour had phoned them.

**fireplace** /ˈfaɪə.pleɪs/

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] a space in the wall of a room where you can have a fire, or the structure around this space
Dictionary example:
There was a large fireplace in the living room.

Learner example:
They were sitting in front of the fireplace, in a tiny cottage.

firm /fɜːm/

Word family:
Adjectives: firm
Adverbs: firmly

ADJECTIVE

NOT SOFT
[B2] not soft, but not completely hard

Dictionary example:
A firm bed is better for your back.

FIXED
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] certain or fixed and not likely to change

Dictionary examples:
We don't have any firm plans for the weekend yet.
I'm a firm believer in equal rights.

Learner example:
It is my firm belief that I would use all the experience I have.

STRICT
[C2] strict and making certain that people do what you want

Dictionary example:
You've got to be firm with children.

Learner example:
Being an officer, my father was rather firm with my sister and me.

STRONG
[C2] strong and tight

Dictionary example:
a firm handshake/grip

Learner example:
Of course there will be moments where you have to mark out a border to the child by a firm grip on his arm or a slap on his bottom, but it shouldn't have to happen very often.
**firmly /ˈfɜːm.li/**

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** firm
- **Adverbs:** firmly

**ADVERB**

**CERTAINLY**

[B2] in a way that is certain or fixed

**Dictionary example:**
I firmly **believe** that we must take action on this.

**Learner example:**
I firmly believe that some of the things you mentioned are wrong.

**STRONGLY**

[B2] strongly; in a way that will not become loose

**Dictionary example:**
Make sure the rope is firmly attached before attempting to climb down it.

**Learner example:**
Slowly but firmly I grab[ed] the door handle, took another quick glance in the room, and turned it.

**first /fɜːst/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** first
- **Adjectives:** first
- **Adverbs:** first, firstly

**ADJECTIVE**

**at first sight**

[B2] when you first see or hear about something or someone

**Dictionary examples:**
It was love at first sight!
It may, at first sight, seem a surprising choice.

**Learner example:**
It was love at first sight!

**in the first place**

[B2] at the start of a situation
Dictionary example:
Why did you invite her in the first place?

Learner example:
In the first place, you were unknown people for me, but now you are my special foreign friends.

**ADVERB**

**first and foremost**

[C1] more than anything else

Dictionary example:
In spite of being elected to office, she remains first and foremost a writer.

Learner example:
First and foremost it is my longing to help others with what they cannot do for themselves.

**come first**

[C1] to be the most important person or thing

Dictionary example:
Her career always comes first.

Learner example:
They do not take the time to sit down and enjoy being with their family. The work comes first, and the family next.

**put sb/sth first**

[C2] to consider someone or something to be the most important thing

Dictionary example:
Most couples put their children first when sorting out their problems.

Learner example:
On the other hand, we forget about our personality and the worth that we have as individuals; we put our wishes first, [rather] than what we really need in life.

**NOUN**

**be a first**

[C2] to be something that has never happened before

Dictionary example:
Man walking on the moon was a first in space history.

first language /ˌfɜːstˈlæŋ.gwɪdʒ/  

**NOUN** [c]  

[B2] the language that someone learns to speak first
**Dictionary example:**
Madeleine's first language is French, but she also speaks German fluently.

**Learner example:**
Originally I come from Germany and therefore my first language is German.

---

**firstly /ˈfɜːst.li/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** first

**Adjectives:** first

**Adverbs:** first, firstly

**ADVERB (also first)**

[B2] used to refer to the first thing in a list

**Dictionary example:**
There are two very good reasons why we can't do it. Firstly, we don't have enough money, and secondly, we don't have enough time.

**Learner example:**
I think it [would] suit us, firstly because it is good work experience, [and] secondly [because] we can get discounts on books and CDs.

---

**fisherman /ˈfɪʃ.ə.mən/**

**NOUN [C] (plural fishermen)**

[B2] someone who catches fish as a job or as a hobby

**Dictionary example:**
Local fishermen are finding it difficult to make a living.

**Learner example:**
His father was a fisherman and he died working just a few days before he was born, so the child had never met him.

---

**fist /fɪst/**

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] a hand closed into a ball with the fingers and thumb curled tightly together

**Dictionary example:**
He banged his fist down angrily on the table.
Learner example:
He slammed his fists against the door and yelled out several times but to no response.

**fit  /fɪt/**

Word family:
Nouns: fitness
Adjectives: fit

**VERB (−tt−)**

**PUT IN POSITION**

[B2] [ɪ] to put or fix something somewhere

Dictionary examples:
All the carpets we sell are fitted free.
You ought to fit a smoke alarm in the kitchen.

Learner example:
The air pollution could be reduced if car manufacturers and companies made [people] fit effective filters on car exhausts and factory chimneys.

**SAME**

[C1] [ɪ] or [ɪ] to be the same as or like something

Dictionary example:
She seems to fit the police description.

Learner example:
The accommodation I [had] during the trip didn't fit the description in the advertisement and neither did the restaurants or the cultural activit[ie]s.

**SUITABLE**

[C1] [ɪ] to be suitable for something

Dictionary example:
The punishment should fit the crime.

Learner example:
You ought to put on a formal dress or suit to fit the atmosphere.

**ADJECTIVE (fitter, fittest)**

**SUITABLE**

[C1] of a good enough quality or suitable type for a particular purpose

Dictionary examples:
Is this water fit to drink?
She's not in a fit state to drive.
Learner example:
It has undergone restoration recently and is now fit to serve as a perfect example of [a] model and modern British college library.

do *sth as you see/think fit
[C2] to do something that you feel is the right thing to do, although other people might disapprove

Dictionary example:
You must spend the money as you see fit.

Learner example:
Do as you think fit!

fix /fɪks/

Word family:
Verbs: fix
Adjectives: fixed

VERB [T]

DECIDE
[B2] to decide a certain and exact date, time, place, price, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Shall we fix a time for our next meeting?
They haven't fixed a date for the wedding yet.

Learner example:
If you are busy at that time, you can call them to fix a new date.

fix *sth onto/to/under, etc.
[B2] to fasten something in position so that it cannot move

Dictionary example:
We fixed the bookcase to the wall.

Learner example:
The seat was not fixed to the flo[o]r properly.

fixed /fɪkst/

Word family:
Verbs: fix
Adjectives: fixed
ADJECTIVE

ARRANGED
[B2] arranged or decided already and not able to be changed

Dictionary examples:
a fixed price
fixed interest rates

Learner example:
Usually you have a fixed time to listen [to] live music, but what if you are not able to go to the concert?

EYES
[C2] If your eyes are fixed on something, you are looking at it continuously.

Dictionary example:
I kept my eyes fixed on his face.

Learner example:
Dozens of eyes were fixed on the sun-burnt, leaden coloured face of the guide, beaming with anticipation.

flair /fleər/

NOUN

ABILITY
[C1] [NO PLURAL] a natural ability to do something well

Dictionary example:
She has a flair for languages.

Learner example:
She’s an artist with a flair for promotion.

STYLE
[C2] [U] when you do something in an exciting and interesting way

Dictionary example:
He played with great imagination and flair.

Learner example:
If I must describe the service I should say that it is superb: the gentle waiters serve with flair as if it was a culinary cabaret.
flame /fleɪm/

NOUN [c]

[B2] hot, bright, burning gas produced by something on fire

Dictionary examples:
The flames grew larger as the fire spread.
When the fire engine arrived the house was already in flames.

Learner example:
We were standing by the window and the flames were [getting] nearer and nearer.

burst into flames

[C2] to suddenly start burning

Dictionary example:
The car plunged down a hill and burst into flames.

Learner example:
When we turned it on, it burst into flames and before we could exti[n]guish it, the fire destroyed my desk.

flash /flæʃ/

VERB

SHINE

[B2] [I or T] to shine brightly and suddenly, or to make something shine in this way

Dictionary examples:
Stop flashing that light in my eyes!
The lightning flashed and distant thunder rolled.
You’d better slow down, that car was flashing (its lights) at you.

Learner example:
As they were driving back, a light flashed, a crash sounded, then screams.

APPEAR

[C2] [I or T] (also flash up) to appear for a short time, or to make something appear for a short time

Dictionary example:
An icon flashed up on the screen.

flash by/past/through, etc.

[C2] to move somewhere fast
Dictionary examples:
The motorcycle flashed past us and around the corner.
The image flashed across my screen.

Learner example:
But one day an idea flashed through her mind.

NOUN

BRIGHT LIGHT

[B2] [c] a sudden bright light

Dictionary example:
The bomb exploded in a flash of yellow light.

Learner example:
At the same moment, that piece of unknown stuff sent towards me a flash of very bright light!

CAMERA

[B2] [c or u] a piece of camera equipment that produces a bright light when you take a photograph in a dark place

Dictionary example:
Flash photography is not permitted anywhere in the museum.

In a flash

[C2] INFORMAL immediately, or very quickly

Dictionary example:
I'll be back in a flash.

Learner example:
He took it and, in a flash, he came up to the surface.

SUDDEN EXPERIENCE

[C2] [c] a sudden experience of something such as a feeling or idea

Dictionary examples:
a flash of anger
I had a flash of inspiration.

flashback /ˈflæʃ.bæk/

NOUN [c]

MEMORY

[C2] when you suddenly remember something that happened in the past, often something bad
**Dictionary example:**
She suffered from flashbacks for years after the accident.

**Learner example:**
Margaret started to remember, yes; a sudden flashback brought her to the twenties, when she was still her mamma's little girl, all innocence and curls.

**STORY**

[C2] part of a film or book that goes back in time to something that happened before the main story began

**Dictionary example:**
There are several flashbacks to the character's childhood.

**Learner example:**
Another way of increasing the reader's interest is the parallelism of both stories and the flashbacks she is always giving us to explain Olivia's experiences.

---

**flat /flæt/**

**Word family:**

**Verbs:** flatten
**Adjectives:** flat
**Adverbs:** flat

**ADJECTIVE (flatter, flattest)**

**WITHOUT AIR**

[B2] If a tyre, ball, etc. is flat, it does not contain enough air.

**Dictionary example:**
When I got to the car, I discovered I had a flat tyre.

**Learner example:**
I found my bicycle with a flat tyre and realised I would be late instead of early.

**WITHOUT GAS**

[C2] If a drink is flat, it does not contain enough bubbles of gas.

**Dictionary example:**
This lemonade is flat.

**ADVERB (flatter, flattest)**

**LEVEL**

[B2] in a level position, often against another surface

**Dictionary example:**
Lay the cloth flat across the table.
fall flat on your face
[B2] to fall over so that your face hits the ground, often in an embarrassing way

**Dictionary example:**
I stepped on the ice and fell flat on my face.

**Learner example:**
You can guess what happened next – I fell flat on my face right in the mud and I have never felt more embarrassed in my life!

fall flat
[C1] If an event or joke falls flat, it fails to have the effect that you wanted, such as making people laugh.

**Dictionary example:**
All the jokes in his speech fell flat.

**Learner example:**
The cultural visits fell flat [in comparison] to their expectations, although the sightseeing tour of Willstown was, as the students said, “fascinating”.

---

**flatten** /ˈflæt.ən/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** flatten
**Adjectives:** flat
**Adverbs:** flat

**VERB [I or T]**
[C2] to become flat or to make something become flat

**Dictionary example:**
Roll out the dough into balls and flatten them slightly.

**Learner example:**
Another thing they accomplished was to stop people cutting [down] trees because they wanted to flatten [the] land.

---

**flavour** /ˈfleɪ.vər/

**NOUN**

**QUALITY**
[C2] [NO PLURAL] a particular quality or style that something has

**Dictionary example:**
London has a very international flavour.
Learner example:
People of different colours, smells, and cultures, musicians, funny shows on the pavement for a
pound, hippies, homeless people doing hairwraps, tat(t)ooing tourists' limbs, selling earrings...
there, you could live a hundred experiences without moving an inch and you could go back home
with a real flavour of the Festival.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>flaw  /flɔː:/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> flaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong> flawed, flawless</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN [c]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C1] a mistake or bad characteristic that stops someone or something from being perfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There's a flaw in your reasoning.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>However, there were some minor flaws which I would like to give my view on.</td>
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<table>
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<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] not perfect, or containing mistakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary examples:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamonds are still valuable, even when they are flawed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His argument is deeply flawed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Some people see society as it stands today as inherently flawed, an amorphous group of people
who follow and worship anyone that gives them pleasure and empty dreams of perfection. |

<table>
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</table>
ADJECTIVE

[C2] with no mistakes or bad characteristics

Dictionary example:
a flawless complexion

Learner example:
All in all, it is a classic comedy with memorable dialog[ue] and flawless performances.

flee /fliː/

VERB [I or T] (fleeing, fled)

[C1] to leave a place quickly because you are in danger or are afraid

Dictionary example:
Police think the suspect has now fled the country.

Learner example:
Of course most people on those boats were fleeing their country for religious or political reasons but I would have left Europe for the spirit of adventure.

fleet /fliːt/

NOUN [C]

SHIPS
[C1] a group of ships, or all of the ships in a country’s navy

Dictionary example:
The entire naval fleet was used for the operation.

Learner example:
The Spartans order the people of Athens to destroy their city walls and most of their remaining fleet.

VEHICLES
[C1] a group of vehicles that are owned and controlled by one person or organization

Dictionary example:
a fleet of aircraft/cars

Learner example:
In a simplified scenario one can consider when one has a fleet of cars, some manual and other automatic, and a pool of drivers who can only drive one type of car.
flesh /fleʃ/

NOUN [u]

BODY
[C2] the soft part of a person's or animal's body between the skin and bones

Dictionary example:
Large thorns dug into my flesh.

Learner example:
It smelled of rotting flesh.

your own flesh and blood
[C2] a member of your family

Dictionary example:
I can't hate him – he's my own flesh and blood.

Learner example:
On the other hand, another problem old people have to face is a feeling of [not] being useful to society and what proves this is that they are put into old people's homes even by their own flesh and blood.

flexibility /ˌflek.sɪˈbɪl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: flexibility
Adjectives: flexible

NOUN [u]
[B2] the ability to change or be changed easily according to the situation

Dictionary example:
The advantage of this system is its flexibility.

Learner example:
Further personal strengths are good communication skills, [being a] good team player and flexibility.

flexible /ˈflek.sə.bl/
**ADJECTIVE**

**ABLE TO CHANGE**

[B2] able to change or be changed easily according to the situation

**Dictionary examples:**
My schedule is quite flexible – I could arrange to meet with you any day next week. I'd like a job with more flexible working hours.

**Learner example:**
In the advertisement it is said that you will have a lot of spare time but actually, you have flexible working hours and you never know whether you will have free time.

**ABLE TO BEND**

[C2] able to bend or to be bent easily

**Dictionary examples:**
The cover is made of flexible plastic. Dancers and gymnasts need to be very flexible.

**Learner example:**
Another physical requirement is a flexible body. Flexibility and agility will be crucial factors in whether you will succeed or not.

---

**flick** /flɪk/

**VERB**

**flick through** sth _PHRASAL VERB_

[C2] to look quickly at the pages of a magazine, book, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
I was just flicking through a magazine.

**Learner example:**
Last week I happened to flick through a classical music magazine and was lucky enough to see an ad [saying that] the artist, or the pianist–conductor, would be performing all Beethoven's symphonies and piano concertos with the orchestra from next January.

---

**flight** /flaɪt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** flight

**Verbs:** fly
NOUN [C]

a flight of stairs/steps
[C2] a set of stairs

Dictionary example:
The lift was broken so we had to climb six flights of stairs.

Learner example:
He still blamed himself for hitting his little girl and making her fall down a flight of stairs and injuring her spine.

flood /ˈflʌd/

VERB [I or T]

ARRIVE OR FILL
[B2] to fill or enter a place in large numbers or amounts

Dictionary examples:
She drew back the curtains and the sunlight came flooding in.
Shoppers flooded into the store on the first morning of the sale.

Learner example:
The Square is flooded with local merchants selling local food, folkloric clothing, and local wines.

NOUN [C]

AMOUNT
[C2] a large number or amount of things or people that arrive at the same time

Dictionary example:
a flood of letters/calls

Learner example:
The sea of familiar faces brought a flood of memories rushing back.

floppy /ˈflɒp.i/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] soft and loose or hanging down loosely

Dictionary example:
a floppy hat

898
Learner example:
That puppy was the cutest thing: [a] tiny body, with floppy ears, a curious wet nose that wanted to sniff everything on its way, and huge cheerful eyes.

flourish /ˈflʌr.iʃ/

VERB
[C2] [i] to grow or develop well

Dictionary example:
The company soon began to flourish under his expert management.

Learner example:
If parents try to understand why their children act the way they do and treat them with love and affection, then teenagers will flourish like flowers in the spring sunshine!

flow /fləʊ/

Word family:
Nouns: flow
Verbs: flow, overflow

NOUN [NO PLURAL]

MOVEMENT
[C1] when something flows in one direction

Dictionary examples:
the flow of a river
the flow of traffic

Learner example:
So, a possible solution is to build more roads and optimally design the roads and their subways, to make the flow of cars on [the] road quicker.

go with the flow INFORMAL
[C2] to do or accept what other people are doing because it is the easiest thing to do

Dictionary example:
Just relax and go with the flow!

Learner example:
At this stage of her progress towards knowing herself better she has accepted that life is a mu[dd]le and that to a certain extent one has to go with the flow.
fluctuate /ˈflʌk.tʃu.eɪt/

VERB [i]
[C2] to keep changing, especially in level or amount

Dictionary example:
Oil prices have fluctuated wildly in recent weeks.

Learner example:
About 60% of people aged between 35–49 like[d] going to [the] cinema at least once a year in 1990 and the percentages grew steadily to 1996, but afterwards, it fluctuated a bit.

fluency /ˈfluː.ən.ti/.si/

Word family:
Nouns: fluency
Adjectives: fluent
Adverbs: fluently

NOUN [u]
[B2] when someone is fluent in a language

Dictionary example:
One of the requirements of the job is fluency in two or more African languages.

Learner example:
So it is of the utmost importance for me to go to England in [the] very near future in order to improve my fluency in English.

fluent /ˈfluː.ənt/

Word family:
Nouns: fluency
Adjectives: fluent
Adverbs: fluently

ADJECTIVE
ABILITY
[B2] able to use a language naturally without stopping or making mistakes

Dictionary examples:
She’s fluent in French.
He’s a fluent Russian speaker.

Learner example:
I am fluent in French and English.
**LANGUAGE**

[B2] produced or done in a smooth, natural style

**Dictionary example:**
He speaks fluent Chinese.

**Learner example:**
I speak fluent English and German.

**fluently** /ˈfluː.ənt.li/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** fluency

**Adjectives:** fluent

**Adverbs:** fluently

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a way that is fluent

**Dictionary example:**
I'd like to speak English fluently.

**Learner example:**
I can speak both English and Japanese fluently.

**fluid** /ˈfluː.ɪd/

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C2] a liquid

**Dictionary examples:**
cleaning fluid
Drink plenty of fluids.

**Learner example:**
Healthy eating habits consist of lots of fruit and vegetables, calcium-rich products such as milk or cheese and plenty of fluid[s].

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] smooth and continuous

**Dictionary example:**
fluid movements

**Learner example:**
The third-person narration is fluid and delicate and enables us to gradually discover the characters' personalities and their reactions to the situations they are involved in.
fly  /flaɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: flight
Verbs: fly

VERB (flew, flown)

CONTROL AIRCRAFT
[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] to control an aircraft or other vehicle in air or space

Dictionary example:
She learned to fly at the age of 18.

Learner example:
Louise, you are the only one who can fly this spaceship now.

with flying colours
[C1] with a very high score or with great success

Dictionary example:
He passed the entrance exam with flying colours.

Learner example:
I worked intens[ive]ly on the course and I passed with flying colours.

TIME
[C2] [t] If time flies, it passes very quickly.

Dictionary example:
There was plenty to do, and the time flew.

Learner example:
But you have to enjoy it because time flies, and you will be old before you know it!

TAKE/SEND
[C2] [t] to take or send people or goods somewhere by aircraft

Dictionary example:
She was flown to hospital by helicopter.

Learner example:
All supplies are flown in daily from Paris in order to ensure the highest quality available.

fly in the face of  SLIGHTLY FORMAL
[C2] to be the opposite of what is usual or accepted

Dictionary example:
These recommendations fly in the face of previous advice on safe limits of consumption.
Learner example:
But when we have a look outside our wonderful world, we can easily see that this argument flies in the face of the facts.

**focus /ˈfəʊ.kəs/**

**NOUN**

the focus of *sth*

[C1] the person or thing that is getting most attention in a situation or activity

**Dictionary examples:**
He is the focus of a police investigation.
In any family, a baby tends to be the focus of attention.

**Learner example:**
The focus of the human being and society is changing, such that more resources are put into building roads, controlling traffic and aiming at having the best transportation system as possible, while giving less attention to the more important areas of a society's well-being such as health and education.

[C2] [u] when you give special attention to something

**Dictionary examples:**
Their main focus must be on reducing crime.
The media focus on politicians' private lives switches the attention away from the real issues.

**Learner example:**
The focus on their careers make[s] them forget about their co-workers, which creates a harsh and cold work environment.

**VERB**

**focus (sth) on/upon sb/sth** PHRASAL VERB

[B2] to give a lot of attention to one particular person, subject or thing

**Dictionary examples:**
Tonight's programme focuses on the way that homelessness affects the young.
When the kitchen is finished I'm going to focus my attention on the garden and get that sorted out.

**Learner example:**
As you have probably guessed already, we are mainly interested in action movies and movies that focus on brutality and aggression.
follow /ˈfɒl.əʊ/

Word family:
Nouns: following, follower
Verbs: follow
Adjectives: following

VERB

as follows
[B2] used to introduce a list or description

Dictionary example:
The main reasons are as follows.

Learner example:
The summary of relevant points and recommendations are as follows: 1. Both of them are located in the centre of town.

BE INTERESTED
[C1] [ɪ] to be interested in an event or activity and watch its progress

Dictionary example:
I followed the trial closely.

Learner example:
I was happy to know you follow our national news.

It follows that
[C2] used to say that if one thing is true, another thing will also be true

Dictionary example:
He's big, but it doesn't follow that he's strong.

Learner example:
It follows that they too do not have enough time.

follow sb's example/lead
[C2] to copy someone's behaviour or ideas

Dictionary example:
You should follow Meg's example and tidy your room.

Learner example:
Thus they are encouraged to follow their example and change their character for ever.

follow in sb's footsteps
[C2] to do the same job or the same things in your life as someone else, especially a member of your family

Dictionary example:
He followed in his father's footsteps and became an actor.
Learner example:
Her step-granddaughter gets fascinated with Olivia’s story and this fascination draws her to India to follow in her footsteps.

follow suit
[C2] to do the same as someone else has just done

Dictionary example:
If other shops lower their prices, we will have to follow suit.

Learner example:
Bitten by an insurmountable curiosity she goes to India to [find out] about her and she even follows suit: she ends up [in] the Himalayas driven by a strong desire to know more.

follower /ˈfɒl.ər/  
Word family:
Nouns: following, follower  
Verbs: follow  
Adjectives: following

NOUN [c]
[C2] someone who believes in a particular person or set of ideas

Dictionary example:
a follower of Jesus

Learner example:
Having been a devoted follower of the GDR’s political system and having spent the collapse of this very system in a coma in hospital, once she wakes up, Christane has to be sheltered from the new developments.

following /ˈfɒl.əɪŋ/  
Word family:
Nouns: following, follower  
Verbs: follow  
Adjectives: following

PREPOSITION  
[B2] after or as a result of

Dictionary examples:
Following the dinner, there will be a dance.
He died on October 23rd, following several years of illness.
Learner example:
Following the course in England, I worked in an office that sells computer programs and games as a secretary to earn money and with the help of this job, I gained experience in office work.

NOUN

the following
[B2] what comes next, often used to introduce a list, report, etc.

Dictionary example:
The following is an extract from her diary.

Learner example:
Regarding your questions, the following are my answers.

fond /fɒnd/

ADJECTIVE

HAPPY
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] expressing or causing happy feelings

Dictionary example:
Many of us have fond memories of our childhoods.

Learner example:
I will keep fond memories of the two nights I have spent with you.

fool /fuːl/

Word family:
Nouns: fool
Verbs: fool
Adjectives: foolish
Adverbs: foolishly

NOUN

make a fool (out) of sb
[B2] to make someone look stupid intentionally

Dictionary example:
She was always trying to make a fool out of me in front of my friends.

Learner example:
He thought I had tried to make a fool of him but no, I was really desperate to get him as my boyfriend.
**make a fool of yourself**

[B2] to behave in a silly or embarrassing way

**Dictionary example:**
I got very excited and made a fool of myself.

**Learner example:**
I had to leave that shop in full embarrassment and I also made a fool of myself.

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to trick someone

**Dictionary examples:**
Don't be fooled by his appearance.
She said she was doing it to help me but I wasn't fooled.
Tim was fooled into believing that he'd won a lot of money.

**Learner example:**
I don't like to be fooled.

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**foolish /ˈfuː.lɪʃ/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** fool
- **Verbs:** fool
- **Adjectives:** foolish
- **Adverbs:** foolishly

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] stupid and not wise

**Dictionary examples:**
It would be foolish to pay more.
I thought I might look foolish if I refused.

**Learner example:**
She looked foolish because of the mistakes she [had] made.

---

**foolishly /ˈfuː.lɪʃ.li/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** fool
- **Verbs:** fool
- **Adjectives:** foolish
- **Adverbs:** foolishly

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a foolish way, or because of being foolish
Dictionary example:
Foolishly, I didn’t write the phone number down.

Learner example:
I was fourteen and foolishly in love with a blonde girl [in] my class to whom I had only spoken twice.

**foot** /fʊt/ (plural **feet**)

**noun** [c]

**the foot of sth**
[C1] the bottom of something such as stairs, a hill, a bed, or a page

Dictionary example:
Put the notes at the foot of the page.

Learner example:
Every year, expedition groups from almost every country meet at the foot of the highest mountain in the world to conquer it.

**set foot in/on sth**
[C1] to go into a place or onto a piece of land

Dictionary example:
He told me never to set foot in his house again.

Learner example:
I dream of being the first one to set foot on a white sandy beach, to admire a new kind of vegetation: cranberry bushes, sweet potatoes, wild turkeys, a different climate; how scary and exciting at the same time!

**put your foot down**
[C2] to tell someone in a strong way that they must do something or must stop doing something

Dictionary example:
I decided to put my foot down with my staff and insist that they do not send personal emails in work time.

Learner example:
Finally, I would like to appeal to other readers of the 'Cyprus Weekly', who might even be living near my area, to put your foot down and apply any pressure you can on people who can do something about the situation.

**put your foot in it**
[C2] to say something silly or embarrassing, without intending to
Dictionary example:
I really put my foot in it with your mum – I didn't know she was a teacher herself.

Learner example:
I had really put my foot in it by telling Richard that it would better for him not to come to the party.

**get off/start on the wrong foot**
[C2] to start a relationship or activity badly

Dictionary example:
He got off on the wrong foot with my parents by arriving late.

Learner example:
One of the greatest pleasure[s] of reading "The Remains of the Day" would be to see the gradual development of the relationship between Stevens and Miss Kenton. From the beginning, they get off on the wrong foot.

**get/rise to your feet**
[C2] to stand up after you have been sitting

Dictionary example:
The audience rose to their feet.

Learner example:
The capacity crowd rose to their feet to cheer Dylan and his band; since then I understood why his fans worship him like a god.

**put your feet up**
[C2] to relax, especially by sitting with your feet supported above the ground

Dictionary example:
Put your feet up for half an hour before the kids get home.

Learner example:
You have done your work and now you can put your feet up.

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**footstep** /ˈfʊt.step/

**noun**
[C1] [c] the sound of a foot hitting the ground when someone walks

Dictionary example:
I heard footsteps behind me and quickly turned round.

Learner example:
In Stockholm people [walk] – the streets are [thi]ck with people and you can even hear their footsteps!
**follow in sb’s footsteps**
[C2] to do the same job or the same things in your life as someone else, especially a member of your family

**Dictionary example:**
He followed in his father’s footsteps and became an actor.

**Learner example:**
Her step-granddaughter gets fascinated with Olivia’s story and this fascination draws her to India to follow in her footsteps.

**for /fɔː/**

**PREPOSITION**

**SUPPORT**
[B2] in support of or in agreement with

**Dictionary examples:**
I voted for the Greens at the last election.
So let’s hear some applause for these talented young performers.

**Learner example:**
There are a lot of votes for and against keeping animals in cages.

**for the moment**
[B2] If you do something for the moment, you are doing it now, but might do something different in the future.

**Dictionary example:**
Let’s carry on with what we agreed for the moment.

**Learner example:**
For the moment I am unemployed so I have plenty of time to give [you] a hand.

**for once**
[B2] used to mean that something is happening that does not usually happen

**Dictionary example:**
For once, the bus came on time.

**Learner example:**
We would take lots of pictures, and play our own instruments, and if we get lucky enough, we would even touch the very stones and for once be embraced by magic itself.

**for real**
[B2] taken seriously, not pretended
Dictionary example:
I thought it was just a practice, but apparently it was for real.

Learner example:
You know I am a Casanova, but this time I know [it] is for real.

RESPONSIBILITY
[C1] used to say whose responsibility something is

Dictionary example:
I can't tell you whether you should go or not – that's for you to decide.

Learner example:
It is for you to decide whe[t]er my colleagues should take part in this kind of course or not, but all in all I would like to recommend this course.

COMPARE
[C1] when compared to a particular fact

Dictionary example:
She's quite tall for her age.

Learner example:
She spends all day indoors "stuffing" her craving for knowledge with books quite hard for her age.

for good
[C1] forever

Dictionary example:
When he was 20, he left home for good.

Learner example:
He was renting this property previously, but he went back to Sri Lanka for good.

for life
[C1] for the whole of someone's life

Dictionary example:
I will have to take this medicine for life.

Learner example:
A wedding opens a new life when the two parties commit to each other for life.

for long
[C1] for a long time

Dictionary example:
Have you been waiting for long?

Learner example:
There're departures every half an hour to the city centre, so you won't have to wait for long.
for the most part
[C1] mostly or usually

Dictionary example:
I enjoyed it for the most part.

Learner example:
First of all, for the most part, people have to use computers in their jobs.

for the time being
[C1] for now but not permanently

Dictionary examples:
I'm living with my parents for the time being.
Leave the ironing for the time being – I'll do it later.

Learner example:
I think that is all for the time being.

for a start
[C1] used when you are giving the first in a list of reasons or things

Dictionary example:
I won't be going – I've got too much homework for a start.

Learner example:
So this creates an awareness of the obligation to look after oneself for a start.

for all
[C2] despite

Dictionary example:
For all her qualifications, she's useless at the job.

Learner example:
For all of his desire to be strong, Okonkwo is haunted [by] fear.

for sb's benefit
[C2] in order to help someone

Dictionary example:
We bought the piano for the children's benefit.

Learner example:
Needless to say, I hope you take [all this] into consideration not only for Gustavo's benefit, but also for the benefit of the astronaut training programme and the world.

for the best
[C2] If something is for the best, it seems unpleasant now, but will improve a situation in the future.

Dictionary example:
Divorce is always painful, but it really was for the best.
Learner example:
It’s a kind of sad thing to think about but maybe it’s for the best.

**for fear of sth/doing sth**
[C2] because you are worried about something/doing something

Dictionary example:
I didn't want to move for fear of waking her up.

Learner example:
No one dared to turn around for fear of being bitterly disappointed.

**for one thing**
[C2] used to give a reason for something

Dictionary example:
You can't give Amy that shirt – for one thing it's too small for her.

Learner example:
Well, for one thing, you cannot spy on your subjects 24 hours a day – they would not allow it, and it would be prohibitively expensive.

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**forbid** /fəˈbɪd/ (forbidding, forbade, forbidden)

Word family:
Verbs: forbid
Adjectives: forbidden

VERB [T]
[B2] to order someone not to do something, or to say that something must not happen

Dictionary examples:
I forbid you to see that boy again!
The law forbids the sale of cigarettes to underage people.
He is forbidden from leaving the country.

Learner example:
But the worst effect is when someone is driving a car and [is at] the same time talking [on a] mobile phone: today, there is a law which forbids it.

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**force** /fɔːs/

Word family:
Nouns: force
Verbs: force
Adjectives: forceful
POWER
[B2] [u] physical strength or power

Dictionary examples:
The force of the wind had brought down a great many trees in the area.
The army seized power by force.
Teachers aren't allowed to use force in controlling their pupils.

Learner example:
I understood that someone had entered [my house] by force and had stolen my television.

GROUP
[B2] [c] a group of people organized to work together for a particular purpose, for example in military service

Dictionary examples:
the security forces
the work force
He joined the police force straight after school.

Learner example:
Donald Wood [was] risking his life and that of his family in the process of reporting the vile crimes of the SA. police force.

INFLUENCE
[C2] [c or u] power and influence, or a person or thing that has it

Dictionary example:
the forces of good/evil

Learner example:
Each boy is a battleground where the forces of confusion wage war on the forces of good.

a force to be reckoned with
[C2] a very powerful person or organization

Dictionary example:
His Dad is a force to be reckoned with.

Learner example:
No longer a remote, backward, unimportant country, it became a force to be reckoned with in Europe.

join forces
[C2] When two people or groups join forces, they act or work together.

Dictionary example:
She joined forces with her sister-in-law to set up a restaurant.
Learner example:
The second proposal is that we join forces with Green Peace in picketing the refinery, this of course is up to the individual members.

**in/into force**
[C2] If a law, rule, etc. is in force, it is being used, and if it comes into force, it starts to be used.

Dictionary example:
The new law came into force in April.

Learner example:
Perhaps with the coming of the millen[n]ium, new laws would come into force and less corruption would do people a lot of good and perhaps the dream of a better and blooming future would become [a] reality with peace all over the planet.

**VERB [T]**

**GIVE NO CHOICE**
[B2] to make someone do something that they do not want to do

Dictionary examples:
You can't force her to make a decision.
I had to force myself to finish the match.
I didn't actually want any more dessert, but Julia forced it on me.

Learner example:
By participating in such games you force yourself to do your best.

**USE POWER**
[C2] to use physical strength or effort to make something move or open

Dictionary examples:
Move your leg up gently when you're doing this exercise, but don't force it.
If you force the zip, it'll break.
She forced the window open.

Learner example:
They forced the door, entered the house and found Mary under the effect of drugs and her boyfriend on the floor dead.

**forceful** /ˈfɔːs.fl/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** force  
**Verbs:** force  
**Adjectives:** forceful
ADJECTIVE

[C2] expressing opinions strongly and demanding attention or action

Dictionary example:
a forceful manner/personality

Learner example:
But she was a forceful woman who knew how to deal with her problems.

foreign  /ˈfɔːrən/

Word family:
Nouns: foreigner
Adjectives: foreign

ADJECTIVE

OTHER COUNTRIES

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] relating to or dealing with countries that are not your own

Dictionary examples:
foreign policy
the Foreign Minister

Learner example:
She is also extraordinary in that she graduated from Harvard University and Tokyo University and used to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a senior civil servant.

be foreign to sb

[C2] to be something you know nothing about or do not understand

Dictionary example:
The concept of loyalty is completely foreign to him.

Learner example:
But, vulgarity was foreign to his nature and he seemed to be merely a shy man.

foremost  /ˈfoʊ.məst/

ADVERB

first and foremost

[C1] more than anything else

Dictionary example:
In spite of being elected to office, she remains first and foremost a writer.
Learner example:
First and foremost it is my longing to help others with what they cannot do for themselves.

**ADJECTIVE** FORMAL

[C2] most important

**Dictionary example:**
He’s one of the country’s foremost experts on military law.

**Learner example:**
At the beginning of Lord of the flies we find out [about] one of the main characters, whose foremost feature is the fact that he is "different from the other boys".

foresee /fɔːˈsiː/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** foresee
**Adjectives:** foreseeable, unforeseen

**VERB** [T] (foreseeing, foresaw, foreseen)
[C1] to expect a future situation or event

**Dictionary example:**
I don’t foresee any problems in the future.

**Learner example:**
Our duty is to foresee any complication before it appears.

foreseeable /fɔːˈsiː.ə.bl/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** foresee
**Adjectives:** foreseeable, unforeseen

**ADJECTIVE**

for/in the foreseeable future
[C2] as far in the future as you can imagine

**Dictionary example:**
Prices will remain high for the foreseeable future.

**Learner example:**
But in my view these same jobs will find themselves subjected to the same pressures and thus will have the same destiny in the foreseeable future.
**forever** *(also for ever) /fəˈreɪ.vər/*

**ADVERB**

**A LONG TIME**

[B2] for an extremely long time or too much time

**Dictionary example:**
We'd better walk a bit quicker – it's going to **take** forever if we go this slowly.

**Learner example:**
It would take forever.

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**forgery** /ˈfɔː.dʒəri/

**NOUN**

**COPY**

[C2] [c] an illegal copy of a document, painting, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
The passport was clearly a forgery.

**CRIME**

[C2] [u] the crime of making an illegal copy of something

**Dictionary example:**
The doctor was convicted on two charges of forgery.

**Learner example:**
Frank remembered his dark past, when he committed forgery.

---

**forget** /feˈget/ *(forgetting, forgot, forgotten)*

**Word family:**

**Verbs:** forget

**Adjectives:** unforgettable

**VERB**

**forget it**

[B2] used to tell someone not to worry about something as it is not important

**Dictionary example:**
"I'm sorry I missed your birthday." "Forget it, it doesn't matter."
Learner example:
The teacher finally told me: "Forget it, it doesn't matter", and I felt so stupid that I couldn't do anything save going away.

I forget
[C2] used instead of 'I have forgotten'

Dictionary example:
I forget when we last saw him.

Learner example:
At one of those family gatherings in our house – I forget what the precise occasion was, because it is quite some time ago – all of us were sitting round the big square table in our dining room and enjoying the delicious cakes that my mother had prepared the day before, while we exchanged the latest news.

forgive  /fəˈgɪv/ (forgave, forgiven)

Word family:
Nouns: forgiveness
Verbs: forgive

VERB [I or T]
forgive me FORMAL
[B2] used before you ask or say something that might seem rude

Dictionary example:
Forgive me for asking, but how much did you pay for your bag?

Learner example:
Forgive me if I have made it seem so funny, but I'm telling you you should have seen his face.

forgiveness  /fəˈgɪv.nəs/  

Word family:
Nouns: forgiveness
Verbs: forgive

NOUN [U]
[C2] when you forgive someone for something they have done

Dictionary example:
They begged her for forgiveness.

Learner example:
She gave me a panicked look of abashment and begged for my forgiveness.
form /fɔːm/

Word family:
Nouns: form, formation, transformation
Verbs: form, transform

NOUN [C]

TYPE
[B2] a type of something

Dictionary examples:
Swimming is the best form of exercise.
a rare form of cancer

Learner example:
Bicycle fans say that cycling is a very good form of exercise.

in the form of sth
[C1] the particular way in which something appears or exists

Dictionary examples:
The novel is written in the form of a series of letters.
The medicine comes in the form of a liquid or pills.

Learner example:
For all this, I can only say that I want my money back immediately, or [some] compensation in the form of a real trip to a real country.

be on (good) form
[C2] If someone is in form or on form, they are feeling or performing well, and if they are off form they are not feeling or performing well.

Dictionary example:
Harry was on good form last night.

VERB

BEGIN TO EXIST
[B2] to begin to exist or to make something begin to exist

Dictionary examples:
We are learning more about how stars are formed.
A solution began to form in her mind.

Learner example:
You [are] only [attached] to material values and your life-style is formed by earning money.

START
[B2] to start an organization or business
**Dictionary example:**
She formed her own company eleven years ago.

**Learner example:**
Many organizations were formed to protect the now endangered species, and people began to ask themselves: are zoos necessary?

**SHAPE**

[C2] [i or ɪ] to take or to make something take a particular shape

**Dictionary examples:**
Hold hands and form a circle.
Form the dough **into** little balls.

**Learner example:**
The girl’s mother had baked the biggest cake the little girl had ever seen and covered it with a lot of cream and 10 candles [which] formed a heart in the middle.

**form an opinion/impression, etc.**
[C2] to begin to have a particular opinion or idea about something because of the information you have

**Dictionary example:**
I formed the opinion that I was not really welcome there any more.

**Learner example:**
Young people are at the mercy of several ide[o]logical spectrums that dominate them and prevent them from forming an objective opinion.

**BE**
[C2] [ɪ] to be the thing talked about or be part of it

**Dictionary examples:**
The Alps form a natural barrier between Italy and Switzerland.
Her diary forms the basis of the book.

**Learner example:**
Someone tried to drink the water that had formed a puddle [o]n the ground but ended up with a mouthful of moist yellow–tinted mud.

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**formal**  /ˈfɔːr.məl/

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** formal, informal

**Adverbs:** formally, informally

**ADJECTIVE**

**SERIOUS AND CORRECT**

[B2] describes language, clothes and behaviour that are serious and correct
Dictionary example:
a formal dinner party

Learner example:
You don't need to wear formal clothes.

STUDY
[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] Formal education, training, etc. happens through studying rather than working in a job.

Dictionary example:
Tom had little formal schooling.

Learner example:
I never had any formal training in computers but I know how to operate the system, to make files and to use [the] internet.

OFFICIAL
[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] public or official

Dictionary example:
a formal announcement/apology

Learner example:
For that reason, I have to ask you for a formal apology in print, where you could give the correct version of events and also change the bad image you gave to the readers of the people of my organisation.

formally /ˈfɔː.məl.i/

Word family:
Adjectives: formal, informal
Adverbs: formally, informally

ADVERB

OFFICIALLY
[C1] officially

Dictionary example:
The deal will be formally announced on Tuesday.

Learner example:
First of all I'll tell you a little about the ceremony. It's usually held in a church, (in our case, a Catholic one as we are Catholics); the priest reads some parts of the Bible to the bridegroom (that's usually chosen before with the couple); then they exchange rings and they'll be formally married.

POLITELY
[C1] in a polite way

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Dictionary example:
They shook hands formally.

Learner example:
On New Year's Day all members in a family got together (members who lived separately came home), greeted [each other] more formally than usual, and ate the special food.

format /ˈfɔː.mæt/

NOUN [C]
[C1] the way something is designed, arranged, or produced

Dictionary example:
This year's event will have a new format.

Learner example:
There is one particular format which has been consistently on air almost without any adjustments: the soap opera.

formation /foːˈmeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: form, formation, transformation
Verbs: form, transform

NOUN

DEVELOPMENT
[C2] the development of something into a particular thing or shape

Dictionary example:
the formation of a crystal

Learner example:
Due to the heat from the sun, the sea water evaporates and this leads to the formation of clouds as the water condenses as it gets higher.

SHAPE
[C2] when something has a particular shape or things are arranged in a particular way

Dictionary examples:
rock/cloud formations
The planes flew overhead in formation.

Learner example:
The cave had the most incredible ice formation I had ever seen.
former /ˈfɔːr.mər/

Word family:
Adjectives: former
Adverbs: formerly

PRONOUN

the former
[B2] the first of two people, things or groups previously mentioned

Dictionary example:
Of the two suggestions, I prefer the former.

Learner example:
The former is a Chinese restaurant and the latter an Indian.

formerly /ˈfɔːr.mə.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: former
Adverbs: formerly

ADVERB FORMAL
[B2] in the past

Dictionary example:
The European Union was formerly called the European Community.

Learner example:
He was a hero in Japan, formerly known as the ungifted pupil from Switzerland.

formidable /fɔːˈmɪd.ə.bl/ ADJECTIVE

Powerful
[C2] strong, powerful, and a bit frightening

Dictionary example:
a formidable woman

Learner example:
I suppose that this optimism supports her formidable pioneer-spirit and energy.

Difficult
[C2] difficult and needing a lot of effort or thought
Dictionary example:
a formidable task

Learner example:
You could feel like a fish out of water whenever you are with your colleagues or find yourself out of place and being depressed when faced with formidable tasks which are not appealing to you at all.

formula /ˈfɔː.mə.lə/

NOUN [c] (PLURAL formulas, formulae)

METHOD
[C1] a plan or method that is used to achieve something

Dictionary example:
There's no magic formula for success.

Learner example:
Every member of his company works as a group, rather than an individual, which is the main formula for his company's success.

RULE
[C1] a set of letters, numbers, or symbols that are used to express a mathematical or scientific rule

Dictionary example:
a mathematical formula

Learner example:
[The] teacher will play a role in explaining new terminology to the trainees and give a clue as to how different scientific equations and formulae are being used.

formulate /ˈfɔː.mə.lə.t/ VERB [t]

PLAN
[C2] to develop all the details of a plan for doing something

Dictionary example:
They formulated a plan to save the company.

Learner example:
Having discussed this matter, we formulated three basic suggestions and we [e]valuated the advantages of each of them.
SAY
[C2] to say what you think or feel after thinking carefully

Dictionary example:
to formulate an answer/reply

Learner example:
Montag is now thinking by himself and realises that he is able to formulate his own opinion.

forthcoming /ˈfɔːθˌkʌm.ɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE
HAPPENING SOON
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] happening soon

Dictionary example:
We have just received the information about the forthcoming conference.

Learner example:
I am writing this letter so as to give you the information which will help you organize all the necessary details of the forthcoming holiday.

OFFERED
[C1] [NEVER BEFORE NOUN] If money or help is forthcoming, it is offered or given.

Dictionary example:
He insisted that no more money would be forthcoming.

Learner example:
For all these reasons, I'm sure you realise that I deserve at the very minimum to be refunded all the money I spent on the trip and unless this is forthcoming, I shall take the matter a step further.

fortunate /ˈfɔː.tʃə.nət/

Word family:
Nouns: fortune, misfortune
Adjectives: fortunate, unfortunate
Adverbs: fortunately, unfortunately

ADJECTIVE
[B2] lucky

Dictionary examples:
You’re very fortunate to have found such a lovely house.
It was fortunate that they had left in plenty of time.
He was fortunate in his choice of assistant.
Learner example:
I was fortunate in that I had the chance to be with children on a daily basis and learn to communicate with them.

fortune /ˈfɔː.tʃuːn/

Word family:
Nouns: fortune, misfortune
Adjectives: fortunate, unfortunate
Adverbs: fortunately, unfortunately

NOUN

MONEY
[B2] [c] a lot of money

dictionary examples:
She made a fortune selling her story to the newspapers.
He lost a fortune gambling.
His clothes cost a fortune.

Learner example:
It really made it easier for me and it would have cost me a fortune to stay in a hotel.

LUCK
[B2] [c or u] the good or bad things that happen to you

dictionary examples:
The family's fortunes changed almost overnight.
I had the good fortune to meet her.

Learner example:
Everyone was rejoicing over her good fortune and she even thought that the gods up above were happy for her.

forty /ˈfoʊ.ti/
the forties
[B2] the years from 1940–1949

Dictionary example:
Most of these people were born in the forties.

Learner example:
So, I would like you to consider buying some English comedies, like those Ealing Studios [made] in the late forties and the fifties.

forward /ˈfoː.wəd/

ADVERB (also forwards)

FUTURE
[B2] towards the future

Dictionary example:
I always look forward, not back.

Learner example:
I want [you to] look a bit forward, try to ima[gine] how you will feel in one or two year[s’] [time].

PROGRESS
[C1] used to say that something is making progress

Dictionary example:
This is a big step forward for democracy.

Learner example:
For us, this would be a big step forward and a perfect motivation for the accountants.

foul /faʊl/

ADJECTIVE

UNPLEASANT
[C1] very dirty, or with an unpleasant smell

Dictionary example:
the foul smell of rotting fish

Learner example:
Each day early in the morning, a group of twenty persons picked [up] the rubbish and when we went out to go to work, the streets were as clean as [if] there was no strike. Anyway we had to do that if we wanted to "survive" in this foul atmosphere.
foul language
[C1] very rude and offensive words

Dictionary example:
There was a lot of foul language in the movie.

Learner example:
It is the responsibility of the parents not to fight or use any foul language in front of the kids, as they may learn and use it in front of others.

BAD
[C2] very bad or unpleasant

Dictionary examples:
foul weather
She's in a foul mood.

Learner example:
It rea[p]peared only in moments of distraction and served exclusively to increase her foul mood.

NOUN [C]
[C2] something that someone does in a sport that is not allowed by the rules

Dictionary example:
He was sent off for a vicious foul on Cooper.

Learner example:
If that happen[s], the referee has the right to interrupt the game by blowing his whistle and saying that that team has committed a foul.

found /faʊnd/

Word family:
Nouns: foundation, founder
Verbs: found

VERB [T]

START
[B2] to bring something into existence

Dictionary examples:
York was founded by the Romans in the year 71 AD.
The company was founded in 1861.

Learner example:
Red Stone was founded ten years ago.

BASE
[C2] to base something on a set of ideas or beliefs
Dictionary example:
a society founded on principles of equality

Learner example:
While Piggy is holding the conch, the symbol of a human community, founded on discussion, agreement and rules, and speaking up to Jack, Roger sets the rock in motion which destroys Piggy and his conch.

foundation /faʊnˈdeɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: foundation, founder
Verbs: found

NOUN

START
[C1] [u] when an organization, state, or country is established

Dictionary example:
the foundation of a new state

Learner example:
Moreover the foundation of schools and stadiums will benefit young people.

ORGANIZATION
[C1] [c] an organization that gives money for a particular purpose

Dictionary example:
the Mental Health Foundation

Learner example:
A memorable event I recently attended [was] the Barbie Ball which was held at the National History Museum in London on 1st December, to benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

IDEA
[C2] [c] the idea or principle that something is based on

Dictionary example:
Jefferson's document formed the foundation of a new nation.

Learner example:
Love, understanding and respect will be the foundation of [the] upbringing of my children.

be without foundation; have no foundation
[C2] FORMAL If something is without foundation, there is no proof that it is true.

Dictionary example:
The allegations are completely without foundation.
**founder** /ˈfaʊn.dər/

Word family:
Nouns: foundation, founder
Verbs: found

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] someone who establishes an organization, movement, etc.

*Dictionary example:*
She was one of the founders of the women's movement.

*Learner example:*
Moreover, this widely recognised person is not only known as a founder of Microsoft, the richest man on the planet, but also as someone who decided to give almost a half of his money to a charity and this may help many people suffering from diseases.

**fox** /fɒks/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a wild animal like a dog with red-brown fur, a pointed nose, and a long, thick tail

*Dictionary example:*
A fox came in the night and killed the chickens.

*Learner example:*
One day, the fox attacked his animals and he shouted as much as he could.

**fraction** /ˈfræk.ʃən/

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a very small number or amount

*Dictionary example:*
a fraction of a second

*Learner example:*
Both of them hit the wall almost at the same time but, against Hall's prediction, Popou was better by a fraction of a second.
fragile  /ˈfrædʒ.aɪl/

ADJECTIVE

BREAK
[C2] easily broken, damaged, or destroyed

Dictionary examples:
a fragile china cup
a fragile economy

Learner example:
The majority of these countries still have a very fragile economy.

PERSON
[C2] physically or emotionally weak

Dictionary example:
a fragile little girl

Learner example:
She seemed to be so fragile with an everlasting smile on her face.

fragrance  /ˈfreɪ.grənt/

Word family:
Nouns: fragrance
Adjectives: fragrant

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] a pleasant smell

Dictionary example:
the delicate fragrance of roses

Learner example:
We were inundated with the fresh air, an untold fragrance mixed with the warm breeze and the unique-styled buildings.

fragrant  /ˈfreɪ.grənt/

Word family:
Nouns: fragrance
Adjectives: fragrant

ADJECTIVE
[C2] with a pleasant smell
Dictionary example:
fragrant flowers

Learner example:
From his terrace you can see the marvellous sea of Dublin Bay and appreciate the fragrant odour of the beautiful flowers that embellish the place.

frail /freɪl/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] not strong or healthy

Dictionary example:
a frail old lady

Learner example:
Looking at her, she was frail and looked confused.

frame /freɪm/

NOUN [C]

STRUCTURE
[B2] the basic structure of a building, vehicle or piece of furniture that other parts are added onto

Dictionary example:
a bicycle frame

Learner example:
In my bedroom is a big bed with a wood frame and a comfortabl[e] matt[ress].

frame of mind
[C2] the way someone feels at a particular time

Dictionary example:
She was in a much more positive frame of mind today.

Learner example:
Naturally, these are more difficult factors to cope with for older people, but it just happens to anyone if you're not in the right frame of mind.
framework  /ˈfreɪm.wɜːk/

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a system of rules, ideas, or beliefs that is used to plan or decide something

**Dictionary examples:**
a legal framework for resolving disputes
the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

**Learner example:**
They were all trying to do their best in the rigid framework of the existing system (one of them even succeeded in making the difference).

frankly  /ˈfræŋ.kli/

**ADVERB**

[B2] used when giving an honest and direct opinion, often one that might upset someone

**Dictionary example:**
Quite frankly, I think this whole situation is ridiculous.

**Learner example:**
I'm asking this because quite frankly, it's the part of the festival that my friend and I enjoyed the most.

frantic  /ˈfræn.tɪk/

**ADJECTIVE**

**FAST**

[C2] done in a fast and excited way and not calm or organized

**Dictionary example:**
a frantic search

**Learner example:**
Fred started to shiver as frantic images of the past flashed through his mind.

**WORRIED**

[C2] very worried or frightened

**Dictionary examples:**
frantic calls for help
I got home to find Joe frantic with worry.
Learner example:
Donna’s mother had heard her frantic shouts, and now said soothingly: “Have you forgotten Elaine has spent the night at her friend’s house?”

**fraud** /frəd/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** fraud
**Adjectives:** fraudulent

**NOUN**

**CRIME**
[C2] [u] when someone does something illegal in order to get money

**Dictionary example:**
credit card fraud

**Learner example:**
Michael was completely speechless when he realized that Claire had all the proof of the fraud he had [committed].

**TRICK**
[C2] [c] someone or something that deceives people by pretending to be someone or something that they are not

**Dictionary example:**
She claimed to be a journalist, but she was just a fraud.

**Learner example:**
My marriage was a fraud, a case of bigamy.

**fraudulent** /ˈfrɔːd.jə.lənt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** fraud
**Adjectives:** fraudulent

**ADJECTIVE** FORMAL
[C2] dishonest and illegal

**Dictionary example:**
fraudulent insurance claims

**Learner example:**
This vice increases more and more as fanatics spend more money for sport–related topics, and so, most valuable players become more expensive and then they begin to be involved in cheating and fraudulent activities.
**free /friː/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** freedom

**Adjectives:** free

**Adverbs:** freely

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT LIMITED**

[B2] not limited or controlled

**Dictionary examples:**
- a free society
- Am I free to leave now?
- People should be free to say what they think.
- The agreement gives companies free access to the markets of member countries.

**Learner example:**
The plan was this: they would call the police, which would trap the man so the child would be free to return to his mother.

**NOT A PRISONER**

[B2] not in prison

**Dictionary example:**
He will soon be a free man again.

**Learner example:**
I will [regret it] for the rest of my life, because I wanted to be a free man...

**set sb/sth free**

[B2] to allow someone to leave prison or to allow a person or animal to escape

**Dictionary example:**
He opened the cage and set the birds free.

**Learner example:**
To sum up, animals should be set free and live as they should live in nature.

**NOT USED**

[B2] not being used by anyone

**Dictionary example:**
Is this seat free?

**Learner example:**
The hall was full of people and no seat was free.

**free from/of sth**

[C1] not containing or having anything harmful or unpleasant
**Dictionary example:**
a life free from pain

**Learner example:**
We can start to grow new plants so that our environment looks fresh and enchanting and free from pesticides and sicknesses as well.

**a free hand**
[C2] permission to make your own decisions about how you want to do something

**Dictionary example:**
The students were given a free hand as far as designing their product was concerned.

**Learner example:**
But unlike my parents, I wouldn't give my children a free hand in solving their problems.

**ADVERB**

**NO LIMIT/CONTROL**
[B2] in a way that is not tied, limited, or controlled

**Dictionary example:**
The horse broke free and ran away.

**Learner example:**
If animals were born free, why [do] they have to live in a prison?

**break free**
[C2] to suddenly escape or become separate from something

**Dictionary example:**
The prisoner broke free while the guards weren't looking.

**break free**
[C2] to escape from someone or something that is controlling you

**Dictionary example:**
She tried to break free from the social conditioning of her upbringing.

**Learner example:**
I would like to revisit there one day as it's firmly connected to my adolescence, when I struggled to break free from my peers, [and] tried to establish my own identity.

**VERB [T]**
[B2] to allow someone to leave a prison or place where they have been kept

**Dictionary example:**
After a ten-hour siege the gunman agreed to free the hostages.

**Learner example:**
We were taken hostage by a bank robber but the police came and freed us.
freedom /ˈfriː.dəm/

Word family:
Nouns: freedom
Adjectives: free
Adverbs: freely

NOUN [C or U]

BEING ALLOWED
[B2] the condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, etc. whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited

Dictionary examples:
Children are allowed much more freedom these days.
I felt such a sense of freedom, up in the hills alone.
At university, you have the freedom to do what you want.
Everyone should be allowed freedom of choice.

Learner example:
[The car] gives some freedom of choice: I can move quickly from one place to another, I don't waste time on public transport and in winter [it] protects me from [the] cold and rain.

freedom from sth
[C2] a situation in which you are not suffering because of something unpleasant or harmful

Dictionary example:
freedom from fear/poverty

Learner example:
Despite our modern medicine and the progress it has made within the last century, there is no guarantee of freedom from disease or freedom from illness.

freely /ˈfriː.li/

Word family:
Nouns: freedom
Adjectives: free
Adverbs: freely

ADVERB
[B2] without being controlled or limited
**Dictionary examples:**
For the first time in months she could move freely.  
Exotic foods are freely **available** in supermarkets.  
She freely **admits** that she was partly to blame.  
We encourage the victims to talk freely about their experiences.

**Learner example:**
We have always been able to speak freely with each other and this letter is no exception.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>freeze</strong> /friːz/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** freezer  
**Verbs:** freeze  
**Adjectives:** freezing, frozen  

**VERB** (froze, frozen)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PERSON</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[B2] [I] to feel very cold</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dictionary example:**  
Without a sleeping bag, you would freeze **to death** out there on the mountainside.  

**Learner example:**  
The weather is warm in the summer but when the winter comes... get ready to freeze!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NOT MOVE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[B2] [I] to suddenly stop moving, especially because you are frightened</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dictionary example:**  
She saw someone outside the window and froze.  

**Learner example:**  
I froze with terror.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>frenzy</strong> /ˈfren.zi/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**NOUN [U NO PLURAL]**

| [C2] when you are so excited, nervous, or anxious that you cannot control what you are doing |

**Dictionary example:**  
She hit him in a frenzy of rage.  

**Learner example:**  
For the next thirty–two hours, a frenzy took hold of the house.

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fresh /fres/  

ADJECTIVE  

RECENT  
[B2] recently made, done, arrived, etc., and especially not yet changed by time  

Dictionary examples:  
There was a fresh fall of snow during the night.  
Some people like the smell of fresh paint, but I don’t.  
The events of last year are still fresh in people's minds.  

Learner example:  
I don't know if it is the most embarrassing moment of my life, but it is still fresh in my memory and I get embarrassed every time I think of it.  

NOT TIRED  
[C1] having a lot of energy and not feeling tired  

Dictionary example:  
We got up the next day feeling fresh and relaxed.  

Learner example:  
Before the test, you should have your breakfast with a cup of coffee to make yourself feel fresh.  

SKIN  
[C2] Fresh skin looks healthy.  

Dictionary example:  
a fresh complexion  

Learner example:  
Her eyes were blue and she had a beautiful fresh complexion.  

fresh water  
[C2] water from lakes, rivers, etc. that has no salt in it  

Dictionary example:  
These fish live in fresh water.  

Learner example:  
You find stunning white beaches, clear, fresh water lakes, isolated tropic islands, reef, rainforests, buzzing cities, challenging mountain range, bush, outback – and the desert.  

a breath of fresh air  
[C2] someone or something that is new, different, and exciting  

Dictionary example:  
Having Eve around has been a breath of fresh air.
Learner example:
The final suggestion is focused on building a leisure centre. Should this be everything the Town Council has promised, it will bring a breath of fresh air.

**friction /ˈfrɪk.ʃən/**

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] disagreement or dislike caused by people having different opinions

**Dictionary example:**
There’s less friction in relationships when you use teamwork.

**Learner example:**
Money spent on shopping can also be the cause of friction or arguments between husbands and wives.

**friendliness /ˈfrend.li.nəs/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** friend, friendliness, friendship  
**Adjectives:** friendly, unfriendly

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] the quality of being friendly

**Dictionary example:**
It was the friendliness of the people that struck me.

**Learner example:**
Your description of the people, their everyday life, their characters and their friendliness reflects that you really had an excellent time here.

**fright /fræt/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** fright  
**Verbs:** frighten  
**Adjectives:** frightened, frightening

**NOUN [u NO PLURAL]**

[C1] a sudden feeling of shock and fear

**Dictionary examples:**
That dog gave me a terrible fright.  
She screamed in fright when she saw him.
Learner example:
She suddenly realised she was being followed, so, speechless with fright, began to stride along back to her car.

frighten  /ˈfraɪ.tən/

Word family:
Nouns: fright
Verbs: frighten
Adjectives: frightened, frightening

VERB [v]
[B2] to make someone feel fear

Dictionary examples:
He frightens me when he drives so fast.
The noise frightened me to death.

Learner example:
I have no interest in lizards. Whatever their characters are, their appearance always frightens me.

fringe  /frɪndʒ/

NOUN [C]

HAIR
[C2] hair that is cut short and straight at the top of someone's face

Dictionary example:
Her fringe was nearly in her eyes.

Learner example:
She had [a] long fringe over her forehead that almost covered her pale blue eyes.

EDGE
[C2] the outside edge of an area, group, or subject and not the main part

Dictionary examples:
the southern fringe of the city
the radical fringe of the party

Learner example:
He is on the fringe of society.

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] not belonging to the main part of a group, activity, or subject

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Dictionary example:
fringe politics/theatre

Learner example:
Unfortunately it seems to have won "new" currency in view of the latest events directed against foreigners, minorities and fringe groups.

from  /frɒm/

PREPOSITION

CAUSE
[B2] used to show the cause of something or the reason why something happens

Dictionary examples:
He was rushed to hospital but died from his injuries.
You could tell she wasn't lying from the fear in her voice.

Learner example:
Many people have died from car accidents.

CHANGE
[B2] used to show a change in the state of someone or something

Dictionary examples:
Things went from bad to worse.
She has been promoted from manager to director.

Learner example:
On the other hand the number of animals living in freedom, for example the number of tigers, elephants and lions in Africa or Asia, is decreasing more and more, because their living conditions have gone from bad to worse.

POSITION
[B2] used to show the position of something in comparison with other things, or the point of view of someone when considering a matter or problem

Dictionary examples:
From the restaurant there is a beautiful view of Siena.
She was talking from her own experience of the problem.
From our point of view, we do not see how these changes will benefit the company.

Learner example:
The job was hard, but from my point of view, it was worth [it].

PREVENTING
[B2] used to show what someone is not allowed to do or know, or what has been stopped happening
Dictionary examples:
He’s been banned from driving for six months.
For many years, the truth was kept from the public.

Learner example:
Wouldn’t it be better if cars were banned from the Central Business District in order to avoid traffic jams and stress?

from side to side
[B2] If something moves from side to side, it moves from left to right and back again repeatedly.

Dictionary example:
swinging from side to side

Learner example:
I began to understand it when I went [to] Kenya in 1986, because I had the wonderful chance to look at the animals in their natural [surroundings], without being in a cage, walking nervously from side to side.

from time to time
[B2] sometimes but not often

Dictionary example:
From time to time I still think of her.

Learner example:
I wash the dishes from time to time (I sometimes try to avoid this unpleasant duty) and clean our house.

a week/six months/ten years, etc. from now
[B2] a week/six months/ten years, etc. after the time when you are speaking

Dictionary example:
Who knows what we’ll all be doing five years from now?

Learner example:
Have you ever thought about what clothes will look like in 100 years from now?

from then/that day, etc. on
[C1] starting then, that day, etc. and continuing into the future

Dictionary examples:
From then on, he began to keep all her letters and cards.
They were good friends from that day on.

Learner example:
It happened like a miracle, suddenly I could speak quite well and I had lots of friends and from then on, I had a very nice time and I lived the best experience I’ve ever live[d] in my short life.

from start to finish
[C1] from the beginning of something to its end
Dictionary example:
I enjoyed the film from start to finish.

Learner example:
I found out that the service itself should last at least one and half hour[s] from start to finish.

from scratch
[C1] If you do something from scratch, you do it from the beginning.

Dictionary example:
We didn’t have any furniture of our own so we had to start from scratch.

Learner example:
That means you don’t have to start from scratch with your teacher.

from top to bottom
[C2] completely

Dictionary example:
I've searched the house from top to bottom and still can't find it.

Learner example:
Very often we can see someone in black, from top to bottom, or in white.

front  /frʌnt/

NOUN

back to front
[C2] with the back part of something where the front should be

Dictionary example:
You've got your trousers on back to front.

Learner example:
Therefore, the government needs to cut expenditure and as a result of this, health faciliti[es] will only be accessible for rich people. Then we are back to front.

frontier  /frʌnˈtɪər/

NOUN

BETWEEN COUNTRIES
[C2] a line or border between two countries

Dictionary example:
They placed guards on the frontier.
Learner example:
He took it and escaped towards the German frontier.

the frontiers of *sth*
[C2] the limits of what is known or what has been done before in an area of knowledge or activity

Dictionary example:
The frontiers of science and technology

Learner example:
Introduction: throughout history, scientists, artists and other people tried hard to push back the frontiers of knowledge, in order to succeed in making [or] creating something that all humankind will ben[e]fit from somehow.

*trost* /frɔst/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a thin, white layer of ice that forms on surfaces at night when it is very cold, or a time when the temperature is very cold and water freezes

Dictionary examples:
When I woke up this morning the ground was covered with frost.  
There was a frost last night.  
There were a lot of hard frosts that winter.

Learner example:
Thirdly, you do not have to worry about rain, wind, frost or other bad weather conditions.

*frəʊn* /fraʊn/

VERB [I]

SHOW ANGER
[C2] to make your face show that you are annoyed or worried by moving your eyebrows

Dictionary example:
She frowned when I mentioned his name.

Learner example:
She looked at him and frowned, strange, but he smiled back.

NOUN [C]
[C2] the expression on your face when you frowned
Dictionary example:
He looked at me with a puzzled frown.

Learner example:
If you are truly devoted to your health, logic thus dictates that you will be sitting at the dinner table with an empty plate – and certainly a frown on your face.

fruit /fruːt/

Word family:
Nouns: fruit
Adjectives: fruitful

NOUN [C or U]

bear fruit
[C2] If something that someone does bears fruit, it produces successful results.

Dictionary example:
Our decision is just beginning to bear fruit.

Learner example:
Although a new hotel and conference centre would greatly improve the image of our town, I consider it a costly investment that might not bear fruit.

the fruit(s) of sth
[C2] the good result of someone's work or actions

Dictionary example:
This book is the fruit of 15 years’ research.

Learner example:
People work very hard to obtain their salaries or wages, so after earning their salaries they need to enjoy the fruits of their hard labour and shopping is one way of doing that.

fruitful /ˈfruːt.fʊl/

Word family:
Nouns: fruit
Adjectives: fruitful

ADJECTIVE
[C1] producing good or useful results

Dictionary example:
We had a very fruitful discussion.
Learner example:
We had a fruitful talk about his previous achievements in his first job, after which he found out how creative he was.

frustrated  /fɾəstərɪd/  

Word family:
Nouns: frustration
Adjectives: frustrated, frustrating

ADJECTIVE
[C1] annoyed because things are not happening in the way that you want, or in the way that they should

Dictionary examples:
I'm very frustrated at/with my lack of progress.
Fans are frustrated by their lack of success this season.

Learner example:
What, however, made us very frustrated was that there was no opportunity for us to take an exam at the end of this month.

frustrating  /fɾəstərtɪŋ/  

Word family:
Nouns: frustration
Adjectives: frustrated, frustrating

ADJECTIVE
[C1] making you feel frustrated

Dictionary examples:
a frustrating situation
It's frustrating to see money going to waste like that.

Learner example:
When you are working and you are in a hurry to get to your work place on time, waiting for the bus becomes quite annoying and frustrating.

frustration  /fɾəstərən/  

Word family:
Nouns: frustration
Adjectives: frustrated, frustrating
NOUN [C or U]
[B2] the feeling of being annoyed because things are not happening in the way that you want, or in the way that they should

Dictionary example:
I could sense his frustration at not being able to help.

Learner example:
So we had to leave hungry and with a certain feeling of frustration and disappointment.

fulfil /fʊlˈfɪl/

Word family:
Nouns: fulfilment
Verbs: fulfil
Adjectives: fulfilling

VERB (fulfilling, fulfilled)

fulfil a duty/promise/responsibility, etc.
[C1] to do something that you have promised to do or that you are expected to do

Dictionary example:
He has failed to fulfil his duties as a father.

Learner example:
Therefore, she fulfils her duties carefully and precisely.

fulfil an ambition/dream/goal, etc.
[C1] to do something that you really wanted to do

Dictionary example:
She has finally fulfilled her childhood ambition to swim with dolphins.

Learner example:
For numerous football fans who seek to fulfil their ambitions in the computer world I would recommend The Cup of Life.

fulfil a function/need/role, etc.
[C1] to do something that is necessary or useful

Dictionary example:
You seem to fulfil a very useful role in the organization.

Learner example:
The reason is obviously not a lack of intelligence but mainly duties with educating children, housework and fulfilling the conservative role of women.

fulfil criteria/requirements/qualifications, etc.
[C1] to have all the qualities that are wanted or needed for something
**Dictionary example:**
You have to fulfil certain requirements to qualify for the competition.

**Learner example:**
It fulfils all the criteria expressed above, and has a swimming pool too.

---

**fulfilling** /fʊlˈfɪl.ɪŋ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** fulfilment
**Verbs:** fulfil
**Adjectives:** fulfilling

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] If something is fulfilling, it satisfies you and makes you happy.

**Dictionary example:**
a fulfilling job

**Learner example:**
But the choice of a fulfilling job is an important factor because most people spend 8 or 9 hours working every day and doing something that you don’t like for long can be a problem.

---

**fulfilment** /fʊlˈfɪl.mənt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** fulfilment
**Verbs:** fulfil
**Adjectives:** fulfilling

**NOUN [u]**

**PLEASURE**

[C2] a feeling of pleasure because you are receiving or achieving what you want

**Dictionary example:**
I hope that you’ll find happiness and fulfilment in your life together.

**Learner example:**
Personally, I firmly believe that a certain degree of compromise should be reached, and that work should combine both economical and emotional stability, and only in that way will we find true fulfilment through work.

**SOMETHING DONE**

[C2] when someone does something necessary or something that they have wanted or promised to do
Dictionary example:
Being here is the fulfilment of a lifelong ambition.

Learner example:
Today's human[s] travel the earth for holidays, going from exotic to esoteric vacation spots to soothe the body and mind, or in fulfilment of a business need.

full /fʊl/

Word family:
Adjectives: full
Adverbs: fully

ADJECTIVE

FOOD
[B2] (also full up) informal having eaten enough food

Dictionary example:
No more cake for me, thanks, I'm full.

Learner example:
After having [a] big lunch, he was full up.

be full of yourself
[C2] to think that you are very important or clever

Dictionary example:
She's been very full of herself since she won that prize.

Learner example:
There is a thing which I consider very important for the upbringing of my own children – to "teach" them to be coherent and to think [of] the "others" because if you are full of yourself, you are blind and you can't see what is happening around you.

have your hands full
[C2] to be very busy

Dictionary example:
Shelley has her hands full with three kids under 5.

Learner example:
This very fact made my father work as a slave, as he was the only breadwinner at home, my mother having her hands full with us four.
**fumes** /fjuːmz/

**NOUN [PLURAL]**

[C1] strong, unpleasant, and often dangerous gas or smoke

*Dictionary example:*
car exhaust fumes

*Learner example:*
Cars emit fumes that are very dangerous.

**fun** /fʌn/

**NOUN [u]**

**make fun of sb/sth**

[B2] to make a joke about someone or something in an unkind way

*Dictionary example:*
The other children at school used to make fun of his hair.

*Learner example:*
I didn't want to tell other people because I didn't want them to make fun of me.

**function** /ˈfʌŋk.ʃən/

*Word family:*
*Nouns:* function
*Adjectives:* functional

**NOUN [C]**

**PURPOSE**

[B2] the purpose of something or the particular responsibility of someone

*Dictionary examples:*
Each button has a different function.
I'm not quite sure what my function is within the company.

*Learner example:*
Apart from that, zoos have got an educational function.

**EVENT**

[C1] a large, formal party or ceremony

*Dictionary example:*
a charity function
Learner example:
Almost 600 people gathered at my main wedding function.

functional /ˈfʌŋkʃən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: function  
Adjectives: functional

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] designed to be practical and useful

Dictionary example:  
functional clothing

Learner example:  
Like many other people, I used to see my camera as a very functional object without being really fond of it.

fund /fʌnd/  

Word family:  
Nouns: fund, funding  
Verbs: fund

NOUN  
[C1] [c] an amount of money collected, saved, or provided for a purpose

Dictionary example:  
a pension fund

Learner example:  
A fund in her name has been made for handicapped children and the amount in this fund is growing fast.

funds  
[C1] [plural] money needed or available to spend on something

Dictionary example:  
The charity closed down due to lack of funds.

Learner example:  
Due to the limited funds available to the committee responsible for the festivities, the location was not in accordance with the expectations.

VERB [t]  
[C1] to provide the money to pay for an event, activity or organization
Dictionary examples:
The company has agreed to fund my trip to Australia.
The new college is being privately funded.

Learner example:
We'd like to suggest, as an alternative, that by opening the Centre to [the] public when the Centre is less crowded, you'll be able to fund the changes.

fundamental /ˌfʌndəˈmen.təl/

Word family:
Adjectives: fundamental
Adverbs: fundamentally

ADJECTIVE
[C2] relating to the most important or main part of something

Dictionary examples:
a fundamental change/difference
Training is fundamental to success.

Learner example:
However I liked it a lot because music is fundamental to me.

fundamentally /ˌfʌndəˈmen.tə.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: fundamental
Adverbs: fundamentally

ADVERB
[C2] in a basic and important way

Dictionary examples:
Nothing has fundamentally changed.
I still believe that people are fundamentally good.

Learner example:
Japanese gardens are fundamentally different from those designed in Europe.

funding /ˈfʌnd.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: fund, funding
Verbs: fund
NOUN [u]
[C1] money given by a government or organization for an event or activity

Dictionary example:
The company received state funding for the project.

Learner example:
I must admit that this is an important community project that has long been neglected due to lack of Council funding.

funeral /ˈfjuːnərəl/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a ceremony for burying or burning the body of a dead person

Dictionary examples:
The funeral will be held next Friday.
Over 300 people attended the funeral.

Learner example:
She was crying at his funeral.

furious /ˈfjuəriəs/

Word family:
Nouns: fury
Adjectives: furious
Adverbs: furiously

ADJECTIVE
[B2] extremely angry

Dictionary examples:
I was late and he was furious with me.
He's furious about/at the way he's been treated.

Learner example:
He was absolutely furious, having learned about our engagement.

furiously /ˈfjuəriəsli/

Word family:
Nouns: fury
Adjectives: furious
Adverbs: furiously
**ADVERB**

[B2] in a very angry way

**Dictionary example:**
"Get out of here!" she shouted furiously.

**Learner example:**
"Put that light out", I shouted furiously after those sleepless nights.

---

**furnished /ˈfɜːrnɪʃt/**

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] If a room or building is furnished, there is furniture in it.

**Dictionary example:**
He’s renting a fully furnished apartment by the river.

**Learner example:**
The so called Student Study Centre was quite noisy and poorly furnished.

---

**further /ˈfɜː.ðər/**

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

a further 10/100, etc.

[C1] additional

**Dictionary example:**
A further 20 stores will be opening in Europe next year.

**Learner example:**
As a matter of fact, only 5% of the total income was taken to pay for administration costs, and a further 10% to pay for the cost of entertainment.

---

**ADVERB**

MORE

[B2] more

**Dictionary examples:**
He refused to discuss the matter further.
Did you get any further with your research?

**Learner example:**
I demand a full refund or I will be forced to take this matter further.
VERB [r]
[C2] to make something develop or become more successful

Dictionary example:
He’ll do anything to further his career.

Learner example:
This could be because some of [the] Education graduates were already in [the] education field and pursuing a graduate course was a means of furthering their career or knowledge.

furthermore /ˌfɜː.ðəˈmɔːr/ [B2] in addition to what has just been said

Dictionary examples:
Furthermore, we have a duty to defend our country.
Furthermore, we found that the results varied according to what time of day the sample was taken.

Learner example:
I am 22 years of age and I have a degree in tourism. Furthermore, I have a working knowledge of English, Spanish, Catalan and Italian.

fury /ˈfjuə.ri/ [U NO PLURAL] extreme anger

Dictionary example:
He could hardly control his fury.

Learner example:
Never had John felt such fury and hate before.

fuss /fʌs/ [N] Word family:
Nouns: fuss
Adjectives: fussy

957
**NOUN [U NO PLURAL]**

[C1] when people become excited, annoyed, or anxious about something, especially something unimportant

**Dictionary examples:**
- What's all the fuss about?
- She made such a fuss when Richard spilt a drop of coffee on her blouse!
- It's all a fuss about nothing.
- We tried to arrange a ceremony with as little fuss as possible.

**Learner example:**
- The internet contains more information than any library, more easily accessible and without the fuss of library cards or the risk of losing books.

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**fussy /ˈfʌs.i/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** fuss
- **Adjectives:** fussy

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT LIKING**

[C2] only liking particular things and very difficult to please

**Dictionary example:**
- She's a very fussy eater.

**Learner example:**
- When visiting a foreign country it may be difficult not to be fussy about food as well, and again, that is because of habits.

**CAREFUL**

[C2] too careful about unimportant details

**Dictionary example:**
- He's very fussy about keeping his car clean.

**Learner example:**
- And this importance of presentation and almost fussy preciseness are reflected in our tradition.

---

**future /ˈfjuː.tʃər/**

**NOUN**

**in the near future**

[B2] at a time that is not far away
**Dictionary example:**
Space travel may become very common in the near future.

**Learner example:**
I look forward to receiving your reply in the near future.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN**

[C2] [c] what will happen to someone or something in the time that is to come

**Dictionary examples:**
We need to discuss the future of the company.
Torn apart by war, this country now faces a very **uncertain** future.

**Learner example:**
If there weren't any charity workers, a lot of disabled and poor people would face a very uncertain future.

**for/in the foreseeable future**

[C2] as far in the future as you can imagine

**Dictionary example:**
Prices will remain high for the foreseeable future.

**Learner example:**
But in my view these same jobs will find themselves subjected to the same pressures and thus will have the same destiny in the foreseeable future.
gadget /ˈɡædʒ.ɪt/

NOUN [C]
[C1] a small piece of equipment that does a particular job, especially a new type

Dictionary example:
a kitchen gadget

Learner example:
I believe that robots and hi-tech gadgets will definitely invade our private and profes[s]ional life.

gain /geɪn/

VERB

nothing ventured, nothing gained
[C2] used to say that it is worth trying something, even if you may not succeed

Dictionary example:
It will be quite expensive ... still, nothing ventured nothing gained!

Learner example:
It was a demanding task to prepare it but nothing ventured nothing gained.

NOUN [C or U]

INCREASE
[C1] an increase in something such as size, weight, or amount

Dictionary example:
Side effects of the drugs may include tiredness, headaches or weight gain.

Learner example:
Consumption of pre-cooked meals, fast food, [and] canned food not only results in weight gain but also cause[s] health problems.

SOMETHING OBTAINED
[C2] when you get something useful or positive
Dictionary examples:
financial/personal gain
There are huge gains in terms of the number of lives saved.

Learner example:
Maybe changing the attitudes of the younger generation as to the true aim of education could help in the future, teaching them that education is desirable to broaden the mind, to make us better people, not simply a means of financial gain, [and] of acquiring status in society by means of a socially acceptable job.

gamble  /ˈgæm.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: gambling, gamble
Verbs: gamble

VERB [I or T]

RISK MONEY
[C2] I to risk money on the result of a game, race, or competition

Dictionary example:
He gambled away all of her savings.

Learner example:
In fact on the first night they almost gambled it all away, but John got lucky at the last minute and won 25 thousand dollars.

NOUN [C]
[C2] a risk that you take that something will succeed

Dictionary example:
Buying this place was a big gamble, but it seems to have paid off.

Learner example:
Racing along the corridor I took a gamble and rushed for the lord's office, where the documents were likely to be.

gambling  /ˈgæm.blɪŋ/  

Word family:
Nouns: gambling, gamble
Verbs: gamble

NOUN [u]
[B2] I the activity of betting money, for example in a game or on a horse race
Dictionary example:
Gambling can be addictive.

Learner example:
One night we went gambling in the hotel casino.

game /geɪm/

NOUN [c]

play games
[C2] to not deal with a situation seriously or honestly

Dictionary example:
Someone's life is in danger here – we're not playing games.

Learner example:
I couldn't possibly get all that money together, and the kidnappers were not playing games.

gang /gæŋ/

NOUN [c]

YOUNG PEOPLE
[B2] a group of young people who spend time together, usually fighting with other groups and behaving badly

Dictionary examples:
a gang member
He didn't want to join their gang.

Learner example:
It was two days ago. I wanted to join Joe's gang, but [first] I had to prove my courage.

CRIMINALS
[B2] a group of criminals who work together

Dictionary example:
a gang of armed robbers

Learner example:
The infamous gang had robbed twelve families of all their belongings.

FRIENDS
[C2] INFORMAL a group of young friends

Dictionary example:
I'm going camping with Holly and the rest of the gang.
Learner example:
A whole gang of us decided to go on an excursion, as we did once a month.

gap /gæp/

NOUN [C]

DIFFERENCE
[B2] a difference between two things

Dictionary examples:
an age gap
The gap between rich and poor is still increasing.

Learner example:
It is a general rule that there is a great gap between generations which leads to different ideas and mentalities between children and parents.

ABSENT THING
[B2] something that is absent and stops something from being complete

Dictionary example:
There are still huge gaps in my knowledge.

Learner example:
Another huge gap in our town is the absence of a swimming pool.

TIME
[B2] a period of time spent doing something different

Dictionary example:
After a gap of five years, Jennifer decided to go back to work full-time.

Learner example:
Finally, on the last day, I suggest you could go to the market in town during the 3-hour gap.

a gap in the market
[C2] an opportunity for a product or service that does not already exist

Dictionary example:
There's a gap in the market for a good fish shop.

Learner example:
I had nearly finished my study and had an idea to start a small software company, filling a gap in the market that was overlooked by the larger I.T. companies.
**garden /ˈɡɑː.dən/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** garden, gardener, gardening

**NOUN [C]**

**gardens**

[C1] a park or large public area where plants and flowers are grown

**Dictionary example:**

We visited the botanic gardens.

**Learner example:**

After that we are going to see the "Mary's gardens", where the photo session is going to take place, and at 13.00 we will have lunch at the main restaurant.

**gardener /ˈɡɑː.dənər/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** garden, gardener, gardening

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] someone who works in a garden, growing plants and making it look attractive

**Dictionary example:**

They employ two gardeners.

**Learner example:**

You can become a very good gardener and walk very long distances.

**gardening /ˈɡɑː.dənɪŋ/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** garden, gardener, gardening

**NOUN [U]**

[B2] the job or activity of growing a garden and keeping it attractive

**Dictionary example:**

She enjoys gardening.

**Learner example:**

After four years [of] studying and doing the A level exam, I still don't have any qualification in gardening, but I really like flowers and plants.
garment  /ˈɡɑː.mənt/

NOUN [C] FORMAL
[C1] a piece of clothing

Dictionary example:
They were luxurious garments, made of silk and velvet.

Learner example:
Their garments consisted of four layers of robes.

gas  /gæs/

NOUN

SUBSTANCE
[B2] [C or U] a substance in a form like air that is neither solid nor liquid

Dictionary example:
Oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen are all gases.

Learner example:
All people know that CO2 is a very dangerous gas for all kind[s] of animals.

gasp  /ˈɡɑːsp/

VERB [I]

MAKE NOISE
[C2] to make a noise by suddenly breathing in because you are shocked or surprised

Dictionary example:
She gasped in horror as the car spun out of control.

Learner example:
I gasped with astonishment at the juggler’s dexterity.

BREATHE WITH DIFFICULTY
[C2] to breathe loudly and with difficulty trying to get more air

Dictionary example:
He clutched his heart, gasping for breath.

Learner example:
They danced until they were so tired that they fell to the ground, still laughing and gasping for air.
NOUN [C]
[C2] the noise that someone makes when they gasp

Dictionary example:
a gasp of surprise

Learner example:
His gasp startled the other sleeping tourists & they all crawled and stumbled onto their feet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>gather</th>
<th>/ˈɡæðər/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Word family:
Nouns: gathering
Verbs: gather

VERB

COME TOGETHER
[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] to join other people somewhere to make a group, or to bring people together into a group

Dictionary examples:
A crowd had gathered to hear her speak.
Crowds of fans gathered at the stadium for the big match.
She gathered the children together and began to tell them a story.

Learner example:
People had gathered in front of a particular painting.

COLLECT
[B2] [ɪ] to collect several things, often from different places or people

Dictionary example:
We gathered our things together and left quickly.

Learner example:
I have gathered over three hundred species: flowers, roots, leaves and other [thing]s.

THINK
[C1] [ɪ] to think something is true because you have heard or seen information about it

Dictionary examples:
From what I can gather, they haven't sold their house yet.
As far as I can gather, there will only be light refreshments available.

Learner example:
From a modest survey I have made among citizens of different age groups and occupations, I can gather that both proposals have advantages and disadvantages.
gather speed/strength/support, etc.
[C1] to increase in speed/strength/support, etc.

Dictionary example:
Finally, the train began to gather speed, and we were on our way.

Learner example:
The use of railways was a bit fluctuating until around 1995, but gathered momentum after that.

gathering /ˈgæð.ə.rɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: gathering
Verbs: gather

NOUN [c]
[C1] a party or a meeting when many people get together as a group

Dictionary example:
a family gathering

Learner example:
Parks, for example, can't be used for [a] barbeque or family gathering in the winter time.

gaze /geɪz/

VERB
gaze at/into/out of, etc.
[B2] to look for a long time at something or someone or in a particular direction

Dictionary examples:
He was gazing out of the window.
They gazed into each other's eyes.

Learner example:
He gazed at her and took her hand.

NOUN [NO PLURAL]
[C2] a long look at someone or something

Dictionary example:
a steady/watchful gaze

Learner example:
For a moment, he had this empty gaze of someone who is in trouble and who has to find a solution.
**gear /gɪə/**

**NOUN**

**VEHICLE PART**

[B2] **[C usually plural]** a set of parts in a motor vehicle or bicycle that control how fast the wheels turn

**Dictionary example:**
a mountain bike with 21 gears

**Learner example:**
It has 24 active gears and multilink kevlor brakes.

**first/second/third, etc. gear**

[B2] a particular position of the gears in a motor vehicle or bicycle that controls how fast the wheels turn

**Dictionary example:**
The lights turned green, but I couldn’t get into first gear.

**Learner example:**
I wrenched the car into first gear and stormed off to the office.

**EQUIPMENT**

[B2] **[u]** the clothes and equipment used for a particular purpose

**Dictionary example:**
fishing/camping gear

**Learner example:**
I’ll see you in a week and don’t forget your cycling gear.

**gender /ˈdʒen.də/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

**SEX**

[B2] **[FORMAL]** the state of being male or female

**Dictionary example:**
Does this test show the gender of the baby?

**Learner example:**
There were many speakers who talked about all sorts of subject[s] such as politics, religion, gender identity, [and] art.
GRAMMAR

[B2] the division of nouns, pronouns and adjectives into masculine, feminine and neuter types

Dictionary example:
In English, nouns don’t have gender, but in French and Spanish, they do.

gen /dʒiːn/

Word family:
Nouns: genetics, gene
Adjectives: genetic

NOUN [C]

[C1] a part of a cell that is passed on from a parent to a child and that controls particular characteristics

Dictionary example:
Scientists have discovered the gene responsible for causing this disease.

Learner example:
I think it would be reasonable to include capsules with human genes and the genetic material of endangered species.

general /ˈdʒen.ər.əl/

Word family:
Adjectives: general
Adverbs: generally

ADJECTIVE

MOST PEOPLE

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] involving or relating to most or all people, things or places

Dictionary examples:
There is general concern about rising crime rates.
There seems to be general agreement on this matter.

Learner example:
The decision has already been made by general agreement.

NOT LIMITED

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] including a lot of things or subjects and not limited to only one or a few
Dictionary example:
general knowledge

Learner example:
To improve the general knowledge of the students, it might be a good idea to offer more newspapers than magazines.

in general
[B2] considering the whole of someone or something, and not just a particular part of them

Dictionary example:
So, apart from the bad ankle, how are you in general?

Learner example:
I think that I, as well as people in general, would have been more depressed if we didn't have light.

generalization /ˌdʒen.əˈralɪzeɪʃən/

NOUN [C or U] (ALSO UK generalisation)
[C1] when someone says something very basic that is often true but not always true

Dictionary example:
It's a sweeping generalization to say that girls read more than boys.

Learner example:
As the organizer of the International Student's Sports Club, I feel inclined to report from [my] own experience that such a generalisation is not appropriate.

generealize /ˈdʒenəˌrilайz/

VERB [I] (ALSO UK generalise)
[C1] to say something very basic that is often true but not always true

Dictionary example:
You can't generalize about a continent as varied as Europe.

Learner example:
Anyway, even though it's hard to generalise, it seems clear that people don't want to work, and want to enjoy themselves without working.
generally /ˈdʒen.ər.əli/

Word family:
Adjectives: general
Adverbs: generally

ADVERB

AS A WHOLE
[B2] considering the whole of someone or something, and not just a particular part of them

Dictionary example:
My health is generally very good.

Learner example:
Generally, Athens has a lot of things to do.

BY MOST PEOPLE
[B2] by most people, or to most people

Dictionary example:
He is generally believed to be their best player.

Learner example:
It is generally acknowledged that it depends on the zoo because sometimes the animals are loved and sometimes hated.

generate /ˈdʒen.ər.eɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: generation
Verbs: generate

VERB [T]

CREATE
[B2] to cause something to exist

Dictionary examples:
The new development will generate 1500 new jobs.
This film has generated a lot of interest.

Learner example:
Football generates every kind of emotion: happiness, sadness, and above all passion.

MAKE ENERGY
[B2] to produce energy
Dictionary example:
The wind farm may be able to generate enough electricity for 2000 homes.

Learner example:
In France, for instance, more than three-quarters of [all] electricity is generated from nuclear power.

generation /ˌdʒen.əˈreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: generation
Verbs: generate

NOUN

TIME
[B2] [c] a period of about 25 to 30 years, the time it takes for children to become adults and take the place of their parents in society

Dictionary examples:
Our family has lived in this village for generations.
A generation ago, home computers were almost unknown.

Learner example:
Salzburg is a beautiful medieval town – it has got a wonderful cathedral, which was built by entire generations of Italian artisans.

PRODUCT
[B2] [c] a product when it is at a particular stage of development

Dictionary example:
a new generation of computers

Learner example:
I can sum up the most important things that changed my life are the telephone, the computer, the portable phone and of course [the] new generation of television.

ENERGY
[B2] [u] the production of energy in a particular form

Dictionary example:
electricity generation from wind and wave power

Learner example:
[The] energy generation crisis Brazil is having to deal with [is well known].
generosity /ˌdʒen.əˈrɒs.ət.i/

Word family:
Nouns: generosity
Adjectives: generous
Adverbs: generously

NOUN [u]
[B2] the quality of being generous

Dictionary example:
Her friends take advantage of her generosity.

Learner example:
Anna, thank you again for your generosity.

generous /ˈdʒen.ərəs/ 

Word family:
Nouns: generosity
Adjectives: generous
Adverbs: generously

ADJECTIVE

[LARGE] larger than usual or than expected

Dictionary examples:
a generous discount for students
a generous portion

Learner example:
To sum up, I must correct the conclusion in your article, as the event did come up to the organisers' expectations, [rais]ing a generous amount of money to donate to the hospital.

generously /ˈdʒen.ərəs.li/

Word family:
Nouns: generosity
Adjectives: generous
Adverbs: generously

ADVERB
[B2] in a generous way

Dictionary example:
Please give generously to Children in Need.
Learner example:
I can’t think of any other person who opens her house so generously as you do!

**genetic** /dʒəˈnet.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: genetics, gene
Adjectives: genetic

ADJECTIVE
[C1] relating to genes

Dictionary examples:
a rare genetic disorder
 genetic research

Learner example:
Mendel thought that basically it is the genetic material which is responsible for the future development of a child.

**genetically modified** /dʒəˌnet.ɪ.kliˈmɒd.ɪˌfaɪd/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] having had some of the genes changed by a scientific process

Dictionary example:
They are opposed to genetically modified food.

Learner example:
Despite the fact that the European Union prohibited genetically modified products in its countries, we are still using pesticides, causing pollution and food poisoning.

**genetics** /dʒəˈnet.ɪks/

Word family:
Nouns: genetics, gene
Adjectives: genetic

NOUN [u]
[B2] the scientific study of the parts of cells which control particular characteristics (genes)

Dictionary example:
Next year, I'll be studying genetics.
Learner example:
We use technology in order to save human live[s] and to explore strange new worlds, such as genetics.

**genius /ˈdʒiː.ni.əs/**

NOUN

**PERSON**

[C1] [c] someone who is extremely intelligent or extremely good at doing something

Dictionary example:
Einstein was a genius.

Learner example:
And what about Mozart – poor little genius!

**QUALITY**

[C2] [u] the quality of being extremely intelligent or extremely good at doing something

Dictionary example:
Einstein’s genius

Learner example:
Nothing is more common than unrewarded genius and mis[used] talents.

**gentle /ˈdʒen.tl/**

Word family:

Adjectives: gentle

Adverbs: gently

**ADJECTIVE**

**SLOPE**

[C1] A gentle slope or climb is not steep.

Dictionary example:
It was a fairly gentle climb to the summit.

Learner example:
THE TOUR Trained guides lead people across gentle slopes towards thick woods displaying a wide variety of birds and animal life.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dictionary Example</th>
<th>Learner Example</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gentleman</td>
<td>/ˈdʒent.lə.mən/</td>
<td>NOUN [c]</td>
<td>[B2] a polite word for 'man'</td>
<td>Ladies and gentlemen, the show is about to begin. So she walked up on the stage and started speaking steadily into the microphone: &quot;Ladies and gentlemen....&quot; This is how the story ended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gently</td>
<td>/ˈdʒent.li/</td>
<td>ADVERB</td>
<td>[B2] calmly, kindly or softly</td>
<td>He held the baby gently in his arms. Now I am older and I speak to my mother very gently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genuine</td>
<td>/ˈdʒen.ju.ɪn/</td>
<td>ADJECTIVE</td>
<td>[B2] If something is genuine, it is really what it seems to be.</td>
<td>genuine leather The bicycle is [a] genuine Shimano bicycle. SINCERE [C1] If a person or their feelings are genuine, they are sincere and honest.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dictionary example:
They showed genuine sympathy for our situation.

Learner example:
On the other hand, it is well known in environmental management that strategies that work via [the] people's purse are often the only way to motivate people who have little genuine interest in environmental problems (or just too many other concerns).

genuinely /ˈdʒen.ju.ɪn.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: genuine
Adverbs: genuinely

ADVERB
[B2] in a genuine or sincere way

Dictionary example:
I'm genuinely sorry for the extra work this has caused.

Learner example:
We are all genuinely interested in English literature.

geology /dʒiˈɒl.ə.dʒi/

NOUN [u]
[C1] the study of rocks and soil and the physical structure of the Earth

Dictionary example:
a book about geology

Learner example:
I have graduated from school and I am now studying geology at the University of Greece.

germ /dʒɜːm/

NOUN

DISEASE
[C1] a very small living thing that causes disease

Dictionary example:
Wash your hands before cooking so that you don’t spread germs.
Learner example:
I am more careful with cleaning up and taking care of my baby. It was amazing the way they spoke about germs and dust.

the germ of sth
[C2] the beginning of something

Dictionary example:
the germ of a brilliant idea

Learner example:
Going back to the scene at More’s home, we now understand why this is the germ of the subsequent development of the play.

gerund /ˈdʒərd.ənd/

NOUN [c]
[C1] A gerund is a noun made from the form of a verb that ends with –ing, for example ‘fishing’ in ‘John loves fishing.’

Dictionary example:
We learned about gerunds today.

gesture /ˈdʒestʃər/ 

NOUN [c]

MOVEMENT
[C1] a movement you make with your hand, arm, or head to express what you are thinking or feeling

Dictionary example:
He made a rude gesture at the crowd.

Learner example:
Review – The Body Speaks [...] In the second part, you are taught how to read the gestures, voice, [and] hesitations, and analyse them.

ACTION
[C1] something you do to show people how you feel about a person or situation

Dictionary example:
It would be a nice gesture to invite her to dinner.

Learner example:
Dear Sir, I am the secretary of the Student Committee in Bringtown College and I am writing to thank you for your kind gesture [in] inviting me to the opening of the new Arts Centre.
VERB [i]

[C2] to point at something or express something using your hand, arm, or head

**Dictionary example:**
He gestured towards the window.

**Learner example:**
She gestured to the hall's expensive Persian carpets and the extensive collection of French Impressionists hanging on the walls.

---

verb /get/

VERB (getting, got, got)

**get rid of sth**
[B2] to end something unpleasant

**Dictionary example:**
I can't seem to get rid of this headache.

**Learner example:**
[The] first step is to get rid of smoking.

**get sb/sth to do sth**
[B2] to make something happen, or make someone or something do something

**Dictionary examples:**
I can't get my computer to work!
I'll get Ben to fix your bike.

**Learner example:**
We must get the councillors to change their minds.

**get the feeling/idea/impression, etc.**
[B2] to develop an opinion about a situation because of something that you notice

**Dictionary example:**
I got the feeling that she was quite angry about the situation.

**Learner example:**
I disagree with some points you mentioned and would like to share the impression I got from that popular holiday report during my two-week trip.

**get on sb's nerves**
[B2] to annoy someone, especially by doing something again and again

**Dictionary example:**
If we spend too much time together, we end up getting on each other's nerves.
Learner example:
Sometimes, receiving a phone call can disturb very important events in [a person's] life, but [it] also get[s] on people's nerves when you use it in a public place like a train...

get to do *sth*  
[B2] to have the chance to do something

Dictionary example:
I never got to meet her.

Learner example:
I did get to meet a musician, a singer named Anouk.

UNDERSTAND/HEAR  
[B2] [t] INFORMAL to understand or hear something

Dictionary example:
That joke that he told – did you get it?

get a grip (on yourself)  
[C1] to make an effort to control your emotions and behave more calmly

Dictionary example:
Stop panicking and get a grip on yourself!

Learner example:
The best thing to do was to talk to people who were not doing the test rather than building up my anxiety. However, I did not do this and it almost resulted in a disaster, but I got a grip on myself and just barely passed.

get on *sb*'s nerves  
[C1] to annoy someone, especially by doing something again and again

Dictionary example:
Please stop making that noise! It really gets on my nerves.

Learner example:
My neighbour is always quarrelling with his wife. It['s] getting on my nerves!

get rid of *sb*  
[C1] to make someone leave

Dictionary example:
She was useless at her job so we had to get rid of her.

Learner example:
Improving your English on your own (or a self-guide [on] how to get rid of your English teacher!)

get *sth* straight  
[C1] to make sure that you completely understand a situation

Dictionary example:
Let me get this straight – am I paying for this?
Learner example:
Next time you should try to get your facts straight.

**get your act together** **INFORMAL**
[C2] to organize your activities so that you can make progress

Dictionary example:
She's so disorganized – I wish she'd get her act together.

Learner example:
He was determined to get his act together and try to find a solution to his problem.

**get sth off your chest** **INFORMAL**
[C2] to tell someone about something that you have been worried or angry about for a long time

Dictionary example:
Tell me what's wrong – you'll feel better if you get it off your chest.

Learner example:
Chris is always caring and lends you his ear if there's something you need to get off your chest.

**get you nowhere**
[C2] If something gets you nowhere, it does not help you to succeed.

Dictionary example:
Bad manners will get you nowhere.

Learner example:
As this is a loophole in [the] law system, it's creating a conflict between house-owners and squatters and getting them nowhere.

**get sth over (and done) with**
[C2] to do something difficult or unpleasant as soon as you can so that you do not have to worry about it any more

Dictionary example:
I got all my apologies over and done with at the beginning of the meeting.

Learner example:
Not to mention that he knew that he had to get his degree over and done with before he started making serious decisions.

**get your own back (on sb)**
[C2] to do something unpleasant to someone because they have done something unpleasant to you

Dictionary example:
I got my own back by putting a frog in her bed.
Learner example:
There, Kingshaw has the opportunity to get his own back by pushing Hooper down the wall, but he doesn't dare because he is not as cruel as Hooper.

Don't get me wrong INFORMAL
[c2] used when you do not want someone to think that you do not like someone or something

Dictionary example:
Don't get me wrong, I like her, but she can be very annoying.

Learner example:
Don't get me wrong, I love my aunts, I really do, but not as houseguests.

get moving INFORMAL
[C2] to hurry

Dictionary example:
We're leaving in five minutes, so get moving!

Learner example:
"Oh, look at the time, we must get moving!"

get a move on INFORMAL
[C2] to hurry

Dictionary example:
Come on, get a move on!

Learner example:
'All the lights will be switched off in 28 minut[e]s, so I have to get a move on' I said to myself, as I started to write on a new piece of paper.

get out of hand
[C2] to become difficult to control

Dictionary example:
It was the end of term and the children were getting a little out of hand.

Learner example:
A few solutions can prevent this problem from getting out of hand.

get the hang of sth
[C2] INFORMAL to learn how to do something, especially if it is not obvious or simple

Dictionary example:
I've never used one of these before. – Don't worry, you'll soon get the hang of it.

Learner example:
It was quite hard to get the hang of it, as I didn't have any knowledge of English.

get underway
[C2] to begin
Dictionary example:
The film festival gets underway on 11th July.

get the picture INFORMAL
[C2] used to say that someone understands a situation

Dictionary example:
Oh right, I get the picture.

Learner example:
If you use a photograph though, you can be sure that everyone will get the picture (pun intended) and probably remember the person you’re talking about next time they see him.

**giant** /ˈdʒaɪ.ənt/

NOUN [C]

**IMAGINARY MAN**
[C1] an imaginary man who is much bigger and stronger than ordinary men

Dictionary example:
The story is about a friendly giant.

Learner example:
People have always seen him as a "big friendly giant", always ready to help those who are in need.

**ORGANIZATION**
[C2] a very large and important company or organization

Dictionary example:
a media/software giant

Learner example:
In less than 15 years Bill Gates has built up his own company from scratch and turned it into a computer giant.

**gift** /gɪft/

NOUN [C]

**ABILITY**
[C1] a natural ability or skill

Dictionary example:
She has a gift for design.
Learner example:
He understands the thought processes of children quite well, and has a gift for making difficult concepts understandable to youngsters, which obviously means he would be a very good supervisor.

gifted /ˈgɪftid/  
ADJECTIVE
[C1] A gifted person has a natural ability or is extremely intelligent.

Dictionary examples:
- a gifted athlete
- a school for gifted children

Learner example:
Roger Federer is a young and extremely gifted tennis player.

giggle /ˈɡɪgl/  
VERB [I]
[C2] to laugh in a nervous or silly way

Dictionary example:
She started giggling and couldn't stop.

Learner example:
Clara, a thin woman in her late fifties, giggled and her usually so flabby lips trembled as she did so.

give /gɪv/  
VERB [T] (gave, given)

give a performance/speech, etc.
[B2] to perform or speak in public

Dictionary example:
Tony gave a great speech to open the conference.

Learner example:
We would be very happy if you [could] come to our school and give a speech.

give birth
[B2] When a woman or an animal gives birth, she produces a baby from her body.
Dictionary example:
She gave birth to twins.

Learner example:
The most important person in my life is the person who gave birth to me, my mother.

give *sth a miss*

[C1] to not do an activity

Dictionary example:
I think I'll give aerobics a miss this evening.

Learner example:
For this reason, I don't encourage you to buy the Spanish version of these CDs. I think you should give it a miss. Kind regards

give way

[C1] to stop in order to allow other vehicles to go past before you drive onto a bigger road

Dictionary example:
You must give way at this junction.

Learner example:
Of course, you have to remember to give way to the pedestrians, to respect the signs and to push on the brake when you see a red light.

give *sb your word*

[C1] to promise someone something

Dictionary example:
Paolo gave me his word that he wouldn't tell anyone.

Learner example:
I give you my word that it will never happen again.

give rise to *sth*

[C2] to cause something

Dictionary example:
The bacteria live in the human body but do not give rise to any symptoms.

Learner example:
That visit gave rise to a fruitful discussion in which various opinions were voiced and here are some comments on them.

give vent to

[C2] to express strong anger or another strong feeling

Dictionary example:
He gave vent to the frustration that had been building up inside him.
Learner example:
It's a great fallacy that giving vent to our emotion will be a solution to the problem itself and will lead to anything at all.

give way to sth
[C2] to change into something else

Dictionary example:
Her excitement quickly gave way to horror.

Learner example:
This friendship gave way to love, but it was a really difficult situation, after all she was the Managing Director's daughter.

give way
[C2] If something gives way, it falls because it is not strong enough to support the weight on top of it.

Dictionary example:
Suddenly the ground gave way under me.

Learner example:
Fred's voice trailed off as he felt his legs give way beneath him.

give sb a hard time
[C2] to criticize someone and make them feel guilty about something they have done

Dictionary example:
Ever since I missed the goal, the other players have been giving me a hard time.

Learner example:
I'm not saying that I wasn't normal or anything, I just gave my family a hard time sometimes.

---

glad /glæd/ (gladder, gladdest)

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

WILLING
[B2] very willing to do something

Dictionary example:
She's always glad to help.

Learner example:
I know him personally and I'm sure he'll be very glad to help you.

be glad of sth FORMAL
[C1] to be grateful for something
**Dictionary example:**
I was glad of a few days off before going back to work.

**Learner example:**
We are glad of the changes [at] the Sports Centre even if the changes do not solve all [the] problems.

---

**glamour /ˈɡlæm.ər/**

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] the quality of being attractive, exciting and special

**Dictionary example:**
the glamour of Hollywood

**Learner example:**
The red carpet, the glamour, the glitter, the fame are things we all dream about at one point or another [in] our lives.

---

**glance /ɡlɑːnts/**

**VERB**

**glance at/over/through, etc.**

[B2] to read something quickly

**Dictionary example:**
She glanced through the newspaper.

**Learner example:**
As you know, I always like glancing at some international newspapers.

---

**NOUN [c]**

**QUICK LOOK**

[B2] a quick look

**Dictionary example:**
She had a quick glance around the restaurant but couldn’t see him.

**Learner example:**
Just have a glance at the enclosed menu.

---

**at a glance**

[C1] If you see something at a glance, you see it very quickly or immediately.

**Dictionary example:**
He could tell at a glance that something was wrong.
Learner example:
You could tell at a glance that Peter was a loner.

glare /gleər/

NOUN

LIGHT
[C2] [U] strong, bright light that hurts your eyes

Dictionary example:
I get a lot of glare from my computer screen.

Learner example:
As often as not, pressing the switch gave no result or yielded the glare of a naked bulb.

LOOK
[C2] [C] a long, angry look

Dictionary example:
She gave me an angry glare.

Learner example:
His glare [said] everything; she was the worst thing that had ever happened to the school.

VERB [I]
[C2] to look at someone in an angry way

Dictionary example:
She glared at him and stormed out of the room.

Learner example:
You open the door and "Surprise!!": [it's] your mother and father, who ha[ve] just arrived from the country to spend the weekend with you. You glare at your mother, imagining that.

glimpse /glɪmps/

NOUN [C]
[C1] when you see something or someone for a very short time

Dictionary example:
He caught/got a glimpse of her as she got into the car.

Learner example:
If you go to Canada, like I did, you will enjoy great camping in the Rockies and might even catch a glimpse of the famous bears.
**global** /ˈɡləʊ.bəl/ 

Word family:
Nouns: globalization, globe
Adjectives: global
Adverbs: globally

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] relating to the whole world

Dictionary examples:
a global disaster
the global problem of nuclear waste
the global economy

Learner example:
The improvement of electronics and global communications has made it possible to keep [in] close contact with friends all over the world.

**globalization** (also UK globalisation) /ˌɡləʊ.bə.ləˈzɪ.ʃən/ 

Word family:
Nouns: globalization, globe
Adjectives: global
Adverbs: globally

**NOUN [U]**

[C1] the process by which businesses operate in many different countries and the culture of different countries becomes more similar

Dictionary examples:
the globalization of big brands
the globalisation of fashion

Learner example:
Thanks to globalisation, fast food has arrived [in] Argentina, as almost everywhere in the world.

**globally** /ˈɡləʊ.bəl.i/ 

Word family:
Nouns: globalization, globe
Adjectives: global
Adverbs: globally

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a way that relates to the whole world
Dictionary example:
The company has to be able to compete globally.

Learner example:
Since I went to Canada, I realized we should think about environmental pollution globally.

global warming /ˌgləʊ.bəˌlɪŋ.wɔːr.mɪŋ/

NOUN [U]
[B2] a gradual increase in world temperatures caused by polluting gases

Dictionary example:
Very few people now deny that global warming is caused by humankind.

Learner example:
Also, due to global warming, sea levels might rise and [the] risk of flooding will also rise.

globe /gləʊb/

Word family:
Nouns: globalization, globe
Adjectives: global
Adverbs: globally

NOUN
the globe
[C2] the world

Dictionary example:
This event is being watched by 200 million people around the globe.

Learner example:
He has given numerous speeches around the globe, in which he always captivated the audience.

glory /ˈglɔː.ri/

NOUN [U]

PRAISE
[C1] when people praise and respect you for achieving something important

Dictionary example:
It was my idea, but she got all the glory.
Learner example:
This point of view states that it is more fulfilling for a single person to achieve a goal on [their] own, without having to share the glory with other people and that by doing it alone, one really feels that [one] has achieved something.

QUALITY
[C1] the quality of being very impressive or beautiful

Dictionary example:
The castle has been restored to its former glory.

Learner example:
Two years ago, the state, helped by the community of the island, gave birth to an ambitious plan to restore this beach to its former glory.

glow /ɡləʊ/

NOUN [NO PLURAL]

LIGHT
[C2] a soft, warm light

Dictionary example:
the warm glow of the moon

Learner example:
The sun was setting, leaving a pink glow on everything it touched and the air smelled like fresh-cut grass.

SKIN
[C2] when your face feels or appears warm and healthy

Dictionary example:
Sam’s face had lost its rosy glow.

Learner example:
After about three weeks of using this product by Morway Company, you will notice that your face looks softer and has a natural healthy glow.

VERB [i]
[C2] to produce a soft, warm light

Dictionary example:
toys which glow in the dark

Learner example:
You can safely invest in juggling equipment that glows in the dark, has flashing lights – or even that is set afire before starting to juggle with it.

[C2] to have a warm and healthy appearance
**Dictionary example:**
Her eyes were bright and her cheeks were glowing.

**Learner example:**
While the tourists were getting dressed, Ingrid, a tall middle-aged woman, checked the humidity of her armpits and that reminded her of the sentence: "Horses sweat, men perspire, women glow."

**glow with happiness/pride, etc.**
[C2] to feel very happy, proud, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
Glowing with pride, she showed me her painting.

**Learner example:**
I never use it, of course, but just knowing I possess it makes me glow with happiness.

---

**glue /gluː/**

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] a substance used to stick things together

**Dictionary example:**
Put a bit of glue on both edges and hold them together.

**Learner example:**
On the contrary, sometimes, with the help of our teachers, we had to fix them using "emergency" solutions and materials, such as sellotape and glue.

**VERB [T] (glueing, gluing, glued)**

**STICK**
[C2] to stick something to something else with glue

**Dictionary example:**
Do you think you can glue this vase back together?

**Learner example:**
That is why my father glued and nailed the back of it so nobody could ever open the frame.

---

**go /gəʊ/**

**VERB (going, went, gone)**

**SONG**
[B2] [I or T] to have a particular tune or words

**Dictionary example:**
I can't remember how his latest song goes.
TIME

[B2] [i] If time goes, it passes.

Dictionary example:
The day went very quickly.

Learner example:
But the time went so quickly and now I am in my early sixties [with] a lot of spare time.

go into detail/s

[B2] to tell or include all the facts about something

Dictionary example:
I won't go into detail over the phone, but I've been having a few health problems recently.

Learner example:
In one of his books he really goes into detail [about] how children treat other children [who] have difficulties with their "new" [language].

go red

[B2] If someone goes red, their face becomes red because they are embarrassed or angry.

Dictionary example:
He kissed her on the cheek and she went bright red.

Learner example:
When Paul saw the girl who had got blond hair and bluish eyes, his face suddenly went red.

it goes without saying

[B2] If something goes without saying, it is obvious or generally accepted.

Dictionary example:
It goes without saying that smoking is harmful to your health.

Learner example:
It goes without saying that I will participate!

go hand in hand

[C1] If two things go hand in hand, they exist together and are connected with each other.

Dictionary example:
Prosperity goes hand in hand with investment.

Learner example:
Traffic and pollution go hand in hand.

keep sb going

[C1] to provide what someone needs for a short period of time
Dictionary example:
Dinner is at eight, but I had an apple to keep me going.

Learner example:
Because of health concerns, advertisements lately show the people in Holland how important it is to have a good breakfast and that it will keep you going the whole day.

go from strength to strength
[C1] to continue to become more successful

Dictionary example:
The business is going from strength to strength.

Learner example:
To sum up, I believe that if the suggestions outlined above are put into action our magazine will go from strength to strength.

SOUND/MOVEMENT
[C2] ['i] or ['r] to make a particular sound or movement

Dictionary examples:
A cat goes 'Miaow'.
"Your dog’s behaving oddly!" – "He goes like that when he wants some food."

WORKING
[C2] [i] to work in the right way

Dictionary example:
Did you get the car going?

to go
[C2] If there is a particular amount of time to go, that time remains.

Dictionary example:
There are only two weeks of term to go.

Learner example:
Right now this example is very realistic, and as I have just been told there is only 15 min to go, my stress level, I have to admit, is too high.

go downhill
[C2] to gradually become worse

Dictionary example:
After his wife died, his health started to go downhill.

Learner example:
He had been going downhill in the last few days and so his death came as no surprise.

go overboard INFORMAL
[C2] to do something too much, or to be too excited about something
Dictionary example:
I think people go overboard with presents at Christmas.

Learner example:
While no one should restrict their eating habits to the point eating is no longer a pleasure, but rather a chore, it is important not to go overboard, completely disregarding the advice of nutrition experts.

go out of your way to do sth
[C2] to try very hard to do something pleasant for someone

Dictionary example:
He went out of his way to make us feel welcome.

go through the motions
[C2] to do something because you are expected to do it and not because you want to

Dictionary example:
These days when we go out, I feel as though he's just going through the motions.

Learner example:
She went through the motions of every-day-life without enthusiasm.

go so far as to do sth
[C2] to take the extreme action of doing something

Dictionary example:
He even went so far as to stop her using the telephone.

Learner example:
Our present course of action may go so far as to cause irrevers[i]ble damage not only to our planet but also to the people living upon [it].

go too far
[C2] to behave in a way that upsets or annoys other people

Dictionary example:
He's said some stupid things in the past, but this time he's gone too far.

Learner example:
Lucia let her speak and calmly said: "You really have gone too far this time."

go with the flow INFORMAL
[C2] to do or accept what other people are doing because it is the easiest thing to do

Dictionary example:
Just relax and go with the flow!
Learner example:
At this stage of her progress towards knowing herself better she has accepted that life is a middle and that to a certain extent one has to go with the flow.

go against the grain
[C2] If something goes against the grain, you would not normally do it because it would be unusual or morally wrong.

Dictionary example:
It goes against the grain to throw all this food away.

Learner example:
She tries to dodge George because she is afraid of admitting the fact that she loves him. It simply goes against the grain.

go through the roof
[C2] If the level of something, especially a price, goes through the roof, it increases very quickly.

Dictionary example:
The price of corn has gone through the roof recently.

Learner example:
Try extreme sports and feel your adrenaline levels going through the roof!

be still going strong
[C2] continuing to be successful or healthy after a long time

Dictionary examples:
The club was set up in 1987, and it's still going strong.
He's 93 and still going strong!

Learner example:
I am proud of him and happy that he is still going strong.

NOUN [C] (PLURAL goes)

ATTEMPT
[B2] an attempt to do something

Dictionary example:
"This jar is impossible to open." "Here, let me have a go."

make a go of sth
[C2] to try to make something succeed, usually by working hard

Dictionary example:
They're determined to make a go of their business.

touch and go
[C2] used to describe a situation that is uncertain
Dictionary example:
The doctor says it is touch and go whether Mary will recover.

Learner example:
The idea of earning a lot certainly appeals to me but it's touch and go whether the job may bring a lot of money right from the start.

god /gɒd/

NOUN [C]

SPIRIT
[B2] ! a spirit, especially a male one, that people pray to and who has control over parts of the world or nature

Dictionary example:
the ancient Greek gods and goddesses

Learner example:
It was circled by a halo of light as if some gods had blessed it.

golden /ˈɡɔʊldən/

Word family:
Nouns: gold
Adjectives: golden

ADJECTIVE

SPECIAL
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] special, successful, or giving someone an advantage

Dictionary example:
He's got a place at university which gives him a golden opportunity to do research.

Learner example:
As you know, my uncle has some friends in the music world and it was a golden opportunity when he asked me to [help] at the Tina Turner concert!

good /ɡʊd/

Word family:
Nouns: good, goodness
Adjectives: good
**ADJECTIVE (better, best)**

**it's a good thing**

_B2_ If it's a good thing that something happened, it is lucky or fortunate that it happened.

**Dictionary example:**
It's a good thing (that) we booked our tickets early.

**Learner example:**
I think it's a good thing that your parents [are going to] come, because [...] maybe it would make it easier for you to convince them to let you spend a week here during Xmas.

**Good for you!**

_B2_ used to show approval for someone's success or good luck

**Dictionary example:**
You passed your exam – good for you!

**Learner example:**
That's great news! Good for you!

**LARGE**

_C1_ used to emphasize the number, amount, quality, etc. of something

**Dictionary example:**
There's a good chance he'll pass the exam.

**Learner example:**
Your children have a good chance of getting a better education.

**be good company**

_C1_ to be a pleasant or interesting person to spend time with

**Dictionary example:**
Ann and Charles are always good company.

**Learner example:**
He is a bit narrow-minded and at first he'll drive you crazy, but once you get to know him he'll be good company.

**a good deal**

_C1_ an agreement, arrangement, or situation that benefits you

**Dictionary example:**
I think we got a really good deal on our new car.

**Learner example:**
The possibility [of] get[ting] the needed staff from our own departments is absolutely a good deal for the company.
a good 20 minutes/30 miles, etc.
[C2] not less than 20 minutes/30 miles, etc. and probably a bit more

Dictionary example:
It's a good half an hour's walk to the station from here.

Learner example:
The Arts and Social science field also has a good 21% of graduates in further study.

it's a good job
[C2] If it is a good job that something happened, it is lucky that it happened.

Dictionary example:
It's a good job that Jo was there to help you.

Learner example:
It's a good job that I didn't cry.

so far so good INFORMAL
[C2] used to say that something has gone well until now

Dictionary example:
It's the first time I've done any decorating, but so far so good.

Learner example:
So far so good, only no one told us they held this point of view before the actual christening took place.

be in good taste
[C2] to be acceptable in a way that will not upset or anger people

Dictionary example:
His speech was in good taste.

Learner example:
I therefore thought that it would be in good taste to write about two of them.

NOUN [U]

HELP
[B2] something that is an advantage or help to a person or situation

Dictionary examples:
Even a small donation can do a lot of good.
It’s hard work, but it’s for your own good.

Learner example:
Please think about this, it is for your own good.

be no good or be not any/much good
[B2] to not be useful, helpful or valuable
Dictionary examples:
Shoes are no good if they let in water.
Food aid isn’t much good until the fighting stops.

Learner example:
When [it] is raining, you get wet and that's no good to anyone.

do sb good
[B2] to be useful or helpful to someone

Dictionary example:
A holiday in the sun will do you good.

Learner example:
I think that living and studying in another country will do you good.

for good
[C1] forever

Dictionary example:
When he was 20, he left home for good.

Learner example:
He was renting this property previously, but he went back to Sri Lanka for good.

MORALLY RIGHT
[C2] what people think is morally right

Dictionary example:
Children don't always understand the difference between good and bad.

Learner example:
From a symbolic point of view, the whole book features the conflict between good and evil, between reason and primary brutal passions such as savageness and lust for blood.

do sb a/the world of good INFORMAL
[C2] to make someone feel much happier or healthier

Dictionary example:
That swim has done me a world of good.

Learner example:
I feel a year abroad would do her a world of good in letting her care for children, learn to speak English properly, and see life from different aspects.

goodness /ˈɡʊd.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: good, goodness
Adjectives: good
### NOUN

[C2] [u] the quality of being good

**Dictionary example:**
She believes in the goodness of human nature.

**Learner example:**
Soon after their marriage, Kinga gained a [reputation for] being [a] saint, for her virginity, modesty and goodness.

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### Google

/ˈɡuː.gl/

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### VERB [T]

[B2] to search for something on the Internet using the Google search engine

**Dictionary example:**
We Googled his name and found over 2000 sites.

---

### NOUN

[B2] [u] conversation or reports about other people's private lives that might or might not be true

**Dictionary examples:**
an interesting piece of gossip
Have you heard the latest gossip?

**Learner example:**
Among them are the increasingly popular reality shows and all the daily news about gossip and scandal.

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### Verb [I]

[B2] to talk about other people's private lives

**Dictionary examples:**
Stop gossiping and get on with some work!
People have started to gossip about us.

**Learner example:**
First of all, I think they should accept the fact that they are well-known and they should be observed all the time, as we are curious to know what they do and we love to gossip about others.
govern /ˈgʌvn/  

Word family:  
Nouns: government  
Verbs: govern  

VERB [I or T]  
[B2] to control and direct the public business of a country, city, group of people, etc.  

Dictionary example:  
The country is now being governed by the Labour Party.  

Learner example:  
He governed this area in medi[e]val times.  

government /ˈgʌvn.əmənt/  

Word family:  
Nouns: government  
Verbs: govern  

NOUN  
PROCESS  
[B2] [U] the method or process of governing a country  

Dictionary example:  
a new style of government  

grab /græb/  

VERB (−bb−)  
TAKE QUICKLY  
[B2] [t] to get something quickly  

Dictionary example:  
Can everyone grab a handout, please?  

Learner example:  
We grab a burger on our way to work and a milkshake on our way back home.  

grab the opportunity/chance  
[C1] to take an opportunity quickly and with enthusiasm  

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Dictionary examples:
I'd grab the opportunity to travel.
If you get the chance to meet her, you should grab it.

Learner example:
I do admit that I could be more sociable and could grab the opportunity and meet many of my neighbours.

**grab sb’s attention** INFORMAL
[C1] to attract someone’s attention

Dictionary example:
The advertisement is designed to grab people's attention.

Learner example:
We have to find the books that best grab the reader’s attention.

---

**grace** /griːs/  

Word family:
Nouns: grace  
Verbs: grace  
Adjectives: graceful

**NOUN [u]**

**MOVEMENT**
[C1] the quality of moving in a smooth, relaxed, and attractive way

Dictionary example:
She moved with grace and elegance.

Learner example:
As with the sport I mentioned before, it also has the grace and elegance of a dancer and the technique, of course, of a skater.

**POLITENESS**
[C2] the quality of being pleasantly polite

Dictionary example:
He had the grace to apologize for his mistake the next day.

**VERB [r]**
[C2] When a person or object graces a place or thing, they make it more attractive.

Dictionary example:
Her face has graced the covers of magazines across the world.

Learner example:
The cover is graced with the flower after which it is named, an enormous, virgin white magnolia.
**graceful** /ˈgreɪs.fəl/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** grace
- **Verbs:** grace
- **Adjectives:** graceful

**ADJECTIVE**

**MOVEMENT/SHAPE**

[C1] moving in a smooth, relaxed, and attractive way, or having a smooth, attractive shape

**Dictionary examples:**
- graceful movements
- a graceful neck

**Learner example:**
One of the reasons for its popularity is that Hebe was a famous singer years ago, so her fans are the audience of her show. She is graceful, talented, impartial and spontaneous.

**POLITE**

[C2] behaving in a polite and pleasant way

**Dictionary example:**
She accepted his criticism in a very graceful manner.

**Learner example:**
I believe that people who have civil and graceful manners and who refrain from being too assertive end up being more successful and powerful than those who try to exert authority at any given moment.

**grade** /greɪd/

**VERB**

**LEVEL**

[C1] to separate people or things into different levels of quality, size, importance, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
The fruit is washed and then graded by size.

**Learner example:**
Our members graded everything on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being very poor, and 5 being excellent.
**gradual /ˈgræd.jʊ.əl/**

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** gradual
**Adverbs:** gradually

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] happening slowly over a period of time

**Dictionary example:**
a gradual change/improvement

**Learner example:**
There was a gradual rise in 1992.

**gradually /ˈgræd.jə.li/**

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** gradual
**Adverbs:** gradually

**ADVERB**

[B2] slowly over a period of time or a distance

**Dictionary example:**
Gradually, she realized that he wasn't telling her the truth.

**Learner example:**
Books will gradually disappear, and instead we will read all the things we want [o]n our computer.

**graduate**

**NOUN [c] /ˈgrædʒ.u.ət/**

[B2] a person who has a first degree from a university or college

**Dictionary example:**
a science graduate

**Learner example:**
He is a graduate in Ancient History and he has done post-graduate studies in Archaeology.

**VERB /ˈgrædʒ.u.eɪt/**

[B2] [t] to complete a first university degree successfully

**Dictionary examples:**
Tom has just graduated with first-class honours in psychology.
He graduated from Oxford University last year.
Learner example:
I graduated from university last year, and I am studying English now.

**grain /ɡreɪn/**

**NOUN**

**SEED**

[C2] a seed or seeds from types of grass which are eaten as food

**Dictionary example:**
grains of wheat/rice

**Learner example:**
One [solution] is [to] invent some kind of medicine, little pieces like a grain of rice, which feed a person, i.e. by just eating one piece, the person won't need to eat [any]thing else [for] the rest of the day.

**PIECE**

[C2] a very small piece of something

**Dictionary example:**
a grain of sand/sugar

**Learner example:**
She smiled again, absent-minded[ly], and wiped away a grain of dust from the lid of the piano.

**QUALITY**

[C2] a very small amount of a quality

**Dictionary example:**
There isn't a grain of truth in her story.

**Learner example:**
In my humble opinion, both these views contain a grain of truth, and at the same time they are fundamentally wrong.

**go against the grain**

[C2] If something goes against the grain, you would not normally do it because it would be unusual or morally wrong.

**Dictionary example:**
It goes against the grain to throw all this food away.

**Learner example:**
She tries to dodge George because she is afraid of admitting the fact that she loves him. It simply goes against the grain.
grammatical /ˈgræˌmæt.ɪkl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: grammar  
Adjectives: grammatical

ADJECTIVE  
[C2] relating to grammar, or obeying the rules of grammar  

Dictionary examples:  
grammatical rules  
a grammatical sentence

Learner example:  
It was strange, because in the text there were some grammatical errors.

grand /grænd/  

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] very large and special  

Dictionary examples:  
a grand hotel  
the Grand Canal

Learner example:  
Do you want to live in a grand mansion, an expensive flat or even a castle?

grant /ɡrɑːnt/  

VERB  
GIVE  
[B2] [T] FORMAL to give or allow someone something, usually in an official way  

Dictionary example:  
He was granted asylum.

Learner example:  
He came to the USA in 1990 and was granted a permanent resident status.

take sb/sth for granted  
[B2] to not show that you are grateful for someone or something, and forget that you are lucky to have them
Dictionary example:
Most of us take our freedom for granted.

Learner example:
So don’t take the telephone for granted, but keep in mind that our modern way of life is mainly
due to its invention.

take it for granted
[B2] to believe that something is true without checking or thinking about it

Dictionary example:
I took it for granted that we’d be invited to the wedding.

Learner example:
I have taken it for granted that you will arrive for dinner.

---

graph /grɑːf/

Word family:
Nouns: graph, graphics

NOUN [C]
[B2] a picture with measurements marked on it as lines or curves, used to compare
different things or show the development of something

Dictionary example:
This graph shows how crime has varied in relationship to unemployment over the last 20 years.

Learner example:
The graph shows the amount of carbon dioxide produced from a range of sources in the UK from

---
grasp /graːsp/

VERB [T]
HOLD
[C1] to take hold of something or someone firmly

Dictionary example:
He grasped my hand enthusiastically.

Learner example:
It would take my heart away to be able to grasp his wrinkled hand and give him a kiss on the
cheek of his crimson face, as I would always do when visiting him.

UNDERSTAND
[C1] to understand something

---

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Dictionary example:
I find these mathematical problems difficult to grasp.

Learner example:
Children born into wealth cannot grasp the importance of money, and when they finally leave the shelter of their parents’ home, they are completely unable to restrict their spending and save money.

**grasp the nettle**
[C2] to take action immediately in order to deal with an unpleasant situation

Dictionary example:
I’ve been putting off tackling the problem for too long and I think it’s time to grasp the nettle.

Learner example:
Now we are going to grasp the nettle and we are not going to give up easily.

**NOUN [NO PLURAL]**

**UNDERSTAND**
[C2] when you understand something

Dictionary example:
He has a good grasp of English grammar.

Learner example:
Computers are an essential part of our modern lives and I am sure I would need to have a good grasp of the Microsoft tools to progress in my career.

**HOLD**
[C2] when you hold onto someone or something

Dictionary example:
I tried to pull him out but he slipped from my grasp.

**ACHIEVE**
[C2] the ability to obtain or achieve something

Dictionary example:
Victory is within our grasp.

Learner example:
Although immortality is still beyond our grasp, prolonged life is a well-known fact.

**grave** /ɡreɪv/  

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] a place in the ground where a dead person is buried
**Dictionary example:**
an unmarked grave

**Learner example:**
After a couple of hours they brought her from the hospital and the next day they buried her near her mother's grave.

---

**great /greɪt/**

**Word family:**

<table>
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<th>Nouns</th>
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<td>greatly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADJECTIVE**

**IMPORTANT**

[B2] important or famous

**Dictionary examples:**
This is one of Rembrandt's greatest paintings.
He's probably the greatest actor alive today.

**Learner example:**
Ginny was a keen collector of rare paintings [by] great artists.

**great big/long, etc. INFORMAL**

[B2] very big/ long, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
I gave her a great big hug.

**Learner example:**
I will never forget when I was walking on the beach and all of a sudden this great big dog appears from nowhere running after me.

**a great deal**

[B2] a lot

**Dictionary examples:**
She spends a great deal of her time in Glasgow.
A great deal of effort has gone into making the software reliable.
They still need a great deal more money to finish the project.

**Learner example:**
There will be lots of events which you could see and take a great deal of pictures [of].
greatly /ˈɡreɪt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: greatness
Adjectives: great
Adverbs: greatly

ADVERB
[B2] very much

Dictionary examples:
The higher profits were the result of greatly reduced costs.
The number of birds on the island has greatly increased in recent years.
Her piano playing has greatly improved/has improved greatly.

Learner example:
I recently went to the music festival and I greatly enjoyed it.

greatness /ˈɡreɪt.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: greatness
Adjectives: great
Adverbs: greatly

NOUN [u]
[B2] skill and importance

Dictionary example:
Her greatness as a writer is unquestioned.

Learner example:
So, getting to be r[i]ch and famous is more related to achieving greatness in your own field and not necessarily gaining money and becoming the richest person in the world.

greed /ɡriːd/

Word family:
Nouns: greed
Adjectives: greedy

NOUN [u]
[C1] when you want a lot more food, money, etc., than you need

Dictionary example:
We were shocked by their greed.
Learner example:
I hate to accept that greed and ambition are the trademarks of our society, but it seems clear to me now.

**greedy** /ˈɡriː.di/

Word family:
Nouns: greed
Adjectives: greedy

ADJECTIVE
[B2] wanting a lot more food, money, etc. than you need

Dictionary example:
greedy, selfish people

Learner example:
He was a greedy and cruel man.

**green** /ˈɡriːn/

ADJECTIVE

ENVIRONMENT
[B2] relating to nature and protecting the environment

Dictionary examples:
green issues
the Green Party

Learner example:
There is the gover[n]ment party, "Green party", especially [in] German[y].

**(be) green with envy**
[C2] to wish very much that you had something that another person has

Dictionary example:
Sam's got a job in the south of France and we're all green with envy!

Learner example:
The more successful players’ salary makes the others green with envy.
**greet /griːt/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** greeting
- **Verbs:** greet

**VERB [T]**

**REACT**

[C2] to react to something in a particular way

**Dictionary example:**
His story was greeted with shrieks of laughter.

**Learner example:**
The return of the musician, who [was] once famous in the world, was greeted with joy.

**grey /greɪ/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**WEATHER**

[B2] cloudy and not bright

**Dictionary example:**
a cold, grey morning

**Learner example:**
Although we are in spring, yesterday was a grey day with clouds and rain.

**BORING**

[C1] not interesting or attractive

**Dictionary example:**
Life was grey and tedious.

**Learner example:**
If you join one of [the] Excel Academy language courses it will not be for the food— it was very grey and dull.

**grief /griːf/**

**NOUN [U]**

**SADNESS**

[B2] great sadness, especially caused by someone's death
Dictionary example:
Newspapers should not intrude on people's private grief.

Learner example:
However, my grief was still fresh and raw then.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>grill /grɪl/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> grill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong> grilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN [C]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OVER FIRE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C1] a flat, metal structure used to cook food over a fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He placed a grill over the coals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First you have to light the fire, then you have to put a grill above it and finally you put the meat on the grill, but it is not so easy as it looks, because you have to know when the meat is done and you have to choose the right meat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>grim /grɪm/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE (grimmer, grimmest)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BAD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] worrying and bad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary examples:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grim news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The future looks grim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A person should realise that no matter how grim the future seems to be there is always light at the end of the tunnel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SERIOUS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] sad and serious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a grim expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They gaped at it with surprise, but slowly the grim faces were replaced with smiles and laughter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNPLEASANT
[C2] A grim place is ugly and unpleasant.

Dictionary example:
grim industrial regions

Learner example:
This was a particularly gloomy and grim place.

grin /grɪn/

VERB [i] (grinning, grinned)

SMILE
[C2] to smile a big smile

Dictionary example:
He grinned at me from the doorway.

Learner example:
He stood up, approached me in his once corduroy trousers, grinned and poked his tongue out at me.

grin and bear it
[C2] to accept an unpleasant or difficult situation because there is nothing you can do to improve it

Dictionary example:
I hate my job, but I'm just going to have to grin and bear it for a while.

Learner example:
As I couldn't simply get up and go away, I just had to grin and bear it for a little while longer.

NOUN [c]
[C2] a big smile

Dictionary example:
She had a big grin on her face.

Learner example:
No sooner had he entered the restaurant than he was great ed with broad grins and friendly hugs.

grip /grɪp/

Word family:
Nouns: grip
Verbs: grip
Adjectives: gripping
VERB  [t]  (−pp−)

HOLD
[B2] to hold something very tightly

Dictionary example:
The baby gripped my finger with her tiny hand.

Learner example:
I gripped the steering wheel, fixed my eyes firmly on the road, and bravely drove up to Scotland.

EMOTION
[C2] When an emotion grips you, you feel it very strongly.

Dictionary example:
He was gripped by fear.

Learner example:
But when she found out, a cold feeling of shock gripped her.

INTEREST
[C2] to keep someone's attention completely

Dictionary example:
This trial has gripped the whole nation.

Learner example:
I was gazing at the stage and was completely gripped by the music.

NOUN  [NO PLURAL]

HOLD
[B2] when you hold something tightly

Dictionary example:
She tightened her grip on my arm.

Learner example:
Then suddenly I lost my grip on the papers and they all dropped to the floor and landed in a great heap.

get a grip (on yourself)
[C1] to make an effort to control your emotions and behave more calmly

Dictionary example:
Stop panicking and get a grip on yourself!

Learner example:
The best thing to do was to talk to people who were not doing the test rather than building up my anxiety. However, I did not do this and it almost resulted in a disaster, but I got a grip on myself and just barely passed.
**come/get to grips with sth**
[C2] to understand and deal with a problem or situation

**Dictionary example:**
It's a difficult subject to get to grips with.

**Learner example:**
As a result, they are daily faced with tight schedules and they have to come to grips with the demanding work they have to prepare for school.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>gripping</strong></th>
<th>ˈgrip.ɪŋ/</th>
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</table>

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** grip
**Verbs:** grip
**Adjectives:** gripping

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] If something is gripping, it is so interesting that it holds your attention completely.

**Dictionary example:**
a gripping story

**Learner example:**
'I know why the caged bird sings' is the most gripping read I have ever read.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>groan</strong></th>
<th>ˈgroʊn/</th>
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</table>

**VERB [i]**
[C2] to make a long, low sound such as when expressing pain, unhappiness, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
He collapsed, groaning with pain.

**Learner example:**
He was breathing but he was unconscious; he moaned and groaned, but he did not have any obvious signs of injuries.

**NOUN [c]**
[C2] a long, low sound such as one expressing pain, unhappiness, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
I could hear his groans from behind the door.

**Learner example:**
Afterwards, with a wild groan, he dropped down to the ground.
**gross** /grəʊs/

**ADJECTIVE**

**TOTAL**
[C1] A gross amount of money has not had taxes or other costs taken from it.

**Dictionary example:**
gross earnings/profit

**Learner example:**
Considering that our business is booming, we suggest invest[ing] a certain amount of money in the above-mentioned technical devices in order to achieve the financial target, which is to increase our gross profit by 10%.

**SERIOUS**
[C1] very serious or unacceptable

**Dictionary example:**
gross misconduct

**Learner example:**
Secondly, in the second paragraph, two gross mistakes were made.

**ground** /graʊnd/

**NOUN**

**SOIL**
[B2] [u] the soil in an area

**Dictionary examples:**
soft/stony ground
The ground was frozen hard and was impossible to dig.

**Learner example:**
Winds sweep the grey granite coast line letting survive [a] few rare species of plants which are adapted to the dry and salty ground.

**gain/lose ground**
[C1] to become more/less popular and accepted

**Dictionary example:**
The idea is gradually gaining ground.

**Learner example:**
Lately, Italian food is gaining ground in Slovenia.
stand your ground
[C2] to refuse to change your opinion or move your position despite attempts to make you

Dictionary example:
They tried to make me accept a lower wage, but I stood my ground.

Learner example:
She said she would stand her ground. In fact, she hoped that after the first flush of infatuation was over, Francis would come [to] long for his former love.

break new ground
[C2] to do something that is different to anything that has been done before

Dictionary example:
Their research is really breaking new ground.

Learner example:
Paul decided to break new ground in music no matter how long it took.

find common ground
[C2] to find shared beliefs, interests or ideas

Dictionary example:
It's difficult for me to find any common ground with my dad.

Learner example:
The bottom line is we have to find some common ground and some balance between development and nature...

grounds /ɡraʊndz/ 

NOUN [PLURAL]

on the grounds of/that
[C1] because of a particular reason

Dictionary examples:
You cannot discriminate on the grounds of religion.
I refused on the grounds that it was too risky.

Learner example:
I am convinced that it is better than Southside College on the grounds that a great mass of students are satisfied.

REASON
[C2] a reason, cause or argument

Dictionary example:
He resigned on medical grounds.
Learner example:
I would like to mention some of the events in the novel which prove Stevens’s loyalty and at the same time make him seem irritating especially out of a modern point of view: the dismissal of the two Jewish maids on purely racial grounds.

LAND

[C2] the land around and belonging to a particular building or organization

Dictionary example:
We strolled around the hospital grounds.

Learner example:
The visitors feel molested, since they can either not visit the famous sights without being asked for money or they are even advised not to leave the hotel grounds in order not to be robbed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>group /gruːp/</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VERB [T]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C1] to form a group or put people or things into a group or groups</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Dictionary example:
The children are grouped according to their ability.

Learner example:
I would like to suggest that we should be grouped according to the level of our English proficiency on the first day of the semester.

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<th>grow /ɡrəʊ/</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nouns: growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbs: grow</td>
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<td>Adjectives: growing</td>
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</table>

VERB (grew, grown)

grow tired/old/calm, etc.
[B2] to gradually become tired/old/calm, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Our bodies change as we grow older.
The music was growing louder and louder.

Learner example:
They went to the field and, relaxing on [the] grass, spoke about their life without each other. Soft blue evening came and it was growing dark.
growing /ˈgrəʊ.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: growth
Verbs: grow
Adjectives: growing

ADJECTIVE
[B2] increasing in size or quantity

Dictionary example:
There is a growing awareness of the seriousness of this disease.

Learner example:
All my family, friends, [and] neighbours [were] first full of pride and expectations, then with slowly growing disbelief and disappointment.

grown-up

NOUN [C] /ˈgrəʊn.ʌp/
[B2] an adult, used especially when talking to children

Dictionary example:
Ask a grown-up to cut the shape out for you.

Learner example:
If I were a grown-up I would like to have a big dog.

ADJECTIVE /ˌgrəʊnˈʌp/
[B2] If you say that someone is grown-up, you mean that they are an adult or that they behave in a responsible way.

Dictionary example:
She has two grown-up children who work in the family business.

Learner example:
Now, as a grown-up person, I am trying to evaluate such [an] upbringing objectively.

growth /grəʊθ/

Word family:
Nouns: growth
Verbs: grow
Adjectives: growing

NOUN [U NO PLURAL]
[B2] when something grows, increases or develops
Dictionary examples:
A balanced diet is essential for healthy growth.
population growth

Learner example:
The huge growth of technology has brought lots of good aspects to my life, like the facility to be informed about everything that is happening around the world.

grumpy  /ˈgrʌm.pi/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] easily annoyed and often complaining

Dictionary example:
a grumpy old man

Learner example:
Secondly, our coach driver was a grumpy, unpleasant man who was not even polite enough to answer our questions.

guarantee  /ˌgær.əˈnɪti:/

VERB [T]
[B2] to promise or make sure that something is true or will happen

Dictionary examples:
Every child is guaranteed a place at a local school.
They guarantee that it will arrive on time.

Learner example:
I can guarantee you won't be disappointed if you let me do the job.

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a written promise made by a company to repair one of its products or give you a new one if it has a fault

Dictionary examples:
a money-back guarantee
I’m afraid this camera is no longer under guarantee.

Learner example:
And you couldn’t [take] it back because it is not under guarantee.

promise
[C2] a promise that something will be done or will happen
Dictionary example:
There's **no** guarantee that it actually works.

Learner example:
They are the ones who are hit most by any economic deterioration or crisis, and there is **no** guarantee that they will not end up living in the streets.

---

**guard** /gɑːd/

**NOUN**

catch *sb* off guard
[C2] to surprise someone by doing something when they are not ready to deal with it

Dictionary example:
The journalist caught him off guard and he admitted to lying.

Learner example:
It caught me off guard. This grotesque image shattered the comfort of a languid Sunday afternoon and for a few seconds hurled me into a world of pain.

be on (your) guard
[C2] to be ready to deal with something difficult that might happen

Dictionary example:
Companies were warned to be on their guard for suspicious packages.

Learner example:
However, we should be on guard, so as not to let the things escape our control.

let your guard down
[C2] to relax when you should be careful or ready to deal with something

Dictionary example:
He's worried that if he lets his guard down that his staff will start to become lazy.

Learner example:
That of course will go against anything Stevens has ever done and he never lets his guard down.

**VERB** [T]

**PROTECT**
[B2] to protect someone or something from being attacked or stolen

Dictionary example:
Soldiers guard the main doors of the embassy.
Learner example:
I guess it was that thrill that actually made me anxious to know what really was going on inside the dodgy-looking old house guarded by a man with an unfriendly hound.

**WATCH**

[B2] to watch someone and make certain they do not escape from a place

**Dictionary example:**
Five prison officers guarded the prisoners.

**Learner example:**
No one was guarding him.

guess /ges/

**VERB [I or T]**

I guess so/not

[B2] used when you agree/disagree but are not completely certain about something

**Dictionary example:**
"So they're still living in the same house?" "I guess so."

**NOUN [C]**

an educated guess

[C2] a guess that is probably correct because you have enough knowledge about something

**Dictionary example:**
I know you don't have the exact figures with you, but make an educated guess.

**Learner example:**
If we make an educated guess, we will probably suppose that this tendency will continue [for] the next few years and that there will be a time when we won't be able to do anything without medicines.

guest /gest/

**NOUN [C]**

TV

[B2] a person, such as an entertainer, who has been invited to appear on a television or radio programme or in a performance

**Dictionary example:**
Our special guest on the programme tonight is Robert de Niro.
Learner example:
Of course a bear shouldn't be a guest on a TV show, it's not in his nature.

guidance  /ˈgai.dəntz/

Word family:
Nouns: guidance, guide
Verbs: guide

NOUN [U]
[B2] help or advice

Dictionary example:
careers guidance

Learner example:
I dream of being Lord Krishna's devotee but I need professional guidance.

guideline  /ˈgaid.lain/

NOUN [C USUALLY PLURAL]
[C1] advice about how to do something

Dictionary examples:
government guidelines
The EU has issued guidelines on appropriate levels of pay.

Learner example:
To avoid being injured, you must follow all the guidelines provided by your employer.

guilt  /ɡɪlt/

Word family:
Nouns: guilt
Adjectives: guilty

NOUN [U]

FEELING
[B2] a feeling of shame or unhappiness when you have done something wrong

Dictionary example:
He suffered such feelings of guilt over leaving his children.
Learner example:
Her brother had hesitated before telling her the truth, but he proved that he really trusted his sister by confessing his guilt to her.

ILLEGAL
[B2] the fact of having committed a crime

Dictionary example:
Both suspects admitted their guilt to the police.

guilty /ˈɡɪlti/

Word family:
Nouns: guilt
Adjectives: guilty

ADJECTIVE

RESPONSIBLE
[B2] responsible for breaking a law

Dictionary examples:
The jury found her guilty.
The jury has to decide whether a person is guilty or innocent of a crime.

Learner example:
After the trial, where the jury found him guilty, he was sent to prison for a long time.

gulf /ɡʌlf/

NOUN [c]
[C2] an important difference between the opinions or situations of two groups of people

Dictionary example:
There is a growing gulf between the rich and the poor.

Learner example:
While Mrs Kingshaw simplifies and trivialises her son’s fears, she increases the gulf between them.
**gum /gʌm/**

**NOUN**

**MOUTH**
[B2] [c] the hard, pink part inside your mouth that your teeth grow out of

**Dictionary example:**
Protect your teeth and gums by visiting your dentist regularly.

---

**guts /gʌts/**

**NOUN [PLURAL] INFORMAL**

**BRAVERY**
[B2] the bravery and determination that is needed to do something difficult or unpleasant

**Dictionary examples:**
It took guts to stand up and tell the boss how she felt.
I didn't think he would have the guts to quite that awful job.

**Learner example:**
They did not expect that the people [in] this vicinity would actually have the guts to retaliate!

**ORGANS**
[C2] the organs inside a person's or animal's body

**Dictionary example:**
Its guts were spilled all over the road.

**Learner example:**
The walls were covered in blood and their guts were spilled all over the place.

---

**gymnastic /dʒɪmˈnæst.ɪk/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** gym, gymnastics

**Adjectives:** gymnastic

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**
[B2] involving gymnastics

**Dictionary example:**
a gymnastic display
Learner example:
My friend like[s] to go swimming every morning. I prefer to [do] gymnastic exercises in a separate room every day.
**Habit**  
/ˈhæb.ɪt/  

**NOUN [C or U]**

**BAD ACTIVITY**

[B2] something that you often do that is bad for you or is annoying

**Dictionary examples:**
He has some really annoying/nasty habits.
I was taught to drive by my boyfriend and I'm afraid I've picked up some of his bad habits.

**Learner example:**
With more free time and more money to spend than ever, shopping is a great activity, but when this creates bad habits [such] as overspending, [it] could lead to serious problems.

**Habitat**  
/ˈhæb.ɪ.tæt/  

**NOUN [C]**

[C1] the natural environment of an animal or plant

**Dictionary example:**
We want to see lions in their natural habitat.

**Learner example:**
These snakes and wild cats are able to live in the wild, as the forests in Denmark are like their natural habitat.

**Hail**  
/heɪl/  

**NOUN [U]**

[C2] small hard balls of ice which fall from the sky like rain

**Dictionary example:**
Hail was drumming against the windows.

**Learner example:**
In the past, a very cold winter and hail would destroy the crops and kill hundreds of families; and, moreover, people had little protection against the attacks of wild animals.
VERB

CALL
[C2] to call or wave to someone to get their attention

Dictionary example:
She stepped into the road and hailed a taxi.

Learner example:
If you see a car or a bus or some other vehicle, just hail them and ask for help.

ICE
[C2] If it hails, small, hard pieces of frozen rain fall from the sky.

Dictionary example:
It was hailing.

hair /heə/  

NOUN

SINGLE PIECE
[B2] [c] one of the thin thread–like parts that grow on a person's or animal's skin

Dictionary examples:
He's starting to get a few grey hairs now.
My black skirt was covered in cat hairs.

Learner example:
Then he appeared: a [fat], middle–aged man with only a few hairs on his head.

let your hair down INFORMAL
[C2] to relax and enjoy yourself

Dictionary example:
I'd love to see Clare let her hair down for once.

Learner example:
Holidays indeed, represent the perfect and fundamental escapism from everyday life: we are free to let our hair down and savour the pure taste of idleness.

half /hɑːf/  

NOUN; PRONOUN; DETERMINER (PLURAL halves)

A LOT
[B2] INFORMAL a lot
Dictionary examples:
She invited a lot of people to the party but half of them didn’t turn up.
I don’t even know where she is half (of) the time.

Learner example:
First of all, if [the] computer hadn’t been invented, I wouldn’t spend half of the day in front of it!

not half as good/bad/exciting, etc.
[B2] INFORMAL to be much less good/bad/exciting, etc. than something else

Dictionary example:
Her new book’s not half as good as the last one.

Learner example:
Probably they wouldn’t be half as famous as they are without press photographers, journalist[s], etc.

hammer /ˈhæm.ər/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a tool with a heavy, metal part at the top that you use to hit nails into something

Dictionary example:
You will need a hammer and some nails.

Learner example:
I had got a hammer to break the window.

hand /hænd/

Word family:
Nouns: hand, handful

NOUN [c]

on the one hand ... on the other hand
[B2] used when you are comparing two different ideas or opinions

Dictionary example:
On the one hand, computer games develop many skills, but on the other, they mean kids don’t get enough exercise.

Learner example:
On the one hand, I know from my experience that it’s much easier in life if you know more about everything, but on the other hand, I’d say that if someone [had given] me a chance (when I was kid) to study what I enjoy[ed], probably I’d have more possibility to develop my skills.
hand in hand
[B2] holding each other's hand

Dictionary example:
The young couple walked hand in hand by the lake.

Learner example:
Hand in hand they got off the train and she felt that her decision to leave was the best decision she had ever [made] in her life.

go hand in hand
[C1] If two things go hand in hand, they exist together and are connected with each other.

Dictionary example:
Prosperity goes hand in hand with investment.

Learner example:
Traffic and pollution go hand in hand.

at hand
[C1] near in time or space

Dictionary example:
Teachers are always close at hand to give help to any child who needs it.

Learner example:
I haven't had any lectures in English, but now and then there are lectures in English at the University so you need to understand the spoken language with no dictionary at hand.

be in sb's hands
[C1] to be in someone's control or care

Dictionary example:
The matter is now in the hands of my solicitor.

Learner example:
If we [do] not hear from you within 10 days we shall be obliged to put the matter in the hands of our solicitors which is not what we desire.

with your bare hands
[C2] without using a weapon or tool

Dictionary example:
He strangled the dog with his bare hands.

Learner example:
I learned how to milk a cow, with my bare hands.

on hand or to hand
[C2] near to someone or something, and ready to help or be used when necessary
Dictionary example:
Extra supplies will be on hand, should they be needed.

Learner example:
From their point of view, they can always have you on hand whenever they need help, which is the most important part in their formative years.

at the hands of sb
[C2] If you suffer at the hands of someone, they hurt you or treat you badly.

Dictionary example:
She suffered terribly at the hands of her classmates.

Learner example:
She felt abandoned and the loss of Mark’s friends at the hands of their old nemesis in the local election had left him with fewer activities for the municipality.

get/lay your hands on sth
[C2] to find something

Dictionary example:
Do you know where I can lay my hands on a pair of scissors?

Learner example:
And as long as we remain unable to distinguish between needs and desires, amassing material possessions to gratify our fleeting caprices or alleviate our frustrations, we are bound to be trapped in the illusion that only by laying our hands on the desired goods can we obtain happiness and peace of mind.

in hand
[C2] being worked on or dealt with now

Dictionary example:
Despite the pressures we are determined to get on with the job in hand.

Learner example:
Miss Kenton keeps asking Stevens whether everything is in hand and whether her help is required.

get/gain the upper hand
[C2] to get into a stronger position than someone else so that you are controlling a situation

Dictionary example:
Government troops are gradually gaining the upper hand over the rebels.

Learner example:
He knew that Hooper had got the upper hand and that there was no escape.

give out of hand
[C2] to become difficult to control

Dictionary example:
It was the end of term and the children were getting a little out of hand.
Learner example:
A few solutions can prevent this problem from getting out of hand.

**a free hand**
[C2] permission to make your own decisions about how you want to do something

Dictionary example:
The students were given a free hand as far as designing their product was concerned.

Learner example:
But unlike my parents, I wouldn’t give my children a free hand in solving their problems.

**have your hands full**
[C2] to be very busy

Dictionary example:
Shelley has her hands full with three kids under 5.

Learner example:
This very fact made my father work as a slave, as he was the only breadwinner at home, my mother having her hands full with us four.

**take the law into your own hands**
[C2] to do something illegal in order to punish someone because you know that the law will not punish that person

Dictionary example:
The police did nothing about the thefts, so they took the law into their own hands.

Learner example:
Therefore, locals are scared to death, leading to their taking the law into their own hands.

**VERB [T]**

**you have to hand it to sb** INFORMAL
[C2] used when you want to show that you admire someone

Dictionary example:
You have to hand it to Mick, he’s done a good job on that kitchen.

Learner example:
She had saved the business, and of course everybody knew it. Begrudgingly they’d had to hand it to her.

**handful** /ˈhænd.fʊl/

Word family:
**Nouns:** hand, handful
a handful of
[B2] a small number of people or things

Dictionary example:
Only a handful of people came to the meeting.

Learner example:
First of all, thank you for having invited me to this meeting on a matter which many people pretend to be expert [at] but [which], in fact, is deeply known by [only] a handful of scholars.

handle /ˈhæn.dəl/

VERB [T]
TOUCH
[C2] to touch, hold, or pick up something

Dictionary example:
You must wash your hands before handling food.

Learner example:
In India, people tend to handle food with their hands, I have been told most people eat without cutlery.

NOUN [C]
[B2] the part of something that you use to hold it or open it

Dictionary examples:
a door handle
I can't pick the kettle up – the handle's too hot.
She turned the handle and slowly opened the door.

Learner example:
I saw my chair, my carpet... and my door handle!...

handout /ˈhænd.aʊt/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a copy of a document that is given to all the people in a class or meeting

Dictionary example:
On page two of your handout you will find a list of the books that I have referred to during the lecture.
Learner example:
During our course, I made [an] effort to follow the lectures, [and,] for instance, to check the unknown vocab[ul]ar[y] which appeared in handouts.

**handsome** /ˈhæn.səm/

**ADJECTIVE**

*a handsome profit/sum, etc.*

[C2] a large amount of money

**Dictionary example:**
They made a handsome profit on the sale of their house.

**Learner example:**
Secondly, from an economic stand–point, it is generally believed that international sports events only serve as a means for TV companies to monopolise entertainment while turning a handsome profit.

**handy** /ˈhæn.di/

**ADJECTIVE**

*USEFUL*

[C2] useful or easy to use

**Dictionary example:**
a handy container/tool

**Learner example:**
Such a possession may be something they use all the time, like a fountain pen for a writer, or a handy camera for a photographer, and they have become "dependent" on them.

**come in handy** INFORMAL

[C2] to be useful at some time in the future

**Dictionary example:**
Don't throw those jars away – they might come in handy.

**Learner example:**
There's a washer and a dryer in the basement. I'm sure they'll come in handy with your new bundle of joy and the rest of your lovely bunch.

**NEAR**

[C2] near to a place
**Dictionary example:**
It's a nice house and it's handy for the station.

**Learner example:**
Moreover, Suita is handy for shopping and leisure, which also makes our town attractive.

---

**hang  /hæŋ/**

**VERB**

**KILL**

[B2] I [ŋ] (hanged or hung, hanged or hung) to kill someone by dropping them with a rope tied around their neck, or to die in this way

**Dictionary examples:**
He was found guilty and hanged later that year.
The woman tried to hang herself with a sheet.

**Learner example:**
Their childhood was rather unhappy because their father was convicted of murder and hanged.

**IN AIR**

[C2] [ŋ] to stay in the air for a long time

**Dictionary example:**
Thick fog hung over the town.

**Learner example:**
The smog hangs over the cities like a deadly cloud, resulting in many health problems like pulmonary diseases and cancer.

**NOUN**

**get the hang of sth**

[C2] informal to learn how to do something, especially if it is not obvious or simple

**Dictionary example:**
I've never used one of these before. – Don't worry, you'll soon get the hang of it.

**Learner example:**
It was quite hard to get the hang of it, as I didn't have any knowledge of English.
happen /ˈhæp.ən/

VERB [v]

happen to do *sth*  
[C1] to do something by chance

Dictionary examples:
If you happen to see Peter, say "hi" for me.
You don't happen to know her phone number, do you?

Learner example:
I am certainly more confident and can understand whatever I happen to read in English, which is of course of the utmost importance for my work in this company.

as it happens  
[C1] something that you say in order to introduce a surprising fact

Dictionary example:
As it happens, her birthday is the day after mine.

Learner example:
As it happens, I am currently looking for a computer course for myself and I would like to join one of your courses.

happily /ˈhæp.ə.li/

Word family:
Nouns: happiness, unhappiness
Adjectives: happy, unhappy
Adverbs: happily

ADVERB

WILLING  
[B2] in a way that is very willing

Dictionary example:
I'd happily offer to help him if I thought it would make any difference.

Learner example:
I think young people would happily accept it.

LUCKY  
[C1] having a good or lucky result

Dictionary example:
Happily, the operation was a complete success.
**Learner example:**
Happily, I had met a friend who could take me to school!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>harassment</th>
<th>/ˈhær.əs.mənt/</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOUN [U]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C1] behaviour that annoys or upsets someone</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Dictionary example:**
sexual harassment

**Learner example:**
However, they may be underpaid in comparison to men carrying out the same tasks, are seldom promoted – although they may be better qualified – and sometimes have to endure sexual harassment by their bosses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>hard</th>
<th>/hɑːd/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADJECTIVE</td>
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</table>

**be hard on sb**
[B2] to criticize someone too much, or to treat them unfairly

**Dictionary example:**
Don't be too hard on him – he's new to the job.

**Learner example:**
That's why I was a little hard on you at first.

**NOT KIND**
[B2] not gentle or kind

**Dictionary example:**
She had a cold, hard look in her eyes.

**Learner example:**
To conclude, I'd like to apologise for being maybe a "bit too nasty" to you, but these "hard words", were due only to my hurt feelings!

**UNPLEASANT**
[C1] full of problems and difficult to deal with

**Dictionary examples:**
My grandparents had a very hard life.
The past few months must've been really hard for you.
Learner example:
It was a really hard time for all of us, but it passed and, I hope, will never come again.

do/learn sth the hard way
[C2] to do or learn something by experiencing a lot of problems or difficulty

Dictionary example:
I learned the hard way that training every single day is not the best way to get fit.

Learner example:
If you don't know the past, you're liable to live through it again as instead of deriving the lessons from someone else's experiences, you'll have to learn them the hard way, by trial and error.

be hard on sb
[C2] to make someone unhappy by causing them problems

Dictionary example:
Our divorce has been particularly hard on the children.

Learner example:
Also it was hard on our family only seeing my father late at night being tired or for a weekend, if he was not on a business-trip.

give sb a hard time
[C2] to criticize someone and make them feel guilty about something they have done

Dictionary example:
Ever since I missed the goal, the other players have been giving me a hard time.

Learner example:
I'm not saying that I wasn't normal or anything, I just gave my family a hard time sometimes.

hard drive /ˈhɑːdˌdraɪv/ (also hard disk)

NOUN [c]
[B2] the part inside a computer that is not removed and that stores very large amounts of information

Dictionary example:
A virus damaged my hard drive.

Learner example:
As you know, computer prices are getting lower every day and technology is growing so fast so I thought that if I waited more and began saving money, I could buy a new computer with new stuff (better chip, hard drive etc.) in six months time.
hardly /ˈhɑːd.li/

**ADVERB**

**CERTAINLY NOT**

[B2] certainly not

Dictionary examples:
You can hardly expect a pay rise when you've only been working for the company for two weeks! Well don't be angry with me – it's hardly my fault that it's raining!

Learner example:
And then, although you [have] allowed me to use all your stuff, I hardly think I can touch your computer and the CD player.

hardship /ˈhɑːd.ʃɪp/

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C1] a problem or situation that makes you suffer a lot, especially because you are very poor

Dictionary example:
They have suffered years of financial hardship.

Learner example:
However, I have to say that this plan would cause much inconvenience and hardship for our local residents.

hard-working /ˌhɑːdˈwɜː.kɪŋ/

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] doing a job seriously and with a lot of effort

Dictionary example:
She's a very hard-working student.

Learner example:
I think I am suitable for the job because, apart from all [the] above, I am hard-working, well-educated and imaginative.
harm /haːm/

Word family:
Nouns: harm
Verbs: harm
Adjectives: harmful, harmless

NOUN [U]

HURT
[B2] hurt or damage

Dictionary examples:
Smoking can cause serious harm to the lungs.
Alan would never do anyone any harm.
Missing a meal once in a while never did anyone any harm.
She was frightened by the experience but she came to no harm.

Learner example:
It is true that the car does us harm.

there's no harm in doing sth
[C1] used to say that something is not a bad thing to do and could possibly have a good effect

Dictionary example:
I suppose there's no harm in trying.

Learner example:
There is no lack of good language schools and there is no harm in trying another one the next time.

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]
[B2] to hurt someone or damage something

Dictionary examples:
Thankfully no one was harmed in the accident.
The government’s reputation has already been harmed by a series of scandals.

Learner example:
But in those places animals were harmed and died easily.

harmful /ˈhɑː.m.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: harm
Verbs: harm
Adjectives: harmful, harmless
**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] causing harm

**Dictionary example:**
This group of chemicals is known to be harmful to people with asthma.

**Learner example:**
In addition, books are not harmful to our health as computers sometimes are.

**harmless /ˈhɑːm.ləs/**

Word family:

**Nouns:** harm

**Verbs:** harm

**Adjectives:** harmful, harmless

**ADJECTIVE**

NO HARM

[B2] not able or not likely to cause harm

**Dictionary example:**
Taken in small doses, this drug is *completely/totally* harmless.

**Learner example:**
In conclusion, cars are not as harmless as they look so we must stop using them so much.

NOT UPSETTING

[C2] not likely to shock or upset people or to cause problems

**Dictionary examples:**
Their jokes seemed harmless enough.
Peter might look a bit fierce, but actually he's fairly harmless.

**Learner example:**
He seemed harmless enough so I decided to take a nap. Suddenly I heard a strange noise and I was terrified to hear his loud voice booming in my ear.

**harmony /ˈhɑː.mə.ni/**

**NOUN**

PEACE

[B2] [U] when people are peaceful and agree with each other, or when different things seem right or suitable together
Dictionary example:
living together in peace and harmony

Learner example:
I would like to think my children are going to live in a lovely world where the human being [will] be able to live in peace and harmony with the environment.

MUSIC
[C2] [c or u] a pleasant sound in music, made by playing or singing a group of different notes together

Dictionary examples:
The choir sang in perfect harmony.
Their voices produced beautiful harmonies.

Learner example:
Having some singing knowledge myself, I can say their performance was excellent: the tune was maintained all through the concert, the rhythm was also carefully kept and they sounded in perfect harmony.

harsh  /hɑːʃ/  

Word family:
Adjectives: harsh
Adverbs: harshly

ADJECTIVE

UNPLEASANT
[C1] very cold, dangerous, or unpleasant and difficult to live in

Dictionary example:
harsh conditions

Learner example:
Furthermore, I have been trained for a year in living in harsh conditions.

CRUEL
[C1] cruel, unkind, or unpleasant in a way that seems unfair

Dictionary examples:
harsh criticism/punishment
Taking him out of the game was a bit harsh.

Learner example:
Sorry if I sounded so harsh in the letter but I felt it was important to make these points.

TOO STRONG
[C1] too strong, bright, loud, etc.
Dictionary example:
harsh chemicals/lighting

Learner example:
It only contains herbs and plant extracts so it would not be too harsh a product for the skin and will not destroy the skin's natural defences.

harshly /ˈhɑːʃ.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: harsh
Adverbs: harshly

ADVERB
[C2] in a harsh way

Dictionary example:
I thought she'd been treated rather harshly.

Learner example:
The public television is harshly criticised for joining the commercial flow of the private stations and targeting large audiences, instead of presenting more ambitious programmes of high quality.

harvest /ˈhɑː.vɪst/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] when crops are cut and collected from fields

Dictionary examples:
the grain/potato/grape harvest
We had a good/bad/poor harvest this year.

Learner example:
Well I can tell you about our annual harvest festival.

hate /heɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: hate, hatred
Verbs: hate

NOUN [u]
[C1] a strong dislike for someone or something

Dictionary example:
Hate and bigotry can only make our lives more difficult.
Learner example:
Feelings of hate and disgust may fill us, but we may love somebody. Many people say that love and hate go together.

**hatred /ˈheɪ.trɪd/**

Word family:
**Nouns:** hate, hatred
**Verbs:** hate

**NOUN [u]**
[C1] an extremely strong feeling of dislike

Dictionary examples:
What is very clear in these letters is Clark's passionate hatred of his father.
The motive for this shocking attack seems to be racial hatred.

Learner example:
The producers create situations involving different feeling[s] [such] as love, hatred, anger, fear, ...

**haul /hɔːl/**

**VERB [t]**
[C2] to pull something somewhere slowly and with difficulty

Dictionary example:
They hauled the piano into the living room.

Learner example:
"When I'm finished, you can jump whenever you like. Remember to hold on to each other, and we'll haul you up when it's all over."

**NOUN AMOUNT**
[C2] an amount of something that has been stolen or that is owned illegally

Dictionary example:
a haul of arms/drugs

Learner example:
Because of the loud noise of the running engine, she wasn't aware of the man behind her grabbing the smaller bag and turning round ready to escape with his haul.
haunt /haːnt/

VERB [v]

GHOST
[B2] If a ghost haunts a place, it appears there often.

Dictionary example:
They say that the house is haunted by the soldier’s ghost.

Learner example:
[The castle] is 500 years old, and it is said to be haunted by a lady ghost.

MEMORY/FEELING
[B2] If an unpleasant memory or feeling haunts you, you think about or feel it often.

Dictionary examples:
Fighting in Vietnam was an experience that would haunt him for the rest of his life.
Thirty years after the fire he is still haunted by images of death and destruction.

Learner example:
And so John remained alone, haunted by the terrible loss.

have /hæv/ (had, had)

MODAL VERB

have (got) to do/be sth
[C2] used to say that you feel certain that something is true or will happen

Dictionary examples:
Interest rates have to come down at some point.
There’s (=there has) got to be a better way of doing this.

Learner example:
There has to be a solution to this.

VERB [v]

have sb over/round/to stay, etc.
[B2] If you have someone over/round, etc. you arrange for someone to visit you in your home.

Dictionary example:
We had Justyna and Al round for dinner last week.

Learner example:
I’d like to thank you once more for having me round [to] your house.
not have a clue
[B2] INFORMAL to be completely unable to guess, understand, or deal with something

Dictionary example:
I haven't a clue what you're talking about.

Learner example:
I haven't a clue about it.

have a word with sb
[B2] to talk to someone for a short time

Dictionary examples:
Could I have a word (with you) about the sales figures?
Perhaps you would a quiet word with Simon about the problem.

Learner example:
The nurse sitting beside me said to me, 'Your mother would like to have a word with you,' then she went out.

have nothing to do with sb/sth
[B2] to have no connection or influence with someone or something

Dictionary example:
He made his own decision - I had nothing to do with it.

Learner example:
Of course, I tried to explain [to] him that I had nothing to do with the vanishing of the cake but he didn't trust me.

have nothing to do with sb
[B2] If something is or has nothing to do with you, you have no good reason to know about it or be involved with it.

Dictionary example:
I wish he wouldn't offer advice on my marriage – it's nothing to do with him.

Learner example:
The party was horrible: the guests were all talking about things that had nothing to do with me.

have sth against sb/sth
[C1] to have a reason not to like someone or something

Dictionary example:
I've got nothing against him personally, I just don't think he's the right man for the job.

Learner example:
If you have nothing against taking public transport, I suggest taking a bus.

have sb do sth
[C2] to arrange for someone to do something
Dictionary examples:
If you wait, I'll have someone collect it for you.
I'll have my secretary call her this afternoon.

Learner example:
I would like to request you, as a manager, to either have someone fix the problem with the microwave or simply replace it.

have it in for sb
[C2] to dislike someone and want to cause problems for them

Dictionary example:
She really has it in for me – I don't know what I've done to offend her.

Learner example:
Only then did she realise that somebody had it in for her.

not have the faintest idea
[C2] used to emphasize that you do not know something

Dictionary example:
I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about.

Learner example:
Some twenty years ago, when I left my parents’ home to go and live on my own, I was [given] four mugs. By whom? I haven’t the faintest idea.

hazard /ˈhæz.əd/

Word family:
Nouns: hazard
Adjectives: hazardous

NOUN
[C1] [c] something that is dangerous

Dictionary examples:
a fire hazard
a health hazard

Learner example:
Like all things, mobile phones have advantages and disadvantages. [...] It is said that they produce cancer and that they are a health hazard.

hazardous /ˈhæz.ə.dəs/

Word family:
Nouns: hazard
Adjectives: hazardous
**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] dangerous

**Dictionary example:**
hazardous chemicals

**Learner example:**
They are faced with hazardous chemical reactions when trying to gain new knowledge and therefore people should be very grateful to them.

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**head** /hed/

**Word family:**
Nouns: head, heading
Verbs: head

**NOUN [C]**

**lose your head**
[C1] to stop being calm in a difficult situation

**Dictionary example:**
I saw the fire and I lost my head.

**Learner example:**
She has never lost her head in dangerous situations and she always knows what to do.

**keep a cool head**
[C2] to remain calm in a difficult situation

**Dictionary example:**
To be successful in business, you need to keep a cool head in negotiations.

**Learner example:**
Kevin managed to keep a cool head and took over the navigation.

**keep your head above water**
[C2] to have just enough money to live or to continue a business

**Dictionary example:**
With extra income from private sponsorship, the club is just about managing to keep its head above water.

**Learner example:**
I also started to realise how much she had on her plate, how very little help she had and how, at times, she had to struggle just like me to keep her head above water.

**laugh/shout/scream, etc. your head off**
[C2] to laugh/shout/scream, etc. very much and very loudly
Dictionary example:
When she saw the gun, she started screaming her head off.

Learner example:
Other pupils were laughing their heads off as she went.

FRONT/TOP
[C2] the front or top part of something

Dictionary example:
Who is that at the head of the table?

Learner example:
There, at the head of the queue, her uncle with his two daughters waited for her.

a roof over your head
[C2] somewhere to live

Dictionary example:
He took me in when I didn't have a roof over my head.

Learner example:
As for the new homes for local people it seems to be that it will be of particular importance to homeless people, who will feel that they have a roof over their head without having to pay anything.

VERB

head back/down/towards, etc.
[B2] to move in a particular direction

Dictionary examples:
I was heading out of the room when she called me back.
We were heading towards Kumasi when our truck broke down.
He headed straight for the fridge.
I think we ought to head back/home now, before it gets too dark.

Learner example:
Then I headed for the dining room.

LEADER
[B2] [t] to be in charge of a group, organization, etc.

Dictionary examples:
She heads one of Britain's leading travel firms.
Judge Hawthorne was chosen to head the inquiry.

Learner example:
When Carlos headed the government, the country [saw] important changes, such as Free Trade among Canada, USA and Mexico; the selling of the banks; "democratic" elections.
[C1] [ˈtɛp] to be at the front or top of something

Dictionary example:
Jo headed a very short list of candidates.

Learner example:
When it comes to money paid to the families, Germany headed the list with 2%, followed by Spain with 0.25% and the USA with 0.2%.

heading  /ˈhed.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: head, heading
Verbs: head

NOUN [C]
[C1] words at the top of a piece of writing that tell you what it is about

Dictionary example:
You’ll find it under the heading 'Information for new students'.

Learner example:
As the advertisement included the heading "Come and discover the career of your dreams!", my attention was drawn to it.

headline  /ˈhed.laɪn/

NOUN [C]

the headlines
[B2] the main stories in newspapers, on television, etc.

Dictionary example:
That story made headlines all over the world.

headquarters  /ˈhed.ˈkwɔː.tərz/

NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] (PLURAL headquarters)
[B2] the place from where an organization is controlled

Dictionary example:
The company's headquarters is/are in Amsterdam.
Learner example:
I took my car and drove to the Police headquarters.

**heal** /hiːl/  
VERB [I or T]  
[B2] If a wound or broken bone heals, it becomes healthy again, and if something heals it, it makes it healthy again.  
Dictionary example:  
The wound on his head had begun to heal (up).  
Learner example:  
Biotechnology is providing us with the latest discoveries to heal or improve the human body.

**health care** /ˈhelθˌkeər/  
NOUN [U] (healthcare)  
[C1] the set of services provided by a country or an organization for treating people who are ill  
Dictionary examples:  
A large proportion of these taxes go towards providing health care.  
Healthcare workers are some of the lowest paid people in the country.  
Learner example:  
In Britain, the NHS provides free health care for every citizen.

**healthy** /ˈhel.θi/  
Word family:  
Nouns: health  
Adjectives: healthy, unhealthy  
ADJECTIVE  
SUCCESSFUL  
[C2] successful and strong  
Dictionary examples:  
a healthy economy  
The future for independent bookshops doesn't look very healthy.  
Learner example:  
Still, these investments are needed, as they are essential for a healthy economy.
heap /hiːp/

NOUN

PILE

[C2] an untidy pile of things

Dictionary example:
a heap of rubbish

Learner example:
Her mother was often out and Sue had nobody to share her thoughts with except for a[n] old red diary with a lock. She kept it in her bedroom under the heap of old toys nobody cared for any more.

heaps of sth INFORMAL

[C2] a lot of something

Dictionary example:
He's got heaps of money.

Learner example:
Apart from that, my overseas stay has made m[e] believe that children who are brought up in families that do not have heaps of money are prepared for their life as an adult in a way that people who have always had money may never understand.

hear /hɪər/ (heard, heard)

VERB

have heard of sb/sth PHRASAL VERB

[B2] If you have heard of someone or something, you know that that person or thing exists.

Dictionary examples:
I'd never heard of him before he won the prize.
It's a tiny country that most people have never heard of.

Learner example:
The old man had never heard of the Dark Duck, so he asked Paul what it was.
heart /hɑːt/

NOUN

SHAPE
[B2] [c] a shape that is used to mean love

Dictionary example:
The card had a big heart on the front.

Learner example:
It had a red rose in its hand and a t-shirt with a big red heart saying "I love you". That was it!

with all your heart
[B2] used to say that you feel something very strongly

Dictionary example:
I thank you with all my heart.

Learner example:
With this letter, I want to thank you with all my heart for your hospitality during my visit to you.

by heart
[B2] so that you can remember all of something

Dictionary example:
We had to learn the whole poem off by heart.

Learner example:
I know all his songs by heart and I was singing all the time.

break sb's heart
[B2] to make someone feel extremely sad

Dictionary examples:
She really broke his heart when she left.
It breaks my heart when I hear the terrible things that have been said about him.

Learner example:
I saw them kissing each other. That was it – when I saw that scene, it broke my heart.

in your heart
[C1] used to say what you really think

Dictionary example:
In his heart he felt they were wrong.

Learner example:
It is all because it was followed by a big mistake, when I focussed on [the] German language and thought is was my dream. I have to admit that it was only a [sensi]ble decision, because deep in my heart I knew I want[ed] to learn English.
at heart
[C2] used to say what someone is really like

Dictionary example:
I'm just a kid at heart.

Learner example:
I also thought that she was brave at heart.

open your heart
[C2] to tell someone your secret thoughts and feelings

Dictionary example:
That night, she opened her heart to me and I think that's when I fell in love with her.

Learner example:
It is during this excessively dramatic conversation that George opening up his heart, tells her about his interpretation of her unhappiness with Cecil.

take sth to heart
[C2] If you take criticism or advice to heart, you think about it seriously, often because it upsets you

Dictionary example:
Don't take it to heart – he was only joking about your hair.

Learner example:
I hope you will take my advice to heart.

lose heart
[C2] to stop believing that you can succeed

Dictionary example:
Don't lose heart, there'll be plenty more chances for promotion.

Learner example:
In that way, we learn to deal with our problems and not to lose heart.

a change of heart
[C2] If you have a change of heart, you change your opinion or feelings about something.

Dictionary example:
At first he said he wouldn't help us, but he seems to have had a change of heart.

Learner example:
The narrator didn't tell her big secret to Inder Lal and after a change of heart she decides to keep the baby.

dear to sb/sb's heart
[C2] If something is dear to someone or dear to their heart, it is very important to them.
Dictionary example:
The charity was very dear to his heart.

Learner example:
Among all the places I enjoyed visiting, the city of Singapore is especially dear to my heart.

heat  /hiːt/

Word family:
Nouns: heat, heater, heating
Verbs: heat

VERB

heat up sth or heat sth up PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to make food hot so that it can be eaten

Dictionary example:
I'll just heat up the soup.

Learner example:
Do not spend your money on fast-food restaurants, and do not buy meals to heat up in your microwave.

heaven  /ˈhevən/

NOUN [u]

AFTER LIFE
[B2] ! according to some religions, the place where good people go when they die

Dictionary example:
They told us that she had gone to heaven.

Learner example:
"Now she is in heaven – don't worry she will be okay." I started crying.

SOMETHING NICE
[B2] INFORMAL something very nice that gives you great pleasure

Dictionary examples:
I just lay in the sun for a week and did nothing – it was heaven.
This cake is absolute heaven.

Learner example:
These little islands are just heaven.
**heavenly** /ˈhev.ən.li/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] INFORMAL very nice

*Dictionary example:*
a heavenly day

*Learner example:*
The Art Gallery was well presented and the exhibits were heavenly.

---

**heavy** /ˈhev.i/

**Word family:**

*Adjectives:* heavy

*Adverbs:* heavily

**ADJECTIVE**

FORCE

[C2] using a lot of force

*Dictionary examples:*
a heavy blow
heavy breathing

*Learner example:*
Every time planes from your airport fly overhead he imagines the horrors of the war he's lived through and experiences [...] distress in [the] form of his palms sweating, heavy breathing, and increased pulse and heart beat.

---

**hectic** /ˈhek.trɪk/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] extremely busy and full of activity

*Dictionary example:*
a hectic day/week

*Learner example:*
Alongside today's hectic life we need to adapt fashion to our lives and interests.
hedge /hedʒ/  

**NOUN [c]**  
[B2] a row of bushes growing close together, often used to divide land into separate areas  

**Dictionary example:**  
She planted a hedge along the back of the garden.  

**Learner example:**  
Besides, people should be allowed to sit under the trees. At present, [the] lawn, bushes and hedges aren't open to people.

heel /hiːl/  

**NOUN [c]**  

**BODY PART**  
[B2] the back part of your foot  

**Dictionary example:**  
The sharp stone dug into my heel.

height /haɪt/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** height  
**Adjectives:** high  
**Adverbs:** highly  

**NOUN [c or u]**  

**the height of sth**  
[C2] the strongest, most important or most successful part of something  

**Dictionary example:**  
I met him when he was at the height of his fame.  

**Learner example:**  
At the height of his success, he was told [he had] cancer and he had to interrupt his career, but only to come back some years later to show off his best.
heir /ˈɛər/  

NOUN [c]  
[C2] a person who will have the legal right to someone's money and possessions when they die  

Dictionary example:  
He is the heir to a huge fortune.  

Learner example:  
The new will stated that Emma was the sole heir and inheritor of the property and money of her father.  

hell /hel/  

NOUN [u]  
RELIGION  
[B2] ! according to some religions, the place where bad people go when they die  

Dictionary example:  
I'll go to hell for this.  

Learner example:  
We decided to enter the attic and then, [as if] coming from hell, a big, dirty, old cat ran away [through] our legs.  

BAD EXPERIENCE  
[B2] ! an experience that is very unpleasant  

Dictionary examples:  
It's been hell working with him.  
Work is sheer hell at the moment.  
The last few months have been absolute hell.  

Learner example:  
However, this apparently relaxed activit[y] can sometimes turn into a living hell: you may only be able to go shopping at the weekend and then, if you do go, you will find yourself in the middle of a huge crowd of people, unable to get to any product or even shop and feeling dizzy by the mixture of smells that come from the people.  

the hell  
[B2] ! INFORMAL used to emphasize something in a rude or angry way  

Dictionary example:  
What the hell are you doing here?
Learner example:
He was yelling again: "What the hell is going on?"

**a/one hell of a** INFORMAL
[C2] I used to say that someone or something is very good, big, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
a hell of a noise
He's one hell of a tennis player.

Learner example:
Secondly, I particularly appreciated the length of classes confined to some 5 hours a day, which offered the possibility [of] study[ing] at length on your own and a hell of a lot of time to spare.

**like hell** INFORMAL
[C2] I very much

**Dictionary example:**
It's raining like hell out there.

Learner example:
Soon it will be dark, and still pouring down like hell.

---

**helmet** /ˈhel.mɪt/

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] a hard hat that protects your head

**Dictionary examples:**
a crash helmet
a cycling helmet

Learner example:
Some good advice is: first of all get yourself a good bicycle, a helmet and some protecti[ve] clothes, in case the w[ea]ther change[s].

---

**help** /help/

**Word family:**
Nouns: helper
Verbs: help
Adjectives: helpful, unhelpful, helpless

**VERB [I or T]**

**MAKE BETTER**
[B2] to make something better
Dictionary examples:
When you're nervous or frightened, it helps to breathe slowly and deeply.
The medicine didn't seem to help (the pain).

Learner example:
Everybody agree[s] with the importance [of] do[ing] exercise regular[ly], it helps to take out the toxins from the body.

NOUN

THING THAT HELPS
[B2] [NO PLURAL] something or someone that helps

Dictionary examples:
Having a new computer would be a help.
He was a great help (to me) while my husband was away.

Learner example:
Two weeks ago I made a trip to Britain, and 'The Student Tourist Guidebook' was a great help when I visited Lampton.

helper /ˈhel.pə/

Word family:
Nouns: helper
Verbs: help
Adjectives: helpful, unhelpful, helpless

NOUN [C]
[B2] someone who helps another person to do something

Dictionary example:
The teachers make great use of volunteer helpers.

Learner example:
I'll be more than happy to work as a helper.

helpless /ˈhelp.ləs/

Word family:
Nouns: helper
Verbs: help
Adjectives: helpful, unhelpful, helpless

ADJECTIVE
[C1] not able to defend yourself or do things without help
Dictionary example:
a helpless animal/child

Learner example:
I remember one day in school how helpless I felt because I had forgotten my glasses at home.

**hence /hens/**

ADVERB

[C1] for this reason

**Dictionary examples:**
He's got an interview today, hence the suit.
Drivers have been shown to adapt their behaviour according to perceived risk. Hence, if they are wearing seat belts, they tend to take more risks with their driving.

**Learner example:**
Hence, the more competition there is, the more benefits are given to both people and society.

**here /hɪə/**

ADVERB

**AT THIS POINT**

[B2] at this point in a discussion or piece of writing

**Dictionary example:**
I don't have time here to go into all the arguments.

**Learner example:**
My idea here is to highlight the fact that computers are going to control our lives.

**here and there**

[B2] in several different places or directions but without any pattern

**Dictionary example:**
Tall trees were growing here and there.

**Learner example:**
In the cinemas there were a few broken seats here and there.
**heritage** /ˈher.ə.tɪdʒ/

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the buildings, paintings, customs, etc. which are important in a culture or society because they have existed for a long time

**Dictionary example:**
our architectural/cultural heritage

**Learner example:**
We have already created a list of possible destinations with rich cultural heritage.

**heroic** /hrˈrɔɪ.ɪk/

**ADJECTIVE**

**BRAVE**

[C1] very brave

**Dictionary examples:**
a heroic figure
a heroic act/deed

**Learner example:**
I would be thrilled if I could lead thousands of warriors into heroic battles to conquer the world.

**TRYING HARD**

[C1] If someone makes a heroic effort to do something, they work very hard to try to do it.

**Dictionary example:**
In spite of England's heroic efforts, they lost the match.

**Learner example:**
Individually or in organised groups, those who worry about the subject are making a heroic attempt to convince others of the importance of recycling, caring about the wildlife and sparing the woods from fire or massive exploitation.

**herself** /hɜːˈself/

**PRONOUN**

**EMPHASIS**

[B2] used to emphasize the pronoun 'she' or the particular female person you are referring to
Dictionary example:
She herself admitted that it was wrong.

Learner example:
She herself, through her books, transfers to mature and [elderly] people too.

hesitate /ˈhez.i.tət/  

Word family:
Nouns: hesitation  
Verbs: hesitate  

VERB [v]  

PAUSE  
[B2] to pause before doing something, especially because you are nervous or not certain  

Dictionary examples:
Richard hesitated before answering.
"Do you love me?" she asked. He hesitated and then said, "I'm not sure."

Learner example:
So, don't hesitate to buy that CD, it's a masterpiece and undoubt[d]ly you'll love it.

don't hesitate to do sth 
[B2] used to encourage someone to do something  

Dictionary example:
Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need any more advice.

Learner example:
If you have mo[re] questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

hesitation /ˌhez.iˈteɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:
Nouns: hesitation  
Verbs: hesitate  

NOUN  

have no hesitation in doing sth 
[C1] when you are very willing to do something because you know it is the right thing to do  

Dictionary example:
He had no hesitation in signing for the team.
**Learner example:**
I think that Juan Pablo is a very well qualified applicant for this job, and I have no hesitation in supporting him wholeheartedly.

**[C2]** [c or u] when you pause before doing something, especially because you are nervous or not certain

**Dictionary example:**
After a moment's hesitation, he unlocked the door.

**Learner example:**
Despite being a two-dimensional character, Mrs Kingshaw's existence aids in the flow of events as she forces Charles into committing suicide without the slightest hesitation.

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**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT KNOW ABOUT**

**[B2]** If something is hidden, most people do not know about it.

**Dictionary examples:**
hidden costs/taxes
Harry had a hidden agenda at the meeting and was determined to get his way.

**Learner example:**
I think this is a hidden danger of having a mobile phone and therefore the disadvantages are not as obvious as the advantage.

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**ADJECTIVE**

**[C2]** using a system that arranges things according to their importance

**Dictionary example:**
The company has a very hierarchical structure.

**Learner example:**
On the other hand, being too submissive will not help you in going up in a hierarchical structure.
**hierarchy** /ˈhærərəki/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** hierarchy  
**Adjectives:** hierarchical  

**NOUN [c]**  
[C2] a system or organization in which people or things are arranged according to their importance  

**Dictionary example:**  
There is a very strict hierarchy where I work.  

**Learner example:**  
It is well known that clothes used to reflect the position that each individual had in the social hierarchy of our societies.  

---  

**high** /hɑː/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** height  
**Adjectives:** high  
**Adverbs:** highly  

**ADJECTIVE**  

**IMPORTANT**  
[B2] important, powerful, or at the top level of something  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a high rank  
Safety is our highest priority.  

**Learner example:**  
Living is definitely the highest priority [all] over the world.  

**high in sth**  
[C1] If a food is high in something, it contains a lot of it.  

**Dictionary example:**  
Avoid foods that are high in salt.  

**Learner example:**  
Since there is no time even for cooking a healthy meal, they get used to ready meals that are high in fat and salt.  

**DRUGS**  
[C2] If someone is high, they are behaving in an unusual way because they have taken an illegal drug.
**Dictionary example:**
The whole band seemed to be high on drugs.

**Learner example:**
As he was in that enormous garden covering himself with leaves lying on his back, he realised that he didn’t want to watch the end of the Universe there in that place, but because he was so high on drugs he didn’t even realise that he could simply stand up and go home.

**ADVERB**

**AMOUNT/LEVEL**

[C1] at or to a large amount or level

**Dictionary example:**
Temperatures rose as high as 40 degrees.

**Learner example:**
Can we expect to see the world unemployment rate reach as high as fifty percent?

**highlight /ˈhaɪ.laɪt/**

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to emphasize something or make people notice something

**Dictionary examples:**
to highlight a problem/danger
The report highlights the need for stricter regulations.

**Learner example:**
Electricity in general has been absorbed into our daily activities in such an intense way that we tend to take it for granted and it is exactly when it is not available that our dependency on it is highlighted.

**NOTICE**

[B2] to make something a different colour so that is is more easily noticed, especially written words

**Dictionary example:**
The spelling mistakes in the text had been highlighted in yellow.

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] the best or most important part of something

**Dictionary example:**
The boat trip was one of the highlights of the holiday.

**Learner example:**
The Festival is one of the highlights of the year for me and many others.
highly /ˈhaɪ.li/

Word family:
Nouns: height
Adjectives: high
Adverbs: highly

ADVERB

HIGH LEVEL
[B2] at a high level

Dictionary examples:
a highly paid job
a highly educated workforce

Learner example:
I am a 24-year-old highly educated Turkish boy.

VERY
[C1] very or to a large degree

Dictionary examples:
a highly effective treatment
We are highly unlikely to meet anyone here.

Learner example:
Now it features a highly effective searching system.

to speak/think highly of sb/sth
[C2] to have or express a very good opinion of someone or something

Dictionary example:
The course is very highly thought of.

Learner example:
This in itself would speak highly of the school and will attract many candidates and parents.

high-profile /ˌhaɪˈprəʊ.fəl/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] A high-profile person or event is known about by a lot of people and receives a lot of attention from television, newspapers, etc.

Dictionary example:
a high-profile campaign/case
Learner example:
This is the main significant reason [why] sportsmen and sportswomen are now considered as high-profile celebrities.

**high-tech** /ˌhaɪˈtek/  
**ADJECTIVE** (also **hi-tech**)  
[B2] using or involved with the most recent and advanced electronic machines, computers, etc.

**Dictionary example:**  
His new car has a high-tech sound system.

**Learner example:**  
We can build up a high-tech computer lab, and last but not least, we can provide some talented students with scholarship[s].

**hilarious** /hɪˈleə.ri.əs/  
**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] extremely funny

**Dictionary example:**  
They all thought the film was hilarious.

**Learner example:**  
In addition to this, the hosts and actors of the show have very few boundaries and are not afraid to make fools out of themselves, which means that they can do things that most people find very embarrassing, and this is something that contributes to making the show hilarious.

**himself** /hɪmˈself/  
**PRONOUN**

**EMPHASIS**  
[B2] used to emphasize the pronoun 'he' or the particular male person you are referring to

**Dictionary example:**  
Did you want to talk to the chairman himself, or could his personal assistant help you?

**Learner example:**  
But no one would like to be behind bars himself.
**hinder** /ˈhɪn.drə/

**VERB [v]**

[C2] to make it difficult to do something or for something to develop

*Dictionary example:*
His performance at the Olympics was hindered by a knee injury.

*Learner example:*
Nothing, however, could hinder him from gaining more power and money.

**hint** /hint/

**NOUN [c]**

**SUGGESTION**

[B2] when you say something that suggests what you think or want, but not in a direct way

*Dictionary examples:*
He's dropped several hints to the boss that he'll quit if he doesn't get a promotion.
Did she give you any hints about where she was going?
You can't take a hint, can you? Just go away and leave me alone!

*Learner example:*
He didn't take a hint. When that day had come, I timidly approached him and gave him my final words of warning.

**ADVICE**

[B2] a small piece of advice

*Dictionary example:*
The magazine gives lots of useful hints on how to save money.

*Learner example:*
I would like to make use of this offer, therefore I am writing down some helpful hints about Lampton.

**a hint of sth**

[C2] a small amount of something

*Dictionary example:*
There was a hint of anger in her voice.

*Learner example:*
The sky was leaden and overcast and there was a hint of drizzle in the air.
**hip** /hɪp/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] one of the two parts of your body above your leg and below your waist

**Dictionary examples:**
She stood waiting with her hands on her hips.
This exercise is designed to trim your hips and stomach.

**Learner example:**
She had a fractured ankle, a dis[locat]ed collar–bone and something was also wrong with her hips.

**hire** /haɪər/

**VERB [T]**

**EMPLOY**

[B2] [OFTEN PASSIVE] to begin to to employ someone

**Dictionary examples:**
I was hired by the first company I applied to.
We ought to hire a public relations consultant to help improve our image.

**Learner example:**
The interview was OK and my friend and I w[ere] hired!

**historian** /hɪˈstɔː.ri.ən/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** history, historian

**Adjectives:** historic, historical

**Adverbs:** historically

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] someone who writes about or studies history

**Dictionary example:**
His father was a famous historian.

**Learner example:**
I would be very willing to help historians solve the enigma about the origin of Thailand.
historically /ˈhɪstrəkli/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** history, historian

**Adjectives:** historic, historical

**Adverbs:** historically

**ADVERB**

[C1] in a way that is connected to history

**Dictionary examples:**

The film makes no attempt to be historically accurate.

Historically, there have always been close links between France and Scotland.

**Learner example:**

Well, maybe this brief description of my travel in time is not historically accurate; nevertheless I hope that you have enjoyed yourself reading it as much as I did writing it, and I hope you will consider it worth[y] of publication in your magazine.

history /ˈhɪstr.i/ 

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** history, historian

**Adjectives:** historic, historical

**Adverbs:** historically

**NOUN**

a history of sth

[C1] If you have a history of a particular problem or illness, you have already suffered from it.

**Dictionary example:**

a man with a history of drug addiction

**Learner example:**

The characteristic we are born with is to a certain level affected by genetic factor[s] e.g. if a mother has a history of depression her daughter or son will also have higher chance [of] get[ting] depression.

hit /hɪt/

**VERB** [T] (hitting, hit, hit)

**AFFECT**

[B2] [OFTEN PASSIVE] to affect something badly
Dictionary example:
The economy has been hit by high unemployment.

Learner example:
Penalties for parking in [the] wrong place can really hit you in [the] po[c]ket.

REACH
[C1] to reach a place, position, or state

Dictionary example:
Our profits have already hit $1 million.

Learner example:
Having already hit the 50% boundary in 1991, we still see that the teachers’ salaries experienced a significant rise.

THINK
[C2] informal If an idea or thought hits you, you suddenly think of it.

Dictionary example:
The idea for the book hit me in the middle of the night.

Learner example:
I climbed out of the shower, staggered into my room and then it hit me! "My diary! For crying out loud, that's it!"

hit the roof informal
[C2] to become very angry and start shouting

Dictionary example:
If I'm late again he'll hit the roof.

Learner example:
Be careful, if you make too much noise he'll hit the roof.

NOUN [C]

INTERNET
[B2] a request to see a document on the Internet that is then counted to calculate the number of people looking at the page

Dictionary example:
There have been over 10,000 hits on the site since Wednesday.

hi-tech /ˌhaɪˈtek/  

ADJECTIVE (also high-tech)
[B2] using or involved with the most recent and advanced electronic machines, computers, etc.
**Dictionary example:**
This database system is an affordable, hi-tech solution.

**Learner example:**
With the development of science and technology, many new inventions have entered our life, especially some hi-tech products.

**hold /həʊld/**

**VERB [T] (held, held)**

**PRISONER**

[B2] to keep someone in a place so that they cannot leave

**Dictionary examples:**
The terrorists held him hostage for 18 months.
I was held prisoner in a tiny attic room.

**Learner example:**
All around the world animals are held as prisoners in zoos.

**hold your breath**

[B2] to keep air in your lungs and not let it out

**Dictionary example:**
How long can you hold your breath under water?

**Learner example:**
My heart was beating fast. I was holding my breath.

**COMPETITION**

[B2] to have a particular position in a competition

**Dictionary examples:**
to hold the world record
The team held the lead until the 89th minute.

**Learner example:**
Nowadays she is an excellent sportswoman, she holds the world record.

**JOB OR QUALIFICATION**

[C1] to have a particular job, position, or qualification

**Dictionary example:**
She held the post of treasurer.

**Learner example:**
In fact 90% males hold the skilled vocational diploma whereas only 10% females hold the same degree.
hold an opinion/belief/view
[C1] to believe something

Dictionary example:
They held the view that physical punishment was good for children.

Learner example:
Nowadays, some people hold the opinion that children who do not have good living conditions are better prepared to deal with the problems which they will encounter later on.

hold a conversation
[C1] to have a conversation

Dictionary example:
I can just about hold a conversation in Italian.

Learner example:
I know the grammar and many different expressions, and I can hold a conversation with other people.

hold sb's attention/interest
[C1] to keep someone interested in something

Dictionary example:
The film held my attention from beginning to end.

Learner example:
The recent protest about our canteen held my attention.

hold your breath
[C2] to wait for something to happen, often feeling anxious

Dictionary example:
While the leaders negotiated, the world held its breath.

Learner example:
They, the critics, the fans and friends and his wife, held their breath and crossed their fingers, hoping to once again hear his enchanting voice.

hold your own
[C2] to be as successful as other people or things

Dictionary example:
Alison could always hold her own in political debates.

Learner example:
An average IT company in the UK is only 30% female so it is vital to be comfortable in the company of so many men, and to be able to hold your own against them in meetings and discussions.
not hold water
[C2] If you say that an argument doesn't hold water, you mean that it can't possibly be true.

Dictionary example:
I'm sorry, but what you are suggesting just doesn't hold water!

Learner example:
It remains to us to prove that the opinions of some scientists are far-fetched and don't hold water.

NOUN

SUPPORT
[B2] [NO PLURAL] when you hold something or someone, or the way you do this

Dictionary example:
Keep a tight hold on your tickets.

Learner example:
When I got up on my feet again, I reached out my arm to get a hold on something, but there wasn't anything to hold on to.

catch/get/grab/take hold of sth/sb
[B2] to start holding something or someone

Dictionary examples:
He took hold of one end of the carpet and tugged.
I just managed to grab hold of Lucy before she fell in the pool.

Learner example:
I'm scared!” said Nora trembling, as she took hold of my arm.

get hold of sth/sb
[B2] to obtain something, or to manage to speak to someone

Dictionary examples:
I got hold of a copy at the local library.
I rang three times, but couldn't get hold of her.

Learner example:
I had also forgotten to remind my friends and teachers to bring their own knife and fork to our lunch, but fortunately one of my friends managed to get hold of some spare knives and forks.

on hold
[C1] If a plan or activity is on hold, it will not be done until a later time.

Dictionary example:
The project is on hold until we get more money.
Learner example:
What’s more, it might, intentionally or not, raise awareness on issues that might have been put on hold by authorities, such as the legalization of soft drugs.

on hold
[C1] waiting to speak to someone on the telephone

Dictionary example:
His secretary put me on hold.

Learner example:
The day after, I called your office and after being put on hold, the person answering the phone was unwilling to come up with a proper reply.

a hold on/over sth/sb
[C2] power or control over something or someone

Dictionary example:
Their company has a strong hold on the computer market.

Learner example:
They send the money directly to his father and now have a hold on Chen.

hollow /ˈhɒl.əʊ/

ADJECTIVE

NOTHING INSIDE
[C2] having a hole or empty space inside

Dictionary example:
a hollow shell/tube

Learner example:
He had taken the dark red leather-bound book to his hideout in the forest, an old oak tree with a hollow trunk, where he used to play alone.

WITHOUT MEANING
[C2] without meaning or real feeling

Dictionary examples:
a hollow victory
a hollow laugh

Learner example:
These celebrities tend to encourage a lifestyle that, at first, may be extremely appealing, specially to children and teenagers, but it is nothing [more] than pure hollow hedonism.

ring hollow
[C2] If something someone says rings hollow, it does not sound true or sincere.
Dictionary example:
He said he was pleased, but his words rang hollow.

Learner example:
Everything rang hollow to her, so she decided to follow him in order to understand what had happened and her fiancé became so friendly and understanding.

holy /ˈhəʊ.lɪ/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] relating to a religion or a god

Dictionary example:
the holy city of Jerusalem

Learner example:
I'd like to go inside and see for myself but only the holy priests are allowed to be in there and only [on] special occasions.

home /həʊm/

Word family:
Nouns: home, homeless, homelessness
Adjectives: homeless
Adverbs: home

NOUN
the home of sth/sb
[C1] the place where you usually find something or someone, or where they come from

Dictionary example:
France, the home of good food

Learner example:
Every golfer – and those watching golf – know, that the home of golf is St. Andrews in Scotland.

make yourself at home
[C1] to behave in a relaxed way in a place, as if it was your own home

Dictionary example:
Take off your coat and make yourself at home.

Learner example:
Please relax and make yourself at home and help yourself.
CARE

[C1] [c] a place where people who need special care live

Dictionary examples:
- a children's home
  My grandmother lives in a home now.

Learner example:
However, I am also experienced with elderly people because I worked in an old people's home for about 3 months in the summer 1997.

a broken home

[C2] a family in which the parents do not now live together

Dictionary example:
Many of these children come from broken homes.

Learner example:
The development of the modern society has brought with it a growing number of broken homes, divorces and economic problems which have directly affected the parent-child relationship.

homeless  /ˈhəʊm.ləs/

Word family:
Nouns: home, homeless, homelessness
Adjectives: homeless
Adverbs: home

ADJECTIVE

[C1] without a place to live

Dictionary example:
10,000 people were made homeless by the floods.

Learner example:
As a result, there are a lot of homeless people in our local community.

NOUN

the homeless

[C1] people who are homeless

Dictionary example:
They're opening a new shelter for the homeless.

Learner example:
The money spen[t] on the royal family could be used for something else like building houses for the homeless.
homelessness /ˈhəʊm.ləs.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: home, homeless, homelessness
Adjectives: homeless
Adverbs: home

NOUN [u]
[C2] the state of being homeless

Dictionary example:
The government is trying to tackle homelessness.

Learner example:
Unemployment is a major problem today and it leads more and more people on[to] the path of poverty and homelessness.

honestly /ˈɒn.ɪs.tli/

Word family:
Nouns: dishonesty, honesty
Adjectives: dishonest, honest
Adverbs: honestly, dishonestly

ADVERB

Honest
[B2] in an honest way

Dictionary example:
They have always dealt honestly and fairly with their customers.

Learner example:
If we want to answer [this question] honestly and sincerely, we should think about [the] advantages and disadvantages that keeping animals in zoos results [in].

honesty /ˈɒn.ə.sti/

Word family:
Nouns: dishonesty, honesty
Adjectives: dishonest, honest
Adverbs: honestly, dishonestly

NOUN [u]

Quality
[B2] the quality of being honest
Dictionary example:
I appreciate your honesty.

Learner example:
He's an extraordinary person and the TV viewers will love him because of his good sense of humor and his honesty.

**in all honesty**
[C2] used when you are saying what you really think or feel about something

Dictionary example:
In all honesty, I'd rather not go.

Learner example:
It is easy to say that government funding should be raised to make classes smaller and materials more relevant, but in all honesty, Danish schools are working very well indeed.

honour /ˈɒnər/

Word family:
Nouns: honour
Adjectives: honoured

**NOUN**

RESPECT
[B2] [u] when people respect you because you have done what you believe is honest and right, or the quality of doing this

Dictionary examples:
a man of honour
We fought for the honour of our country.

Learner example:
Your health is worth much more than your honour.

In honour of *sb/*sth
[B2] in order to celebrate or show great respect for someone or something

Dictionary example:
a banquet in honour of the president

Learner example:
Finally we went to Corinth, where there are a lot of ancient sanctuaries which were built in honour of their gods.

PRIDE
[B2] [NO PLURAL] something which makes you feel proud and pleased
Dictionary examples:
It's an honour to be team captain.
I had the great honour of meeting the King.

Learner example:
It would be a pleasure and an honour for me.

honoured /ˈɒn.əd/

Word family:
Nouns: honour
Adjectives: honoured

ADJECTIVE
[C1] proud and pleased because you have been given respect or asked to do something special

Dictionary examples:
I am honoured to accept your invitation.
We would be honoured if you would join us for the day.

Learner example:
We would be honoured if you could present the prizes at this event.

hood /hʊd/

NOUN [c]
[B2] part of a piece of clothing which can be pulled up to cover the top and back of the head

Dictionary example:
The coat has a hood.

Learner example:
He was wearing a black hood.

hook /hʊk/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a curved piece of metal or plastic used for hanging something on, or a similar object used for catching fish
**Dictionary examples:**
- a **coat/picture** hook
- a boat hook
- a fish hook

**Learner example:**
A few moments later she took out a rope, which had a hook on one end.

**VERB [t]**

**be/get hooked on sth**

[B2] to like or start to like doing something very much and want to do it all the time

**Dictionary example:**
He's completely hooked on computer games.

**Learner example:**
It is such a great change to listen to well-known singers for those who are hooked on rock music.

**hop  /hɒp/**

**VERB [i] (hopping, hopped)**

**MOVE QUICKLY**

[C1] to go somewhere quickly or get into or out of a vehicle quickly

**Dictionary example:**
to hop on a plane/train

**Learner example:**
The next thing that happen[s] is that everyone hops in their cars and drives to the restaurant where they have dinner.

**ONE FOOT**

[C2] to jump on one foot or to move about in this way

**Dictionary example:**
He hopped across the room.

**Learner example:**
He was not to be able to stand still and seemed to be hopping and leaping with his violin while playing.

**ANIMAL**

[C2] If a small animal, bird, or insect hops, it moves by jumping on all of its feet at the same time.

**Dictionary example:**
Rabbits were hopping across the field.
Learner example:
I advise a quite different restaurant, in a more peaceful area; it is a pavilion facing Monst Souris garden, where you can see birds hopping and flying through the trees, and swans on the lake.

**hope /həup/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: hope
Verbs: hope
Adjectives: hopeful, hopeless
Adverbs: hopefully, hopelessly

**NOUN [C or U]**

**in the hope of/that**
[C1] because you want something good to happen

**Dictionary examples:**
She went to Paris in the hope of improving her French.
They wrote to the Prime Minister in the hope that he would help.

**Learner example:**
Not only would I want to travel back to understand Hitler’s incredible success, but also in the hope of thwarting his plans.

**sb's best/last/only hope**
[C2] the best/last/only person or thing that can help you and make you succeed

**Dictionary example:**
Doctors say his only hope is a transplant.

**Learner example:**
My spirits sank at the same time [as] the water, our last hope of survival, did.

**hopeful /ˈhəʊp.fəl/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: hope
Verbs: hope
Adjectives: hopeful, hopeless
Adverbs: hopefully, hopelessly

**ADJECTIVE**

**GOOD THING WILL HAPPEN**
[C2] If something is hopeful, it gives you reason to believe that what you want to happen will happen.
Dictionary example:
There are hopeful signs that she will make a full recovery.

Learner example:
The hopeful atmosphere darkened somewhat.

**hopefully /ˈhəʊp.fəl.i/**

Word family:
Nouns: hope
Verbs: hope
Adjectives: hopeful, hopeless
Adverbs: hopefully, hopelessly

**ADVERB**

HOPEFUL WAY
[B2] in a hopeful way

Dictionary example:
“Are there any tickets left?” she asked hopefully.

Learner example:
I'll be waiting hopefully for your letter.

**hopeless /ˈhəʊp.əls/**

Word family:
Nouns: hope
Verbs: hope
Adjectives: hopeful, hopeless
Adverbs: hopefully, hopelessly

**ADJECTIVE**

BAD AT SOMETHING
[B2] very bad at a particular activity

Dictionary examples:
I'm hopeless at sports.
He's a hopeless cook.
hopelessly /ˈhəʊpˌləs.li/

Word family:
Nouns: hope
Verbs: hope
Adjectives: hopeful, hopeless
Adverbs: hopefully, hopelessly

ADVERB
[C2] extremely, or in a way that makes you lose hope

Dictionary examples:
hopelessly lost
They met at university and fell hopelessly in love.

Learner example:
It's never easy to be young and hopelessly in love.

horizon /həˈraɪ.zən/

Word family:
Nouns: horizon
Adjectives: horizontal

NOUN
broaden/expand/widen your horizons
[C1] to increase the number of things that you know about, have experienced, or can do

Dictionary example:
Travelling certainly broadens your horizons.

Learner example:
Overall, I can say the conference was a success and definitely broadened my horizons.

on the horizon
[C1] likely to happen soon

Dictionary example:
Economic recovery is on the horizon.

Learner example:
Often this is justified as [a] result of society being collectively afraid that a shortage of fuel is on the horizon.

[C2] [C] the line in the distance where the sky seems to touch the land or sea

Dictionary example:
We could see a large ship on the horizon.
Learner example:
The view from here is also very beautiful and I remember that when I looked out over the sea, I could see the boats dotted around between the bay and the horizon.

**horizontal /ˌhɒr.ɪˈzɒn.təl/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** horizon
**Adjectives:** horizontal

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] level and flat, or parallel to the ground or to the bottom of a page

**Dictionary example:**
a horizontal line/strip

**Learner example:**
Years are projected along the horizontal axis.

**horn /hɔːn/**

**NOUN [c]**

**SOUND**
[B2] a piece of equipment used to make a loud sound as a warning or signal

**Dictionary examples:**
a car/fog horn
The taxi driver sounded/beeped his horn.

**Learner example:**
How happy I was, hearing the sound of a car horn.

**ANIMAL**
[C1] one of the two hard, pointed growths on the heads of cows, goats, and some other animals

**Dictionary example:**
These cows have curved horns.

**Learner example:**
Far in the south of Chile, you will find the smallest deer of the world called "Pudù". It is only 25 cm. tall, doesn't have big horns and eats fruit.

**MUSIC**
[C2] a curved musical instrument that you blow into to make a sound
Dictionary example:
He blew his horn.

Learner example:
At last, when the first notes came out of the orchestra, a spotlight showed the enormous figure of Ludwig van Mill strolling in the forest, blowing his horn and grinning at the trees.

**horrified /ˈhɔr.ɪ.fəd/**

Word family:
Nouns: horror
Adjectives: horrified, horrifying

ADJECTIVE
[C2] very shocked

Dictionary example:
When I told him all the money was gone, he was absolutely horrified.

Learner example:
When we arrived at the Riverside Lodge I was horrified to find out that there were no ramps in the building.

**horrifying /ˈhɔr.ɪ.fə.ɪŋ/**

Word family:
Nouns: horror
Adjectives: horrified, horrifying

ADJECTIVE
[C2] extremely shocking

Dictionary example:
She sustained horrifying injuries in the attack.

Learner example:
Evading his unknown captors he is faced with a horrifying proposition.

**horror /ˈhɔr.ər/**

Word family:
Nouns: horror
Adjectives: horrified, horrifying
FEELING

[B2] a strong feeling of shock or fear

Dictionary examples:
She watched in horror as the car skidded across the road.
The thought of speaking in front of so many people fills me with horror.
I then realized to my absolute horror, that I had forgotten the present.

Learner example:
I approached the door but to my horror, it was locked.

hospitalable /hɒsˈpɪ.tə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: hospitality
Adjectives: hospitable

ADJECTIVE
[C1] A hospitable person or place is friendly, pleasant, and welcomes visitors.

Dictionary example:
We always find them very hospitable.

Learner example:
First of all, the families you will be staying with are exceptionally hospitable, always willing to show you round in the local area.

hospitality /ˌhɒs.pɪˈtæl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: hospitality
Adjectives: hospitable

NOUN [u]
[C1] when people are friendly and welcoming to guests and visitors

Dictionary example:
The local people showed me great hospitality.

Learner example:
Our members were ever so pleased with the families and your kind hospitality.
host /həʊst/

NOUN [c]

PERSON
[B2] someone who invites people to a meal or a party, or to stay in their home

Dictionary examples:
We thanked our hosts for the lovely evening.
My host family looked after me very well during my month in London.

Learner example:
My experience [of living] with a host family was very good, so I suggest we should look for a nice place for both of us.

a host of sth
[C1] a large number of people or things

Dictionary example:
I've got a whole host of questions to ask you.

Learner example:
In this day and age, we can buy Nike clothes, H[ead & Shoulders] shampoos and a host of other products in the UK as well as other places in the world.

TELEVISION
[C2] someone who introduces the guests on a radio or television programme

Dictionary example:
a talk show host

Learner example:
For a lot of youngsters some television hosts are regarded as role models because they are famous and do not seem to have problems with anything at all.

VERB [t]
[C1] If a place hosts an event, people there arrange it and it happens there.

Dictionary example:
The town hosts an annual jazz festival.

Learner example:
Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing on behalf of my town which has been short-listed to host an international conference next year.
**hostage /ˈhɒs.tɪdʒ/**

**NOUN**

**PERSON**

[C2] someone who is kept as a prisoner and may be hurt or killed in order to force other people to do something

**Dictionary example:**
Three hostages died in the attack.

**Learner example:**
The most extraordinary bond, however, develops between two of the hostages, namely Mr. Hosokawa himself and the American opera singer Roxanne Coss.

**take/hold sb hostage**

[C2] to catch or keep someone as a prisoner

**Dictionary example:**
Two tourists were held hostage by terrorists.

**Learner example:**
At the party, however, things take an unexpected turn when all the visitors are taken hostage by a group of terrorists.

---

**hostile /ˈhɒs.təl/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** hostility

**Adjectives:** hostile

**ADJECTIVE**

**UNFRIENDLY**

[C1] unfriendly and not liking or agreeing with something

**Dictionary example:**
Some politicians were very hostile to the idea.

**Learner example:**
She is not hostile or aggressive.

**DIFFICULT**

[C1] unpleasant or not suitable for living or growing

**Dictionary examples:**
a hostile climate
They live and work in very hostile conditions.
Learner example:
However, they do not realize that they have to survive in a hostile environment, living in unsafe and unhealthy slums.

hostility /hɒstɪl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: hostility
Adjectives: hostile

NOUN
[C2] [u] unfriendly, angry behaviour that shows that you dislike someone

Dictionary example:
hostility towards outsiders

Learner example:
As Edmund's cruelty and hostility towards Charles intensified, and Charles' attempts to escape failed, his unhappiness increased, which led to his ultimate self-destruction.

hot /hɒt/

ADJECTIVE (hotter, hottest)

a hot issue/topic
[C1] a subject which people discuss and have strong feelings about

Dictionary example:
The legalization of drugs is a hot topic.

Learner example:
Whether to compete or to cooperate has become a hot issue in today's society, both in public and private.

EXCITING
[C1] informal exciting or interesting

Dictionary example:
Hollywood’s hottest new actress

Learner example:
That would mean that Bill Gates is the hottest celebrity on earth, but he is not.
**hour /aʊə/**

Word family:

**Nouns:** hour

**Adjectives:** hourly

**Adverbs:** hourly

**NOUN [C]**

**all hours**

[C1] very late at night, until early morning, or almost all the time

**Dictionary example:**
Our neighbours are up till all hours every night, playing loud music.

**Learner example:**
This causes traffic jams at all hours of the day.

**the early/small hours**

[C2] the hours between midnight and the time that the sun rises

**Dictionary example:**
I usually wake up in the early hours.

**Learner example:**
After the firework display, villagers start dancing again until the early hours.

**hourly /ˈaʊə.li/**

Word family:

**Nouns:** hour

**Adjectives:** hourly

**Adverbs:** hourly

**ADJECTIVE**

**EVERY HOUR**

[B2] done or happening every hour

**Dictionary examples:**
There's an hourly bus service into town.
A nurse checked him at hourly intervals.

**PER HOUR**

[B2] for each hour

**Dictionary example:**
an hourly rate/wage
**Learner example:**
I'll also call the shop and ask [about] the hourly rate and the working hours.

**ADVERB**
[C1] once every hour

**Dictionary example:**
Trains stop here hourly.

**Learner example:**
This train runs hourly and takes about 90 minutes to Kassel which is the second stop.

---

**house**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** house, housing
**Verbs:** house

**NOUN [C] /haʊs/ (PLURAL houses)**

**THEATRE**
[C2] the people watching a performance or the area where they sit

**Dictionary example:**
The actors played to a full house.

**VERB [T] /haʊz/**

**PROVIDE SPACE**
[C2] to provide space for something

**Dictionary example:**
The museum houses a huge collection of paintings.

**Learner example:**
Her study houses a really huge collection of books on history, architecture, [and] geography of the places we have been to.

**GIVE HOME**
[C2] to give a person or animal a place to live

**Dictionary example:**
This development will house over 100 families.

**Learner example:**
In short, if more emphasis is put on social skills and benefits become easier to obtain, then homelessness could be reduced – except for the persons who cannot be housed because of their deviant behaviour.
**household /ˈhaʊs.həuld/**

**NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]**
[B2] a family or group of people who live together in a house

**Dictionary examples:**
By the 1960s, most households had a TV.
household chores
household expenses

**Learner example:**
In Japan, for example, the vast majority of households have at least one car nowadays.

---

**housing /ˈhaʊ.zɪŋ/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** house, housing
**Verbs:** house

**NOUN [U]**
[C1] buildings for people to live in

**Dictionary example:**
a shortage of local housing

**Learner example:**
The problems with housing can be improved by building more council houses, which can be bought at lower prices, or giving subsidies to first [time] buyers.

---

**how /haʊ/**

**ADVERB**

**how come** **INFORMAL**
[C1] used to ask why or how something has happened

**Dictionary example:**
How come you didn’t go to the party?

**Learner example:**
Off the record: How come that your reporter can print such lies when knowing they are perhaps hurting certain people in this important matter?

**How dare she/you, etc.**
[C1] used to express anger about something someone has done
Dictionary example:
How dare you talk to me like that!

Learner example:
How dare you call that high standards?!

**how far**

[C1] used to talk about how true something is

Dictionary example:
How far do politicians represent the views of ordinary people?

Learner example:
How far and to what extent would the characteristics we are born with influence our future development in life?

**How strange/stupid/weird, etc. is that?**

[C2] said to mean that something is strange/stupid, etc.

Dictionary example:
I found my keys in the fridge – how stupid is that?

Learner example:
The best thing is that my current rent is only 2/3 of the old flat and the landlord is paying the facility bills and council tax for me. How good is that?

**however** /ˌhauˈev.ə/ 

**ADVERB**

however cold/difficult/slowly, etc.

[B2] used to say that it does not make any difference how cold/difficult/slowly, etc.

Dictionary examples:
We're not going to get there in time, however fast we drive.
However hungry I am, I never seem to be able to finish off a whole pizza.
If Emma likes something she'll buy it however much it costs.
I'll see you after the show and give you £20 for the tickets, or however much they cost.

Learner example:
We think that we are careful and that we can avoid traffic accidents, but however careful we may be, some other people might be careless and hit us.

**CONJUNCTION**

[C2] in whatever way

Dictionary examples:
However you look at it, it's still a mess.
You can do it however you like, it really doesn't matter.
Learner example:
However you do it, the important part is that you relax.

**hum** /ˈhʌm/

**VERB** [I or T] (–mm–)
[C2] to sing without opening your mouth

**Dictionary example:**
She walked around the house, humming a song.

**Learner example:**
Secretly, when nobody can hear them, they hum a little tune or whistle a melody, their faces beam, and their hearts grow warm.

**human** /ˈhjuː.mən/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** human, *inhuman*

**ADJECTIVE**

**be only human**
[C2] to not be perfect

**Dictionary example:**
Of course Tom makes mistakes – he's only human.

**Learner example:**
In theory, it is easy to say "We should learn from the mistakes of the past" but is it easy to do so in practice? Many people would say "No" to this question, as we are only human.

**humanitarian** /ˈhjuːˌmæn.ɪˈteə.ri.ən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** humanity
**Adjectives:** humanitarian

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] connected with improving people's lives and reducing suffering

**Dictionary example:**
The UN is sending humanitarian **aid** to the refugees.
**Learner example:**
Indeed, the conflicts in the Balkans are so deeply rooted and complex that they can be likened to a political quagmire: once you go in, a withdrawal of humanitarian aid and military forces becomes difficult to undertake.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>humanity</strong></th>
<th>/hjuːˈmæn.ə.ti/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** humanity

**Adjectives:** humanitarian

**NOUN [u]**

“All people [C1] all people

**Dictionary example:**
The massacre was a crime against humanity.

**Learner example:**
All humanity enjoys the numerous advances in modern technology and [in] our day, life [has become] more interesting and easier.

**KINDNESS**

[kindness and sympathy towards others](C2)

**Dictionary example:**
Mother Teresa was famous for her compassion and humanity.

**Learner example:**
When he sees Faber’s intelligence and humanity, he is once more convinced of the fact that books are a good thing and that they should be preserved rather than destroyed and he decides to fight for this.

**BEING HUMAN**

[C2] the condition of being human

**Dictionary example:**
War robs these people of their humanity.

**Learner example:**
At last they will be back home, but they are sure that nobody could give them again that humanity that the war took away.
human rights /ˌhjuː.mənˈraɪts/

NOUN [PLURAL]
[B2] the basic rights that every person should have, such as justice and freedom to say what you think

Dictionary example:
international laws protecting human rights

Learner example:
My main interest is the way of life during the so-called French Period; that period is very important for the foundation of human rights and the way parliament ought to work.

humble /ˈhʌm.bl/

ADJECTIVE

NOT PROUD
[C2] not proud or not believing that you are important

Dictionary example:
He’s very humble about his success.

Learner example:
I am aware that this may be perceived by some people as a naive point of view, as such humble values are becoming less and less popular in today’s materialistic world.

POOR
[C2] poor or of a low social rank

Dictionary example:
She rose from humble beginnings to become Prime Minister.

Learner example:
As a result of it, he never forgot his humble origins in a small region of Spain.

in my humble opinion
[C2] used to give your opinion about something, often when you are sure you are right

Dictionary example:
In my humble opinion, that’s the wrong decision.

Learner example:
In my humble opinion, there’s no such thing as a uniform celebrity, good, bad or otherwise.
humiliated /ˈhjuːˌmɪl.i.eɪ.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: humility
Adjectives: humiliated, humiliating

ADJECTIVE
[C2] made to feel stupid or ashamed

Dictionary example:
She felt completely humiliated.

Learner example:
Never again in my life have I felt so miserable and humiliated.

humiliating /ˈhjuːˌmɪl.i.eɪ.tɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: humility
Adjectives: humiliated, humiliating

ADJECTIVE
[C2] making you feel stupid or ashamed

Dictionary example:
a humiliating defeat

Learner example:
How humiliating it had been to have her parental abilities questioned.

humility /ˈhjuːˌmɪl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: humility
Adjectives: humiliated, humiliating

NOUN [U]
[C2] the quality of not being proud or not thinking that you are better than other people

Dictionary example:
Try to show a little humility.

Learner example:
This growing shopping mania is also said to create an increasingly materialistic society; hence, our children grow up forgetting the basic values of life – simplicity, integrity, humility and plain hard work.
humorous /ˈhjuː.mərəs/

Word family:
Nouns: humour
Adjectives: humorous

ADJECTIVE
[C1] funny, or making you laugh

Dictionary example:
a humorous book

Learner example:
To be more specific, the articles will include events taken from our college life, written in a humorous, chatty way.

humour /ˈhjuː.mər/

Word family:
Nouns: humour
Adjectives: humorous

NOUN
[B2] [u] the quality of being funny

Dictionary example:
There's a lot of humour in her work.

Learner example:
The film is really exciting with a bit of humour.

MOOD
[C2] FORMAL the way you are feeling, or your mood

Dictionary example:
good humour

Learner example:
My mother was the tenderest and the most amiable mother one could have and my father was the man I mostly "loved", thanks to his good humour and his gentle manner.

dzundred /ˈhʌn.dɾəd/

hundreds INFORMAL
[B2] a lot
Dictionary example:
Hundreds of people wrote in to complain.

Learner example:
When she came back to reality she could see hundreds of people applauding.

**hunger** /ˈhʌŋ.ɡər/  

Word family:  
Nouns: hunger  
Adjectives: hungry

**NOT ENOUGH FOOD**  
[B2] [u] when you do not have enough food

Dictionary example:  
All over the world, people die of hunger every day.

Learner example:  
Many changes are coming and many problems are coming too, because overpopulation, contamination, pollution, hunger, [and] poverty besides come with this technological revolution and that is something that the human being will have to solve soon.

**WISH**  
[C1] [NO PLURAL] a strong wish for something

Dictionary example:  
a hunger for success/knowledge

Learner example:  
The most important factor when learning English is the hunger for knowledge, the hunger for the unknown.

**hungry** /ˈhʌŋ.gri/  

Word family:  
Nouns: hunger  
Adjectives: hungry

**ADJECTIVE**

be hungry for *sth*  
[C2] to have a strong wish for something

Dictionary example:  
The journalists were hungry for more details of the accident.
Learner example:
I am always fascinated with people who are well-educated and do not stop being hungry for information.

**hunt  /hʌnt/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** hunting, hunt
**Verbs:** hunt

**VERB [I or T]**
**SEARCH**
[B2] to search for something or someone

**Dictionary examples:**
I've hunted all over the place, but I can't find that book.
They are still hunting for the missing child.
I've hunted for my gloves.
Police are hunting the terrorists who planted the bomb.

**Learner example:**
You don't have to hunt for a place to park your car and to worry what will happen when you're out of gas.

**NOUN**
[C1][C usually no plural] a search for something or someone

**Dictionary examples:**
After a long hunt we finally found a house we liked.
The hunt for the injured climber continued throughout the night.

**Learner example:**
What is more, it helps to face problems which could occur during the hunt for a "lifetime" job.

**hunting  /ˈhʌnt.ɪŋ/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** hunting, hunt
**Verbs:** hunt

**NOUN [u]**
[B2] the sport of chasing and killing animals

**Dictionary examples:**
deer hunting
She's very much against hunting of any sort.
Learner example:
And of course hunting won’t be allowed.

hurry /ˈhʌr.i/

VERB [I or T]

hurry up sb/sth or hurry sb/sth up PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to make someone do something more quickly, or to make something happen sooner

Dictionary example:
Could you hurry the children up, or their dinner will get cold?

hygiene /ˈhaɪ.dʒiːn/

Word family:
Nouns: hygiene
Adjectives: hygienic

NOUN [U]
[C1] the process of keeping things clean, especially to prevent disease

Dictionary examples:
health and hygiene regulations
dental/personal hygiene

Learner example:
The ones that need medical services at home have hardly [got] anyone, and no one has helped them with personal hygiene.

hygienic /haɪˈdʒe.nɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: hygiene
Adjectives: hygienic

ADJECTIVE
[C2] very clean, so that bacteria cannot spread

Dictionary example:
hygienic conditions

Learner example:
That was not only extremely uncomfortable, but also inconvenient and not very hygienic.
**hyphen** /ˈhaɪ.fən/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a mark (−) used to join two words together, or to show that a word has been divided and continues on the next line

**Dictionary example:**
There should be a hyphen in 'short-sighted'.

**hypocrisy** /hɪˈpɒk.rə.si/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** hypocrisy
- **Adjectives:** hypocritical

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] when someone pretends to believe something that they do not really believe or that is the opposite of what they do or say at another time

**Dictionary example:**
I can’t stand their hypocrisy – they say they care about the poor but then they go home and drink champagne.

**Learner example:**
I would recommend Hartley’s novel to people who would like to see the world once more from the point of view of a child: a world too strange, too full of hypocrisy and egotism to be understood by a boy.

**hypocritical** /ˌhɪp.əˈkrɪt.ɪ.kəl/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** hypocrisy
- **Adjectives:** hypocritical

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] Hypocritical people pretend to believe things that they do not really believe or that are the opposite of what they do or say at another time.

**Dictionary example:**
Having told Tom that he should not accept any money from her, it would be rather hypocritical if I did.
Learner example:
One unique thought haunted her: go away from the environment she was living in and which she couldn't stand: the four-hour teas, the incessant discussions about Mrs X who was pregnant and Mr X who had lost his fortune in a game, the hypocritical smiles, the narrow-minded people blinded by money... all those details which enraged Lucy.

**hypothesis** /haɪˈpɒθ.ə.sɪs/

**noun** [C] (plural: hypotheses)
[C2] a suggested explanation for something which has not yet been proved to be true

Dictionary example:
They are investigating the hypothesis that obesity may be caused by a virus.

Learner example:
The first impression that comes to my mind is that when you live longer, you gain more experience and wisdom, which you can convey to your children, therefore the society becomes more experienced, responsible etc. (unfortunately, [real life] does not back up this hypothesis).

**hysterical** /hɪˈster.i.kəl/

**adjective**
[C1] If someone is hysterical, they cannot control their feelings or behaviour because they are extremely frightened, angry, excited, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Calm down, you're **becoming/getting** hysterical.
The police were accused of hysterical over-reaction.
hysterical laughter

Learner example:
The actor playing the part of Amadeus is Tom Hulce, whose hysterical laughter always seems to put him in embarrassing situations.
ice /aɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: ice
Adjectives: icy
Adverbs: icily

NOUN [u]

break the ice
[B2] to make people feel more relaxed in a social situation

Dictionary example:
I told everyone a joke, which helped to break the ice.

Learner example:
And, of course, don’t forget that a warm smile is one of the best ways to break the ice.

iceberg /ˈaɪs.bɜːɡ/

NOUN [c]

ICE
[C1] a very large piece of ice that floats in the sea

Dictionary example:
The ship hit an iceberg.

Learner example:
Another animal you cannot miss is the Humboldt penguin – you can see thousands of them over an iceberg.

be the tip of the iceberg
[C2] to be a small part of a very big problem

Dictionary example:
We’ve corrected a few errors, but they’re just the tip of the iceberg.

Learner example:
I’m not used to such behaviour but that was the tip of the iceberg.
icily  /ˈaɪs.ə.li/  

Word family:
Nouns: ice
Adjectives: icy
Adverbs: icily

ADVERB
[C2] in an unfriendly way or without showing any emotion

Dictionary example:
'I won't ask you again,' she said icily.

Learner example:
No sooner had she picked the phone up than she heard Mr Jones' voice icily asking her to go to his office.

icon  /ˈaɪ.kɒn/  

NOUN [C]

COMPUTER
[B2] a small picture on a computer screen that you choose in order to make the computer do something

Dictionary example:
Click on the print icon.

Learner example:
He clicked on the icon on the screen which started the operation.

FAMOUS PERSON/THING
[B2] a person or thing that is famous because it represents a particular idea or way of life

Dictionary example:
a fashion icon

Learner example:
I think he is still very famous because he is an icon and kickboxing is still very popular because of him.

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icy /ˈaɪ.si/

Word family:
Nouns: ice
Adjectives: icy
Adverbs: icily

ADJECTIVE

WITHOUT FEELING

[B2] without showing any emotion

Dictionary example:
an icy stare

Learner example:
FOGG is the typical rich English man: cold with a[n] icy heart, uncommunicative.

idea /aɪˈdɪə/

NOUN

THOUGHT

[B2] [U NO PLURAL] an understanding, thought or picture in your mind

Dictionary examples:
Do you have any idea of what he looks like?
Can you give me an idea of the cost?
I don't like the idea of living so far away from my family.
I've got a pretty good idea why they left early.

Learner example:
For children it's great to get an idea of how these "big" animals eat, drink and live.

AIM

[C1] [NO PLURAL] the aim or purpose of something

Dictionary example:
The idea is to give local people a chance to voice their opinions.

Learner example:
This was the idea behind this new product: although made in New Zealand, the new product would have its name, packag[ing], marketing and advertising support in keeping with the Russian traditions.

the idea of sth

[C2] the principle of something
Dictionary example:
We all admire the idea of dignity.

Learner example:
Many of us sit there with watery eyes, as we're moved by the idea of unification, equality and brotherhood among the different nations of the world.

not have the faintest idea
[C2] used to emphasize that you do not know something

Dictionary example:
I haven't the faintest idea what you’re talking about.

Learner example:
Some twenty years ago, when I left my parents’ home to go and live on my own, I was [given] four mugs. By whom? I haven't the faintest idea.

ideal /ˈaɪˈdɪəl/

Word family:
Adjectives: ideal, idealistic
Adverbs: ideally

ADJECTIVE
[B2] perfect, or the best possible

Dictionary examples:
the ideal employer
She's the ideal person for the job.
The television also comes in a compact 36 cm screen size, ideal for bedroom or kitchen use.
It's the ideal opportunity to meet people.
In an ideal world no one would go hungry.

Learner example:
In fact [I] didn't want to ask my parents for money, and going on holiday with you would be an ideal solution.

idealistic /ˈaɪ.də.ˈlɪst.ɪk/

Word family:
Adjectives: ideal, idealistic
Adverbs: ideally

ADJECTIVE
[C1] believing that it is possible to achieve very good things, even when others do not think this is likely
Dictionary example:
When I was young and idealistic, I believed it was possible to change the world.

Learner example:
Carolina has conquered the world, not only through her impressive results but through her appearance in front of the cameras, her idealistic ideas and her constantly happy mood.

**ideally** /aɪˈdɪəl.i/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** ideal, idealistic
**Adverbs:** ideally

**ADVERB**

**PERFECTLY**

[B2] in a perfect way

Dictionary example:
She seemed ideally suited for the job.

Learner example:
I believe I am ideally suited for this job.

**PERFECT SITUATION**

[B2] used to talk about how something would be in a perfect situation

Dictionary example:
Ideally, I'd like to work at home.

Learner example:
Ideally, through this camp, I would like to teach Japanese songs and dance to them and I would also like to learn about their culture.

**identical** /aɪˈdɛn.trə.kəl/

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] exactly the same

Dictionary examples:
I've got three identical blue suits.
The two rooms were virtually identical.
The tests are identical to those carried out last year.

Learner example:
And suddenly you notice the identical but cheaper one in the next shop.
### identification /ɪˈden.tɪˌfiːk.ʃən/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** identification, identity
- **Verbs:** identify

**NOUN [U]**

**RECOGNIZING**

[B2] when you recognize and can name someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
Identification of the victims of the plane crash still is not complete.

**Learner example:**
[In the home of the future,] we might even be using voice identification and fingerprints instead of keys.

### identify /ɪˈden.tɪ.fai/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** identification, identity
- **Verbs:** identify

**VERB [T]**

**RECOGNIZE**

[B2] to recognize someone or something and say or prove who or what they are

**Dictionary examples:**
Even the smallest baby can identify its mother by her voice.
The gunman in Wednesday's attack has been identified as Lee Giggs, an unemployed truck driver.

**Learner example:**
After [a few] minutes I heard [a] noise which I couldn't identify.

**DISCOVER**

[B2] to find a particular thing or all the things of a particular group

**Dictionary examples:**
You need to identify your priorities.
The research will be used to identify training needs.

**Learner example:**
The purpose of this report is to identify which lessons or other activities should be filmed.
**identity**  /ərˈden.tə.ti/  

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** identification, identity

**Verbs:** identify

**NOUN [C or U]**

**WHO SOMEONE IS**

[B2] who someone is

**Dictionary examples:**

to hide/protect your identity
to prove/reveal your identity

The witness was given a new identity for her protection.
The newspaper photo apparently showed him in Rome but it was a case of mistaken identity.

**Learner example:**

But this idea fell through when the real Martine revealed her identity.

**CHARACTERISTICS**

[B2] the things that make one person or group of people different from others

**Dictionary examples:**

cultural/national identity

I think my job gives me a sense of identity.

**Learner example:**

There were many people and many speakers who talked about all sorts of subject[s] such as politics, religion, gender identity, [and] art.

**idiom**  /ˈɪd.i.əm/  

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a group of words used together with a meaning that you cannot guess from the meanings of the separate words

**Dictionary example:**

To "have bitten off more than you can chew" is an idiom that means you have tried to do something which is too difficult for you.

**Learner example:**

[Greek] has many verbs, adjectives and idioms and the grammar can be very complicated.
idiot /ˈɪd.i.ət/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a stupid person or someone who is behaving in a stupid way

Dictionary examples:
Some idiot left the tap running in the bathroom and there's water everywhere.
You stupid idiot – that's a month's work you've lost!

Learner example:
Everybody was treating me like a big idiot.

idle /ˈaɪ.dl/

ADJECTIVE

LAZY
[C2] lazy and not willing to work

Dictionary example:
He knows what has to be done, he's just bone idle.

Learner example:
This last point is important because, though happy when a boy, I remember I was sometimes idle and I guess I could have [done] much more.

NOT SERIOUS
[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] not serious or having no real purpose

Dictionary examples:
idle gossip
This is no idle threat.

Learner example:
However, as soon as it became a plan of action rather than an idle thought, it began to grow on her.

idol /ˈaɪ.dəl/

NOUN [c]

PERSON
[C1] someone that you admire and respect very much

Dictionary example:
apop/sporting idol
Learner example:
As they are children’s heroes, we can be pretty sure children will be demanding the same things their idols wear.

GOD
[C2] a picture or object that people pray to as part of their religion

Dictionary example:
They worshipped huge stone idols.

Learner example:
Buddha idols stand in row[s] protected by glass cases.

if /ɪf/

CONJUNCTION

WOULD/MIGHT/COULD HAVE
[B2] used to talk about what would/might/could, etc. have happened

Dictionary examples:
If we'd had the money, we'd have bought a new car.
If you'd mentioned this earlier, it might not have been necessary to call the doctor.

if so
[B2] if this is the case

Dictionary example:
It might rain this afternoon. If so, we'll have to have the party indoors.

Learner example:
Let me know if you [can] come, and if so, [whether] you prefer the 15th or 22nd of February.

as if
[B2] used to describe how a situation seems to be

Dictionary examples:
It looks as if it might rain.
It was as if we had been friends for years.

Learner example:
The sun was up in the sky, there were no clouds and it looked as if it was going to be a wonderful day.
ignorance /ˈɪg.nər.əns/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** ignorance  
**Verbs:** ignore  
**Adjectives:** ignorant

**NOUN [u]**  
[C2] when someone does not have enough knowledge, understanding, or information about something  
  
**Dictionary examples:**  
There is widespread ignorance about how disease spreads.  
I was shocked by her total ignorance of world history.  

**Learner example:**  
However, living in ignorance about the history and the origins of things that one is surrounded with is like showing disrespect to those who helped to create the modern world as it is known today.

ignorant /ˈɪg.nər.ənt/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** ignorance  
**Verbs:** ignore  
**Adjectives:** ignorant

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] not having enough knowledge, understanding, or information about something  
  
**Dictionary example:**  
He was a newcomer to Formula One and ignorant of many of the circuits.  

**Learner example:**  
It is often claimed by scientists that people's modern lifestyle has resulted in this plight our world is facing and that unfortunately people are either ignorant of it or indifferent.

ignore /ɪgˈnəʊ/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** ignorance  
**Verbs:** ignore  
**Adjectives:** ignorant
**VERB [T]**

[B2] to pay no attention to something or someone

**Dictionary examples:**
I smiled at her but she just ignored me.
She can be really irritating but I try to ignore her.
How can the government ignore the wishes of the majority?

**Learner example:**
Paul ignored it at first and continued his shopping but the dog kept following him.

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<th>ill</th>
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<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> illness</td>
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<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong> ill</td>
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**ADJECTIVE**

BAD

[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] FORMAL bad

**Dictionary examples:**
It was an ill-tempered exchange.
He suffered no ill effects from his fall.

**Learner example:**
Working long hours can have ill effects on the health.

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<table>
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<th>illegal</th>
<th>/ɪˈliːɡəl/</th>
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<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong> illegal, legal</td>
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<td><strong>Adverbs:</strong> illegally, legally</td>
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**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] not allowed by law

**Dictionary examples:**
Prostitution is illegal in some countries.
It is illegal to drive a car that is not taxed and insured.
Cocaine, LSD and heroin are all illegal drugs/substances.

**Learner example:**
Although he has a very charming personality, he uses it to take part in illegal activities and he has been in trouble with the law several times.
### illegally

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** illegal, legal

**Adverbs:** illegally, legally

#### ADVERB

[B2] in a way that is not allowed by law

**Dictionary examples:**
- They entered the country illegally.
- an illegally parked car

**Learner example:**
- He was afraid and bought a gun illegally.

### illiterate

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** literature

**Adjectives:** literary, illiterate, literate

#### ADJECTIVE

[C2] not able to read or write

**Dictionary example:**
- Most of the children are illiterate.

**Learner example:**
- It is well known that many European charity workers travel to developing countries in order to educate illiterate children or to rebuild ruined villages.

### illness

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** illness

**Adjectives:** ill

#### NOUN

**BEING ILL**

[B2] [u] when you are ill

**Dictionary example:**
- She had five days off work due to illness.
**Learner example:**
There was a little paper on the door which informed us that the restaurant was closed due to illness.

**illusion /ɪˈluː.ʒən/**

**NOUN**

**FALSE IDEA**
[C2] [c or u] an idea or belief that is not true

**Dictionary examples:**
He **had no** illusions about his talents as a singer.
We are not **under any** illusion – we know the work is dangerous.

**Learner example:**
Just one detail turning out to be not as expected or not perfect is often enough to shatter their illusions and cause arguing.

**DIFFERENT**
[C2] [c] something that is not really what it seems to be

**Dictionary example:**
There is a large mirror at one end to **create the** illusion **of** more space.

**Learner example:**
This architectural solution creates an illusion of space, one may feel as inside a vast hall.

**illustrate /ˈɪl.ə.strət/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** illustration

**Verbs:** illustrate

**VERB [T]**

**PICTURE**
[B2] to draw pictures for a book, magazine, etc. or to put pictures, photographs, etc. in a book, magazine, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
The book is beautifully illustrated by the author.

**Learner example:**
Last year I illustrated two children's books by H.J. Simons.
DIAGRAM
[C1] to give information through diagrams, lists of numbers, etc.

Dictionary example:
This process is illustrated in the diagram below.

Learner example:
The table illustrates the employment status of graduates from [UK] universities in 2001.

EXPLAIN
[C1] to give more information or examples to explain or prove something

Dictionary examples:
The lecturer illustrated his point with a diagram on the blackboard.
This latest conflict further illustrates the weakness of the UN.
The exhibition will illustrate how life evolved from water.

Learner example:
Some topics that illustrate cultural ways of thinking and that have been explored by this programme are abortion (it is illegal in Brazil), colour prejudice, sexual harassment, homosexuality.

PICTURE
[C1] a picture in a book, magazine, etc. or the process of illustrating something

Dictionary examples:
a full-page illustration
colour/black and white illustrations

Learner example:
When you read about that period of time in history books and see pictures and illustrations, you can almost "feel" the atmosphere and sense the power the Monarchy possessed at the time.

EXPLAIN
[C2] an example that explains or proves something

Dictionary examples:
This delay is a perfect illustration of why we need a new computer system.
A couple of examples are included, by way of illustration.
Learner example:
This quote, Milly's reaction when her father concedes to buying her a horse, is a good illustration of her general attitude towards religion and life.

**image /ˈɪm.idʒ/**

**NOUN**

PUBLIC

[B2] [c or u] the way that other people think someone or something is

**Dictionary examples:**
The aim is to improve the public image of the police.
They are trying to promote a more positive image of the whole industry.
The company has made serious attempts to improve its image in recent years.
He's terribly image-conscious.

**Learner example:**
In conclusion, I do not think that there are many things to do for Turin, but what I said before could really improve the image of our wonderful town.

**PICTURE**

[B2] [c] a picture, especially on film or television or in a mirror

**Dictionary examples:**
television images of starving children
This is the image you see in the mirror.

**Learner example:**
[Films] also provide a clear idea of how people's lives were in a particular period by showing us the visual images of that time.

**IDEA**

[C2] [c] a picture in your mind or an idea of how someone or something is

**Dictionary examples:**
I have an image in my mind of the way I want the garden to look.
Whenever I hear this song, it conjures up images of Caribbean beaches.

**Learner example:**
It conjures up images of brightly lit and decorated malls, big stores, little stores proudly showing off their wares.
### imaginary  /ɪˈmædʒ.ɪ.n.ər.i/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** imagination
- **Verbs:** imagine
- **Adjectives:** imaginary, imaginative

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] not real but imagined in your mind

**Dictionary example:**
The story takes place in an imaginary world.

**Learner example:**
Mickey Mouse [...] describes stories that can happen to humans whereas SpongeBob lives in an imaginary world underwater.

### Imagination  /ɪˌmædʒ.ɪˈneɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** imagination
- **Verbs:** imagine
- **Adjectives:** imaginary, imaginative

**NOUN**

**fire sb's imagination**

[C2] to make someone very excited or interested in something

**Dictionary example:**
His paintings really fired my imagination.

**Learner example:**
The newspaper article on education that I read really fired my imagination and urged me to think about the points raised.

### imaginative  /ɪˈmædʒ.ɪ.n.ə.tɪv/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** imagination
- **Verbs:** imagine
- **Adjectives:** imaginary, imaginative

**ADJECTIVE**

**THING**

[C1] Something which is imaginative is new or clever and often unusual.
**Dictionary example:**
an imaginative use of colour

**Learner example:**
Her imaginative stories are very popular with children of all ages.

**PERSON**
[C1] Someone who is imaginative is able to create new and interesting ideas or things.

**Dictionary example:**
a highly imaginative poet

**Learner example:**
She is a very imaginative girl and she always invents new games for our children, so that they have never felt bored in her presence.

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**Imagining /ɪˈmædʒ.ɪn/**

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** imagination
- **Verbs:** imagine
- **Adjectives:** imaginary, imaginative

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to believe that something is probably the case

**Dictionary examples:**
I imagine (that) he's under a lot of pressure at the moment.
I don't imagine (that) they have much money.
"Will they change it?" "I imagine so."

**Learner example:**
I imagine that it's a lot of money so my first suggestion would be to spend only part of [it] on a motorbike.

---

**Imitate /ˈɪm.ɪ.tet/**

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** imitation
- **Verbs:** imitate

**VERB [T]**

[C1] to copy the way someone or something looks, sounds, or behaves
Dictionary example:
She tried to imitate the way the models walked.

Learner example:
We try to imitate the British way of preparing or organising championships and races, and that’s the reason [for] the British influence in Spanish motorsports.

**imitation** /ˌɪm.ɪˈteɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: imitation
Verbs: imitate

**NOUN**
[C2] [c] a copy of something that is made to look like the real thing

Dictionary examples:
It wasn’t a genuine Gucci handbag, just a cheap imitation.
imitation leather/fur

Learner example:
The word spread out so fast that the vast majority of people ended up purchasing genuine Versace jeans or even cheap imitations just to catch up with the fashion.

**immature** /ˌɪm.əˈtjʊər/

Word family:
Adjectives: mature, immature

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] not behaving in a way which is as wise and calm as people expect from someone your age

Dictionary example:
Some of the boys are quite immature for their age.

Learner example:
You might regard me as an immature, seventeen-year-old girl for I like decorating my diary.

**Immediate** /ɪˈmiː. di.ət/

Word family:
Adjectives: immediate
Adverbs: immediately

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ADJECTIVE

WITHOUT WAITING

[B2] happening or done without delay or very soon after something else

Dictionary examples:
We must make an immediate response.
The directors have demanded his immediate resignation.
Dioxin is a poison that takes immediate effect.

Learner example:
I hope you will give this matter your immediate attention.

IMPORTANT NOW

[B2] important now and needing attention

Dictionary examples:
We have no immediate plans.
Our immediate concern is getting food and water to the refugees.

Learner example:
It can't be an immediate objective, of course, but we mustn't give up.

CLOSEST

[C1] closest to something or someone

Dictionary examples:
There are few facilities in the immediate area.
His immediate family have been informed.

Learner example:
In the first place, there are beautiful landscapes in the immediate vicinity of both hotels.

immediately /ɪˈmiː.di.ə.tɪ/  

Word family:
Adjectives: immediate
Adverbs: immediately

ADVERB

NEXT TO

[C1] next to something, or close to something in time

Dictionary examples:
Milton Street is on the left, immediately after the bank.
They moved in immediately before Christmas.
We heard a loud crash from the room immediately above us.
Learner example:
You should go on up to the end of the street, as my flat is the last on the right-hand side, immediately before the crossroads.

**immense /ɪˈmens/**

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:** immense  
**Adverbs:** immensely

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] extremely big

**Dictionary examples:**  
immense pressure/value  
Health care costs the country an immense amount of money.

**Learner example:**  
Jobs in the computer and telecommunications industry have gained immense respect in the past ten years.

**immensely /ɪˈmens.li/**

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:** immense  
**Adverbs:** immensely

**ADVERB**  
[C1] extremely

**Dictionary example:**  
immensely powerful/popular

**Learner example:**  
People who were previously nothing more than peasants grew immensely rich, while the former aristocracy of land owners lost its dominant position.

**Immigrant /ˈɪm.ɪ.grənt/**

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** immigrant, immigration

**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] someone who comes to live in a different country
Dictionary examples:
a large immigrant population
Illegal immigrants are sent back across the border if they are caught.

Learner example:
Leonardo is an Italian immigrant who has a restaurant near the primary school.

immigration  /ˌɪm.ɪˈgreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: immigrant, immigration

NOUN [U]

COMING INTO A COUNTRY
[B2] when someone comes to live in a different country

Dictionary examples:
immigration policy
There are strict limits on immigration (into the country).

Learner example:
The purpose of [the] party is to give [a] treat to my family members, as my immigration [into] New Zealand is approved.

imminent  /ˈɪm.ɪ.nənt/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] coming or happening very soon

Dictionary example:
imminent danger

Learner example:
Therefore, I would kindly ask you to raise an appeal through your newspaper and draw attention to this imminent issue.

immoral  /ɪˈmɒr.əl/

Word family:
Adjectives: immoral, moral
Adverbs: morally

ADJECTIVE
[B2] morally wrong
Dictionary example:
immoral behaviour

Learner example:
At this time – [the] early 20's –, tango was considered an immoral type of music; but Carlos Gardel changed this belief.

---

**immortal** /ɪˈmɔː.təl/

Word family:
Nouns: mortality
Adjectives: immortal

**ADJECTIVE**

LIFE
[C2] living or lasting forever

Dictionary example:
an immortal soul

Learner example:
Biotechnology seems to be the key to all the yet unsolved problems humans are facing. It might even make us immortal.

MEMORY
[C2] famous or remembered for a very long time

Dictionary example:
Then he uttered the immortal line – "My name is Bond".

Learner example:
In the immortal words of the bard "... if music be the food of love....... play on!"

---

**immune** /ˈɪmjuːn/

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] not affected by a particular type of behaviour or emotion

Dictionary example:
He is immune to flattery.

Learner example:
Bad news on the other hand is so common that in order to cope with it, we simply ignore it – we have become immune to bad news and television, radio stations and newspapers are aware of it.
immune system /ɪˈmjuːnˌsɪs.təm/

NOUN [NO PLURAL]
[C2] the cells and tissues in the body which make it able to protect itself against infection

Dictionary example:
Eating healthily will help to improve your immune system.

Learner example:
When you have lupus, your immune system produces anti–bodies against your own vital organs.

impact /ˈɪm.pækt/

NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL OR U]

EFFECT
[B2] the effect that a person, event or situation has on someone or something

Dictionary examples:
The anti–smoking campaign had/made quite an impact on young people.
The new proposals were intended to soften the impact of the reformed tax system.

Learner example:
I could live without watching TV, but it would make a serious impact on my life.

HITTING
[C2] the force or action of one object hitting another

Dictionary examples:
The impact of the crash reduced the car to a third of its original length.
The bullet explodes on impact.

VERB
[C1] to affect something or someone

Dictionary example:
Rising interest rates are sure to impact on the housing market.

Learner example:
Those extra calories, the fat and salt in our food and the decrease in vitamin rich food impacts on our health.
impatience /imˈpeɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:
Nouns: patience, impatience  
Adjectives: impatient, patient  
Adverbs: impatiently, patiently

NOUN [u]  
[C2] when someone is impatient  

Dictionary example:  
His impatience was obvious.

Learner example:  
She remained silent for a while, taking no notice of my growing impatience.

impatient /imˈper.jənt/  

Word family:
Nouns: patience, impatience  
Adjectives: impatient, patient  
Adverbs: impatiently, patiently

ADJECTIVE  
EASILY ANNOYED  
[B2] easily annoyed by someone's mistakes or because you have to wait

Dictionary examples:  
He's a good teacher, but inclined to be a bit impatient with slow learners.  
You'd be hopeless looking after children – you're far too impatient!

Learner example:  
Hours passed and she became impatient and thought he had forgotten about their date.

WANTING SOMETHING TO HAPPEN  
[B2] [NEVER BEFORE NOUN] wanting something to happen as soon as possible

Dictionary examples:  
He's got a lot of exciting ideas and he's impatient to get started.  
People are increasingly impatient for change in this country.

Learner example:  
I'm impatient to discover this country.
**impatiently /ɪmˈpeɪ.ʃənt.li/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** patience, impatience
- **Adjectives:** impatient, patient
- **Adverbs:** impatiently, patiently

**ADVERB**

[B2] in an impatient way

**Dictionary examples:**
"Yes, you said that before," she said, impatiently.
We were waiting impatiently for the show to begin.

**Learner example:**
I hope you will come soon because we are all impatiently waiting for your talk.

---

**imperative /ɪmˈper.ə.tv/**

**NOUN [NO PLURAL]**

[B2] the form of a verb which is usually used for giving orders

**Dictionary example:**
In the phrase 'Leave him alone!', the verb 'leave' is an imperative/is in the imperative.

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] **FORMAL** When an action or process is imperative, it is extremely important that it happens or is done.

**Dictionary example:**
It is imperative (that) I speak with him at once.

**Learner example:**
It is imperative, however, for people to alter their lifestyle and their attitudes towards the environment.

---

**imperfect /ɪmˈpɜː.fɪkt/**

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** perfect, imperfect
- **Adverbs:** perfectly

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] not perfect and with some mistakes

**Dictionary example:**
an imperfect solution
**Learner example:**
It goes without saying that native speakers are the best to talk to when learning the language (of course, if they don’t mind your practising your imperfect English on them.)

**impersonal** /ımˈpɜːsnəl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** person, personality  
**Adjectives:** personal, *impersonal*  
**Adverbs:** personally

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] not being friendly towards people or showing any interest in them

**Dictionary example:**
a cold and impersonal letter

**Learner example:**
To sum up, the only thing we can do is to find out a way to survive in such an impersonal working environment and create a more friendly and intimate atmosphere as before.

**implement** /ˈɪm.plɪ.mənt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** implementation  
**Verbs:** implement

**VERB** [T]
[B2] to make a law, system, plan, etc. start to happen or operate

**Dictionary example:**
The changes to the national health system will be implemented next year.

**Learner example:**
Rare species protection, on the other hand, can be implemented, e.g. by means of wildlife reserves and national parks.

**Implementation** /ˌɪm.plɪ.mənˈteɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** implementation  
**Verbs:** implement

**NOUN** [U]
[C2] when a plan or system is put into operation
**Dictionary example:**
The implementation of the new computer system went smoothly.

**Learner example:**
I think that congestion problems should be solved by the gradual implementation of taxes and charges, promoting use of public transport rather than individual cars or taxis.

**implication /ˌɪmplɪˈkeɪʃən/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** implication
- **Verbs:** imply
- **Adjectives:** implicit

**NOUN**

**EFFECT**

[C1] [c] a result or effect that seems likely in the future

**Dictionary examples:**
- financial/health implications
  This scheme has serious implications for the local economy.

**Learner example:**
Any government must be fully aware of [the] wider implications for the economy and [the] wellbeing of its citizens.

**SUGGESTION**

[C2] [c or u] when you seem to suggest something without saying it directly

**Dictionary example:**
The implication was that the school had to do much better or it would be closed.

**Learner example:**
In spite of that, the implication that famous sportsmen are worth paying more [for] than other famous people, for example well-known scientists, is an over-simplification.

**INVOLVEMENT**

[C2] [u] when someone is involved in something bad

**Dictionary example:**
His career was ruined by his implication in the scandal.

**Learner example:**
I even thought that the maid could have taken it off my desk and used it as fuel for the boiler, but I checked with her and she denied any implication in the disappearance of the diary.
**implicit /ɪmˈplɪs.ɪt/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** implication
- **Verbs:** imply
- **Adjectives:** implicit

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] suggested but not stated directly

**Dictionary examples:**
- an implicit threat
- We interpreted his silence as implicit agreement.

**Learner example:**
- There was an implicit social code, which influenced people’s relationships.

---

**imply /ɪmˈplaɪ/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** implication
- **Verbs:** imply
- **Adjectives:** implicit

**VERB [T]**

**NOT DIRECT**

[C2] to suggest or show something, without saying it directly

**Dictionary examples:**
- Are you implying (that) I’m fat?
- I’m not implying anything about your cooking, but could we eat out tonight?
- I detected an implied criticism of the way he was treated.

**Learner example:**
- I am not implying that the other options will not be to our advantage but I think that this one is what we really need.

**MUST BE TRUE**

[C2] If one thing implies another, the first thing shows that the second is likely to exist or be true.

**Dictionary example:**
- Socialism implies equality.

**Learner example:**
- Such mergers do unfortunately imply a massive loss of jobs, not only in Europe but also all over the world.
as the/its name implies
[C2] used to show that the name of something tells you something about it

Dictionary example:
The Long Room, as its name implies, runs the entire length of the house.

Learner example:
Sour Sweet, as the name implies, is originally a Chinese restaurant.

impolite  /ˌɪm.pəˈlaɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: politeness
Adjectives: impolite, polite
Adverbs: politely

ADJECTIVE
[B2] FORMAL not polite

Dictionary example:
It is impolite to point at people.

Learner example:
Besides, [the] serving speed was too slow and some waiters were even impolite to customers.

import

VERB [T]  /ɪmˈpɔːt/  
[B2] to buy or bring in products from another country

Dictionary example:
We import a large number of cars from Japan.

Learner example:
Moreover they say we must be independent of the Near East countries from whom we import oil.

NOUN  /ˈɪm.pɔːt/  

PRODUCT
[C1] [c] a product which is imported from another country

Dictionary examples:
Japanese/American imports
cheap imports from Asia

Learner example:
Furthermore, cheap imports from the newly industrialised countries have also contributed to the increase in car ownership.
ACTIVITY
[C2] [u] when you import something into a country

Dictionary example:
a ban on the import of beef

Learner example:
One of them, which is the most important for a government, is the import of foreign money.

Importantly /ɪmˈpɔː.tɪnt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: importance
Adjectives: important, unimportant
Adverbs: importantly

ADVERB
[B2] in a way that is important

Dictionary example:
If we served more soft drinks, there would be fewer hangovers and, more importantly, fewer drink-driving incidents.

Learner example:
Lastly, and most importantly, what is the cost?

Impose /ɪmˈpəʊz/

VERB [T]

RULE/TAX, ETC.
[C1] to officially force a rule, tax, punishment, etc. to be obeyed or received

Dictionary examples:
Very high taxes have recently been imposed on cigarettes.
Judges are imposing increasingly heavy fines for minor driving offences.
The council has imposed a ban on alcohol in the city parks.

Learner example:
[An]other advantage is that local governments could receive more money as they impose a fine or ask for a congestion charge.

BELIEF
[C1] to force someone to accept something, especially a belief or way of living
**Dictionary examples:**
I don’t want them to impose their religious beliefs on my children.
We must impose some kind of order on the way this office is run.

**Learner example:**
Above all, never allow others to impose their ideas on you.

---

### impossibility /ɪmˌpɒs.əˈbɪl.ə.ti/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** possibility, impossibility
- **Adjectives:** impossible, possible
- **Adverbs:** possibly

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C2] when something is impossible

**Dictionary example:**
What you’re asking just can’t be done – it’s an impossibility.

**Learner example:**
Simple tasks like watching television or listening to music become an impossibility when every five minutes or so they get drowned in a sea of noise.

---

### impossible /ɪmˈpɒs.ə.bl/.

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** possibility, impossibility
- **Adjectives:** impossible, possible
- **Adverbs:** possibly

**ADJECTIVE**

DIFFICULT

[C2] very difficult to deal with

**Dictionary examples:**
You just can’t reason with her, she’s absolutely impossible.
We found ourselves in an impossible situation.

**Learner example:**
I couldn’t help laughing at the impossible situation that had resulted from the combination of my personal musings by the side of this wishing-well, and the boy’s very straightforward and impulsive character.
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**VERB [ɪ][2]**

to cause someone to admire or respect you

**Dictionary example:**
He tried to impress me with his extensive knowledge of wine.

**Learner example:**
All groups did their best to impress the public and every group played professionally.

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**ADJECTIVE [ɪ][2]**

feeling admiration or respect for someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
I was impressed by her professionalism.
He seemed suitably impressed by our efforts.

**Learner example:**
I am really impressed by your offer to paint me.

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**NOUN [ɪ][2]**

an idea, feeling or opinion about something or someone
Dictionary examples:
I didn't get much of an impression of the place because it was dark when we drove through it.
What was your impression of Charlotte's husband?
I don't tend to trust first impressions.
When I first met him I got/had the impression that he was a shy sort of a guy.

Learner example:
You can look back fifty years to get an impression of what changes have happened.

**EFFECT**

[B2] [NO PLURAL] the way that something seems, looks or feels to a particular person

Dictionary examples:
It makes/gives/creates a very bad impression if you're late for an interview.
He likes to give the impression (that) he's terribly popular and has loads of friends.

Learner example:
I was afraid of being late or saying something wrong because I really wanted to make a good impression on this man.

**be under the impression**

[B2] to think or understand a particular stated thing

Dictionary examples:
I was under the impression (that) you didn't get on too well.
He was under the mistaken impression (that) you were married.

Learner example:
I am under the impression that people generally exercise a little, but if they eat the wrong food every day, it won't help.

---

**impressive** /ɪmˈpres.ɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: impression
Verbs: impress
Adjectives: impressed, impressive

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] Someone or something that is impressive makes you admire and respect them.

Dictionary examples:
She's a very impressive public speaker.
That was an impressive performance from such a young tennis player.
an impressive collection of modern paintings
There are some very impressive buildings in the town.

Learner example:
I think that the Westfield Music Festival was really impressive.
imprison /ɪmˈprɪz.ən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: prison, prisoner, imprisonment  
Verbs: imprison  

VERB [T]  
[C1] to put someone in prison or keep them as a prisoner  

Dictionary example:  
Taylor was imprisoned in 2005 for burglary.  

Learner example:  
DMX was a criminal and was imprisoned.

imprisonment /ɪmˈprɪz.ən.mənt/  

Word family:  
Nouns: prison, prisoner, imprisonment  
Verbs: imprison  

NOUN [U]  
[C2] when someone is kept in a prison  

Dictionary example:  
She was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.  

Learner example:  
My brother, John, is just 16 years old, but was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for dealing [in] drugs.

improved /ɪmˈpruːvd/  

Word family:  
Nouns: improvement  
Verbs: improve  
Adjectives: improved  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] better than before  

Dictionary examples:  
improved performance/results  
a new and improved recipe  

Learner example:  
Emergency centres like hospitals [and] clinics must have the most improved medical devices to [provide] excellent [care] for the citizens.
improvement /ɪmˈpruːv.ənt/

Word family:
Nouns: improvement
Verbs: improve
Adjectives: improved

NOUN

room for improvement
[C1] If there is room for improvement, something can be made better.

Dictionary example:
His work isn't bad but there's still some room for improvement.

Learner example:
She is Polish, aged 29 and can speak English pretty well, but there is still room for improvement, that's why she wants to spend a year in England, looking after children in an English-speaking family.

impulse /ˈɪm.pʌls/

Word family:
Nouns: impulse
Adjectives: impulsive

NOUN

FEELING
[C2] [c] a sudden feeling that you must do something, without thinking about the results

Dictionary example:
Her first impulse was to run away.

Learner example:
He is, therefore, a sort of intellectual and represents the force of reason as opposed to the violent impulses of the other boys.

on impulse
[C2] suddenly and without thinking first

Dictionary example:
I tend to act on impulse.

Learner example:
I'm seeing Milly as a capricious girl who, like most teenagers, enjoy[s] buying, although I think that she buys on impulse.
impulsive  /ɪmˈpʌl.sɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: impulse
Adjectives: impulsive

ADJECTIVE
[C2] Impulsive people do things suddenly, without planning or thinking carefully, but because they want to.

Dictionary example:
In an impulsive gesture, he threw his arms around her.

Learner example:
Anyway, the fact is that Hara struck me as a quite silly, impulsive and excessively spontaneous girl with no serious intellectual skills and spirit.

in  /ɪn/

PREPOSITION

in general
[B2] considering the whole of someone or something, and not just a particular part of them

Dictionary example:
So, apart from the bad ankle, how are you in general?

Learner example:
I think that I, as well as people in general, would have been more depressed if we didn't have light.

be in favour of sth
[B2] to agree with or approve of a plan or idea

Dictionary example:
Most people are in favour of reducing traffic in cities.

Learner example:
I am certainly in favour of holding the music festival next year.

in two/half
[B2] divided into two equal parts

Dictionary examples:
Cut the potatoes in two.
Divide the dough in half and roll it out into two circles.
**Learner example:**
They were very surprised when they found the gold was cut in half.

**in actual fact**
[B2] used to emphasize what is really true, or to give more information

**Dictionary example:**
I thought she was Portuguese, but in actual fact she's Brazilian.

**Learner example:**
Nowadays almost all people own a car and in actual fact more and more people have been facing death as a consequence of careless driving.

**in any case**
[B2] used to give another reason for something you are saying, or that you have done

**Dictionary example:**
I don't want to go and in any case, I haven't been invited.

**Learner example:**
I suggest that you should in any case leave your car at home and take buses or other public means of transport.

**in that case**
[B2] because of the mentioned situation

**Dictionary example:**
There's no coffee left? In that case I'll have tea.

**Learner example:**
You could try [k]ayaking. In that case, of course, you need to pay for the equipment.

**in all**
[B2] used to show the total amount of something

**Dictionary example:**
Some of the children came, so there were 15 of us in all.

**Learner example:**
Secondly, even though most people like[d] [the] group RADIANT, they [only] played for 35 minutes in all.

**RESULT**
[B2] used when referring to something that is done as a result of something else

**Dictionary examples:**
I'd like to do something for you in return/exchange for everything you've done for me.
The changes are in response to demand from our customers.
He refused to say anything in reply to the journalists’ questions.

**Learner example:**
I am writing to you in response to your advertisement of 1st December in the Times.
in brief
[B2] using only a few words

Dictionary example:
world news in brief

Learner example:
In brief, I have had a marvellous week.

in sb’s eyes
[B2] in someone’s opinion

Dictionary example:
In my parents' eyes, I'll always be a child.

Learner example:
To answer your question right away, the boat trip is highly recommendable in my eyes!

In conclusion
[B2] used to introduce the last part of a speech or a piece of writing

Dictionary examples:
In conclusion, I would like to thank our guest speaker for her fascinating talk.
In conclusion, swimming is an enjoyable form of exercise and an excellent way to keep fit.

Learner example:
In conclusion, music, TV and clothes are very important in a young person's life and can reflect each person's character.

in connection with sth
[B2] used to say what something is about

Dictionary examples:
I am writing in connection with the above job advertised in The Daily Press on Monday 12th February.
A man has been arrested in connection with last month's murder.

Learner example:
Dear Mrs Brown, I am writing in connection with a surprise birthday party for your husband, Mr Brown.

in due course
[B2] at a suitable time in the future

Dictionary example:
The results will be sent to you in due course.

Learner example:
I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

in sb’s direction
[B2] towards someone
Dictionary example:
She keeps looking in my direction.

Learner example:
A player kicked the ball in my direction and I started to think about what I was going to do to catch that ball.

in other words
[B2] used to explain what something means in a different way

Dictionary example:
He said he's too busy – in other words he isn't interested.

Learner example:
They had had a great time before and had drunk too much alcohol. In other words, they were totally drunk.

in writing
[B2] An agreement that is in writing is official and is proof of that agreement.

Dictionary example:
Please confirm your reservation in writing.

Learner example:
I [am tell[ing] you in writing that I would like to help you.

in season
[B2] if vegetables or fruit are in season, they are available and ready to eat.

Dictionary example:
Asparagus is in season at the moment.

Learner example:
They celebrate Halloween in October when pumpkins are in season, that's why in the decorations they include them very often; most of the people carve the pumpkins and put some lights inside.

in secret
[B2] without telling other people

Dictionary example:
For years they met in secret.

Learner example:
We met in secret when Mary was busy.

in good/high/low, etc. spirits
[B2] feeling good/excited/unhappy, etc.

Dictionary example:
The whole class was in good spirits that day.

Learner example:
I was in high spirits until I got my paper back.
in view of *sth*
[B2] FORMAL because of

**Dictionary example:**
In view of recent events, we have decided to cancel the meeting.

**Learner example:**
In view of what happened, I would advise you not to try to mislead people like this [again].

in honour of *sb/sth*
[B2] in order to celebrate or show great respect for someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
a banquet in honour of the president

**Learner example:**
Finally we went to Corinth, where there are a lot of ancient sanctuaries which were built in honour of their gods.

in person
[B2] If you do something in person, you go somewhere to do it yourself.

**Dictionary example:**
You have to collect the document in person.

**Learner example:**
I am looking forward [to] meeting you in person.

in place of *sth*
[B2] instead of something

**Dictionary example:**
Try adding fruit to your cereal in place of sugar.

**Learner example:**
In the advertisement, it [said] that Danny Brook was starring, but in place of him there was a different actor and he was really disappointingly

in the first place
[B2] at the start of a situation

**Dictionary example:**
Why did you invite her in the first place?

**Learner example:**
In the first place, you were unknown people for me, but now you are my special foreign friends.

in practice
[B2] If something is true in practice, this is the real situation.

**Dictionary example:**
In practice, the new laws have had little effect.
Learner example:
When you leave school, you have knowledge but you do not know how to use it in practice.

**in private**
[B2] in a place where nobody else can hear you or see what you are doing

*Dictionary example:*
The meeting was held in private.

*Learner example:*
I agree that th[is] should be in private.

**in progress**
[B2] happening or being done now

*Dictionary example:*
Repair work is in progress on the south-bound lane of the motorway and will continue until June.

*Learner example:*
[In] the lower part of your advertisement, it also said there was a theatre restaurant, [but] in fact, it was closed because internal decoration was in progress.

**in relation to sth**
[B2] when compared with something

*Dictionary example:*
Salaries are low in relation to the cost of living.

*Learner example:*
I think television has several advantages but also disadvantages in relation to books.

**in relation to sth**
[B2] about or relating to something

*Dictionary example:*
I’d like to ask you something in relation to what you said earlier.

*Learner example:*
In relation to last month's social program, the sightseeing tour of London was d[i]vine, although we didn't get to see the entire city.

**in this respect/in many respects**
[B2] in a particular way, or in many ways

*Dictionary example:*
The school has changed in many respects.

*Learner example:*
How's your friend Mike? He is in many respects better than [a] computer, isn't he? (Teasing you again, sorry).

**in response to**
[B2] as an answer to
Dictionary example:
I'm writing in response to your letter of 14 February.

Learner example:
I am writing in response to your advertisement, which appeared in the newspaper on November the 23rd, looking for a person to work at weekends in your cafe.

in a row
[B2] one after another without a break

Dictionary example:
He's just won the tournament for the fifth year in a row.

Learner example:
Maradona was the captain of the team, and since he arrived, the team won three championships in a row.

in stock
[B2] available in a shop

Dictionary example:
Do you have the book in stock at the moment?

Learner example:
I would like to tell you that I am quite satisfied with the cinema and its customer service, but there is of course some [room] for improvement – for example referring to the cafe, which on the one hand has in stock a huge variety of groceries, but [which] on the other hand [is very] dark.

in those days
[B2] used to talk about a period in the past

Dictionary example:
In those days, boys used to wear short trousers.

Learner example:
In those days, life was much harder than now.

in turn
[B2] one after another

Dictionary example:
He spoke to the three boys in turn.

in turn
[C1] as a result of something that is part of a series of events

Dictionary example:
This could result in the loss of certain species of fish and this in turn poses a serious threat to the fishing communities along the river banks.

Learner example:
This, in turn, enabled them to find jobs and become financially independent from their husbands.
in accordance with *sth*
[C1] in the way described by a rule, law, or wish

**Dictionary example:**
Both companies have insisted that they were acting in accordance with the law.

**Learner example:**
Although they do not earn much money in this profession, they try to do their best and judge in accordance with the law which they also have to interpret.

in aid of *sb/sth*
[C1] in order to collect money for a group of people who need it

**Dictionary example:**
a concert in aid of famine relief

**Learner example:**
It w[ould] be an honour for us students at the centre if you could attend our sport[s] function in aid of stress[ed] out kids and present the pri[z]es.

in association with
[C1] working together with

**Dictionary example:**
The event was organized in association with the Sports Council.

**Learner example:**
This service, which will be [provided] in association with Foster Loft, will be available at the end of 2005.

in bulk
[C1] in large amounts

**Dictionary example:**
to buy in bulk

**Learner example:**
I suggest that you buy food in bulk so that you not only save money but also save time.

in common with *sb/sth*
[C1] in the same way as someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
In common with many working mothers, she feels guilty about leaving her children.

**Learner example:**
In common with many city d[we]llers, I do not think this is a wise decision and it could have negative effects on the city re[s]idents' daily lives.

in demand
[C1] wanted or needed in large numbers
Dictionary example:
Good teachers are always in demand.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, people will always use cars and vehicles, so petrol will always be in demand.

**in the event of sth** FORMAL
[C1] if something happens

Dictionary example:
An airbag could save your life in the event of an accident.

Learner example:
In the event of bad weather, it would be wise to plan an alternative to the boat trip, for example a visit of Buckingham Palace or the Houses of Parliament.

**in any event**
[C1] whatever happens

Dictionary example:
I'm not sure if I'm coming on Friday, but in any event, I'll see you next week.

Learner example:
In any event, it is incumbent upon all of us to carefully plan our travel matters, so as to take advantage of their several benefits.

**be in the public eye**
[C1] to be famous and often featured in the media

Dictionary example:
Her new role means that she will be in the public eye.

Learner example:
But being famous also means that you are always in the public eye, which is a major drawback.

**in sb's favour**
[C1] If something is in your favour, it helps you to win or succeed.

Dictionary example:
Both sides have strong arguments in their favour.

Learner example:
Unfortunately the weather conditions were not in our favour, but the rain only lasted a few minutes and did not look at all like a downpour.

**in the form of sth**
[C1] the particular way in which something appears or exists

Dictionary examples:
The novel is written in the form of a series of letters.
The medicine comes in the form of a liquid or pills.
Learner example:
For all this, I can only say that I want my money back immediately, or [some] compensation in the form of a real trip to a real country.

**in your heart**
[C1] used to say what you really think

**Dictionary example:**
In his heart he felt they were wrong.

**Learner example:**
It is all because it was followed by a big mistake, when I focussed on [the] German language and thought is was my dream. I have to admit that it was only a [sensi]ble decision, because deep in my heart I knew I want[ed] to learn English.

**in the hope of/that**
[C1] because you want something good to happen

**Dictionary examples:**
She went to Paris in the hope of improving her French.
They wrote to the Prime Minister in the hope that he would help.

**Learner example:**
Not only would I want to travel back to understand Hitler’s incredible success, but also in the hope of thwarting his plans.

**be in sb's interest(s)**
[C1] to help someone and give them an advantage

**Dictionary example:**
It may not be in your interests to change jobs so soon.

**Learner example:**
It is in my interests to meet new people and I find it easy to go and talk to people I do not know.

**in the light of sth**
[C1] If something is done or happens in the light of facts, it is done or happens because of those facts.

**Dictionary example:**
The drug has been withdrawn in the light of new research.

**Learner example:**
In the light of this news, we took this issue as a class project and investigated it by interviewing residents.

**in moderation**
[C1] If you do something in moderation, you do not do it too much.

**Dictionary example:**
I only drink alcohol in moderation now.
Learner example:
While shopping can make one feel good and even has its positive impact on the retail economy, I think it should be done in moderation.

**be in two minds**

[C1] to have difficulty making a decision

**Dictionary example:**
I’m in two minds about accepting his offer.

**Learner example:**
If you are in two minds about having to share your room with someone else, there you can easily rent a studio apartment close to the college, which is situated in the centre of the city.

**in a nutshell**

[C1] something that you say when you are describing something using as few words as possible

**Dictionary example:**
The answer, in a nutshell, is yes.

**Learner example:**
To put it in a nutshell, they all provide good food at reasonable prices.

**be in position**

[C1] If someone or something is in position, they are in the place that they should be in.

**Dictionary example:**
The police were all in position.

**Learner example:**
Remember to stay calm when you are in the car with the instructor, wear your seatbelt and check that all your mirrors are in position.

**in the region of sth**

[C1] approximately

**Dictionary example:**
It probably cost somewhere in the region of £900.

**Learner example:**
I am willing to pay rent in the region of £1000 to £1200 monthly.

**in respect of sth**

FORMAL
[C1] relating to a particular thing

**Dictionary example:**
I include payment in respect of your invoice of May 13th.
Learner example: Instead of that, we should have more English grammar lessons – some of our English students are very interested in them, especially in respect of their exam this year.

**in reverse**

[C1] in the opposite order or way

**Dictionary example:**
Do the same steps but this time in reverse.

**Learner example:**
They want to see what they are not like, how they would not react and this, in reverse, helps them [to] find themselves.

**in no time**

[C1] very soon

**Dictionary example:**
We'll be home in no time.

**Learner example:**
Team work is very important for us and you will make many friends in no time.

**in tune**

[C1] singing or playing the right notes

**Dictionary example:**
Try to stay in tune.

**Learner example:**
The public was singing in tune with Jag, hands were raised and bodies were slowly [sway]ing.

**in turn**

[C1] as a result of something that is part of a series of events

**Dictionary example:**
This could result in the loss of certain species of fish and this in turn poses a serious threat to the fishing communities along the river banks.

**Learner example:**
This, in turn, enabled them to find jobs and become financially independent from their husbands.

**in vain**

[C1] without any success

**Dictionary example:**
I tried in vain to start a conversation.

**Learner example:**
We looked in vain for the guide through three London parks.

**in no way/not in any way**

[C1] not at all
**Dictionary example:**
This is in no way your fault.

**Learner example:**
This magazine will be loved by students as it will help them learn English in the best way and in no way will students find it boring.

**in a sense**
[C1] thinking about something in a particular way

**Dictionary example:**
In a sense, he's right.

**Learner example:**
In a sense this is correct, since you have to leave your natural environment to visit a place where no human being is meant to survive.

**in short**
[C1] in a few words

**Dictionary example:**
In short, we need more staff.

**Learner example:**

**in store**
[C1] going to happen soon

**Dictionary examples:**
You never know what's in store for you.
There's a bit of a shock in store for him when he gets home tonight!

**Learner example:**
Nobody knows what the future will have in store!

**CAUSE**
[C2] used to show when doing one thing is the cause of another thing happening

**Dictionary examples:**
In refusing to work abroad, she missed an excellent job opportunity.
The government banned tobacco advertising and, in doing so, contributed greatly to the nation's health.

**Learner example:**
According to Montaigne's point of view, children and even "older" people ought to travel as much as possible. In doing so, they would receive an education that no school could provide them with.

**in the dark**
[C2] not knowing about something because other people are not telling you
Dictionary example:
They kept us in the dark about their plans.

Learner example:
Peter had always kept her in the dark about the reason for their fight.

in anticipation (of)
[C2] expecting something to happen or in preparation for something happening

Dictionary example:
She’s even decorated the spare room in anticipation of your visit.

Learner example:
This has sometimes resulted in the comic phenomenon of people travelling to a distant country, in anticipation of encountering strange and original lifestyles, only to come across situations not very different [from] the one they have left in their own countries.

in attendance FORMAL
[C2] present at an event

Dictionary example:
They have doctors in attendance at every match.

Learner example:
Professional coach[e]s are in attendance and the members can have proper lessons.

be in awe of sb
[C2] to feel great respect for and sometimes fear of someone

Dictionary example:
As children we were rather in awe of our grandfather.

Learner example:
As I was the eldest of [the] siblings, they used to respect all my orders and [even] now, they are a bit in awe of me.

in the blink of an eye
[C2] extremely quickly

Dictionary example:
In the blink of an eye, he was gone.

Learner example:
And for all those who keep nagging about losing their favourite regular programmes during such an event, be patient: TV routine will be back into your living rooms in the blink of an eye.

in cold blood
[C2] in a cruel way, without showing any emotion

Dictionary example:
He shot three policemen in cold blood.
Learner example:
Returning to the story, when I arrived, I went directly to Hillton Avenue where I should have met 005, but when I arrived at the meeting point I found him lying on the floor with two shots in his back; he had been murdered in cold blood.

**be in the same boat**
[C2] to be in the same unpleasant situation as other people

Dictionary example:
She complains that she doesn't have enough money, but we're all in the same boat.

Learner example:
Unemployment and its consequences is still a major problem. Now we are in the same boat.

**in the clear**
[C2] not in a difficult situation or having problems any more

Dictionary example:
We have had money problems but we should be in the clear by next year.

Learner example:
"You're in the clear, you don't have to be afraid any more", it said.

**in confidence**
[C2] If you tell something to someone in confidence, you do not want them to tell anyone else.

Dictionary example:
I'm sorry, she told me that in confidence.

Learner example:
His real name isn't Piggy but he told Ralph in confidence that they called him that in school because of his appearance.

**in conjunction with sth/sb**
[C2] working, used, or happening with something or someone else

Dictionary example:
Our librarians use their knowledge in conjunction with the computer network.

Learner example:
Therefore if the banning of private cars takes place in conjunction with development in the public transport system in that city, this whole development will [have] more advantages despite some slight difficulties at the start.

**in the name of sth**
[C2] If bad things are done in the name of something, they are done in order to help that thing succeed.

Dictionary example:
So much blood has been spilt in the name of religion.
Learner example:
Recently, a Swedish priest compared homosexuality to cancer, and he did it in the name of religion.

in the vicinity (of sth) **FORMAL**
[C2] in the area near a place

Dictionary example:
A number of buildings in the vicinity of the fire were damaged.

Learner example:
This centre would provide new sports and leisure premises for our town and would certainly attract young people from other towns in the vicinity as well.

in a big way **INFORMAL**
[C2] used to say that someone or something does something to a large degree

Dictionary example:
They celebrate birthdays in a big way.

Learner example:
Tourism helps Greece's national economy – which is not at its best – in a big way.

in sb's words
[C2] used when you repeat what someone said

Dictionary example:
In the manager's words, the game was 'a total disaster'.

Learner example:
In the immortal words of the bard "... if music be the food of love....... play on!"

in all likelihood
[C2] almost certainly

Dictionary example:
The facilities are wasted on people who in all likelihood will not use them.

Learner example:
In all likelihood, you will have to work during the weekends, even in summer, so I firmly believe that loving your job is very important.

be in line with sth
[C2] to be similar to and suitable for something

Dictionary example:
They were offered a pay increase in line with inflation.

Learner example:
The other two courses, at 5%, are still in line with the national average.
in memory of sb
[C2] If you do something in memory of a dead person, you do it to show your respect or love for them.

Dictionary example:
They built a statue in memory of those who died in the fire.

Learner example:
You see, every year our family performs a certain gathering in memory of my brother who was killed in a plane crash in 1991 known as the C130 disaster.

in your mind's eye
[C2] in your imagination or memory

Dictionary example:
In my mind's eye, she remains a little girl of six although she's actually a grown woman.

Learner example:
He sees her in his mind's eye, running around barefoot, laughing and squealing, wading in the water and running back out, screaming, trying to get away from the breaking waves.

in miniature
[C2] If something is in miniature, it is a very small copy of something else.

Dictionary example:
a model of the ship in miniature

Learner example:
Thirdly a co-educational school is a society in miniature and it has many practical advantages.

be in the mood for sth/to do sth
[C2] to want to do or have something

Dictionary example:
I'm not really in the mood for shopping at the moment.

Learner example:
Should you be in the mood for a walk around the lake then go for it.

in effect
[C2] used to say what the real situation is

Dictionary example:
This means, in effect, that the plan has been scrapped.

Learner example:
However, if the government increases the amount of money they pay to the unemployed, that in effect means higher taxes for the citizens which will cause strikes and various other problems.

in essence
[C2] used to emphasize the most important idea or quality of something
Dictionary example:
In essence, its purpose is to contain information.

Learner example:
In essence, homelessness means that you don't have a home and because of this you are living on the streets.

in the face of *sth*
[C2] while having to deal with a difficult situation or problem

Dictionary example:
She refused to leave him, in the face of increasing pressure from friends and family.

Learner example:
No doubt, it was rather difficult to like Enid X. She was hardly likely to arouse sympathy in anybody even in the face of death.

in favour of *sb/sth*
[C2] If you refuse or get rid of someone or something in favour of someone or something else, you choose them instead.

Dictionary example:
They dropped him from the team in favour of a much younger player.

Learner example:
The city council should revise the airport project [...] and change the current location of the airport in favour of a more isolated area.

in a flash
[C2] Informal immediately, or very quickly

Dictionary example:
I'll be back in a flash.

Learner example:
He took it and, in a flash, he came up to the surface.

in hand
[C2] being worked on or dealt with now

Dictionary example:
Despite the pressures we are determined to get on with the job in hand.

Learner example:
Miss Kenton keeps asking Stevens whether everything is in hand and whether her help is required.

in all honesty
[C2] used when you are saying what you really think or feel about something

Dictionary example:
In all honesty, I'd rather not go.
Learner example:
It is easy to say that government funding should be raised to make classes smaller and materials more relevant, but in all honesty, Danish schools are working very well indeed.

**in my humble opinion**
[C2] used to give your opinion about something, often when you are sure you are right

Dictionary example:
In my humble opinion, that’s the wrong decision.

Learner example:
In my humble opinion, there's no such thing as a uniform celebrity, good, bad or otherwise.

**in its infancy**
[C2] Something that is in its infancy has only just begun to develop.

Dictionary example:
In the 1950s, space travel was in its infancy.

**in the interest(s) of sth**
[C2] in order to achieve a particular situation or quality

Dictionary example:
In the interest of safety, passengers are advised to wear their seat belts at all times.

Learner example:
First of all, do make sure that the front door is always locked. In the interests of everybody's security, it is essential to remember [this].

**in isolation**
[C2] alone, or separately from other people, places, or things

Dictionary example:
These poems cannot be considered in isolation.

Learner example:
In conclusion, it is my opinion that the problem of parking space cannot be solved in isolation.

**in part** FORMAL
[C2] partly

Dictionary example:
He is in part to blame for the accident.

Learner example:
Technology is in part to blame.

**in perspective**
[C2] when things are in perspective, you think about them in a sensible and realistic way, and understand how important or unimportant they really are
Dictionary examples:
You must keep things in perspective – the overall situation isn’t really that bad.
When you see pictures of their suffering, it puts your own problems in perspective.

Learner example:
I think it will enable me to see things more in perspective.

in place
[C2] in the correct position

Dictionary example:
The chairs are all in place.

Learner example:
I looked neat and clean even after the wildest games in the school yard, with all the ribbons that tied my long hair in place.

in place
[C2] If a rule, system, etc. is in place, it has started to exist.

Dictionary example:
There are now laws in place to prevent this from happening.

Learner example:
Let’s take [the] example of Mexico City, where such restrictions have been in place since early 2000.

in principle
[C2] If you agree with something in principle, you agree with the idea or plan although you do not know the details or you do not know if it will be possible.

Dictionary example:
They have approved the changes in principle.

Learner example:
In principle, one can agree with both positions pointed out in this statement.

in all probability
[C2] used to mean that something is very likely

Dictionary example:
She will, in all probability, have left before we arrive.

Learner example:
Anybody who can fulfill the above conditions will in all probability be successful.

in the process
[C2] If something is being done, and something else happens in the process, the second thing happens as a result of doing the first thing.
Dictionary examples:
She stood up to say hello and spilled her drink in the process.
The tunnel was built, but many lives were lost in the process.

Learner example:
If an attempt is made to move them to another location they will probably die in the process.

be in the process of doing sth
[C2] to have started doing something

Dictionary example:
We’re in the process of painting our apartment.

Learner example:
This feeling of affinity is especially important for young people and teenagers who are in the process of creating their own identity and I also believe that sportsmen and sportswomen make great role models.

in proportion to
[C2] If something changes in proportion to another thing, it changes to the same degree as that thing.

Dictionary example:
Your tax payment increases in proportion to your salary.

Learner example:
One aspect of the question is the fact that a sportsman's salary is supposedly not in proportion to the number of hours he work[s].

sb/sth in question
[C2] the person or thing that is being discussed

Dictionary example:
He claims that he was in the pub with his girlfriend on the night in question.

Learner example:
While this is not necessarily false, it should be borne in mind that the events in question are by no means boring or uninteresting.

in the red
[C2] If your bank account is in the red, you have spent more money than there was in it.

Dictionary example:
I expect I'm in the red again.

Learner example:
Her bank account was in the red.

in retrospect
[C2] thinking now about something in the past
Dictionary example:
In retrospect, I should probably have told her.

Learner example:
But now I could in retrospect conclude that it was too much: that tat[t]oo displaying a cannabis leaf should have been enough for me to at least wonder [whether] something was really wrong with my son.

in a rut
[C2] in a bad situation where you do the same things all the time, or where it is impossible to make progress

Dictionary example:
He seems to be stuck in a rut at the moment.

Learner example:
Financial security, all the, let me call them, background benefits are important, but if you do not love what you do, soon you will become bitter, stuck in a rut or worse – you will suffer from depression.

be in good taste
[C2] to be acceptable in a way that will not upset or anger people

Dictionary example:
His speech was in good taste.

Learner example:
I therefore thought that it would be in good taste to write about two of them.

be in bad/poor taste
[C2] to be unacceptable in a way that will upset or anger people

Dictionary example:
He told a joke about a plane crash which I thought was in rather poor taste.

in no uncertain terms
[C2] in a direct and often angry way

Dictionary example:
I told him to go away in no uncertain terms.

Learner example:
Intellectuals are used to saying in no uncertain terms that money represents the bad side of the sport.

be in tune with sb/sth
[C2] to understand what someone wants or needs or to understand a situation and act in a way that is suitable for it

Dictionary example:
The government is not in tune with the voters.
Learner example:
I am not exactly in tune with all the latest trends but I know which styles give me the most satisfaction.

in that
[C2] because of or for this reason

Dictionary example:
The course is good in that it provides a very practical training.

Learner example:
Nowadays it is widely argued that professional sports are damaging to people's health in that they involve gruelling training sessions as an integral part of the occupation.

ADVERB

TRANSPORT
[B2] having arrived at the place where people can get on or off

Dictionary example:
What time is Roz's flight due in?

SENT
[B2] given or sent to someone official in order to be read

Dictionary examples:
When does your essay have to be in?
Remember to get your application in by the end of the week.

be in for sth
INFORMAL
[C2] If someone is in for a surprise, treat, shock, etc., it will happen to them soon.

Dictionary example:
If he thinks looking after a baby is easy, he's in for a shock.

Learner example:
Holidays do revive the spirit and renew the soul, provided you have a positive attitude towards life and bear in mind that they are just a fragment of real[i]ty. Otherwise, you are in for a disappointment.

NOUN

the ins and outs of sth
[C2] the details of a particular subject

Dictionary example:
the ins and outs of the legal system

Learner example:
I knew all the ins and outs of every story but I couldn't stay one single day in bed without reading it.
inability /ˌɪnəˈbɪl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: ability, disability, inability
Verbs: enable
Adjectives: able, disabled, unable

NOUN [NO PLURAL]
[C1] when you are unable to do something

Dictionary example:
I’m depressed by the police’s inability to reduce street crime.

Learner example:
They were sick and tired of the government’s inability to break the vicious circle of the crisis.

inaccuracy /ɪnˈæk.jə.rə.si/

Word family:
Nouns: accuracy, inaccuracy
Adjectives: accurate, inaccurate
Adverbs: accurately

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] something such as a statement or number that is not correct

Dictionary example:
The report contained many inaccuracies.

Learner example:
Apart from these inaccuracies, the group members have a lot of complaints.

inaccurate /ɪnˈæk.jʊ.rət/

Word family:
Nouns: accuracy, inaccuracy
Adjectives: accurate, inaccurate
Adverbs: accurately

ADJECTIVE
[B2] not correct or exact

Dictionary example:
inaccurate information/figures

Learner example:
Due to your inaccurate information, I was late and missed part of the show.
### Inadequate

[inˈæd.ɪ.kwət/](/ˈɪnˌæd.ɪ.kwət/)

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** adequate, inadequate

**Adverbs:** adequately

**Adjective**

**NOT GOOD**

[C1] not good enough or too low in quality

- **Dictionary example:**
  Our equipment is totally inadequate for a job like this.

- **Learner example:**
  First of all, I found the seats inadequate and my seat belt was broken.

**NOT ENOUGH**

[C1] not enough

- **Dictionary example:**
  inadequate funds

- **Learner example:**
  So, the inadequate number of computers could not cover students’ needs.

### Inappropriate

[inˌəˈprəʊ.pri.ət/](/ˌɪn.əˈprəʊ.pri.ət/)

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** appropriate, inappropriate

**Adverbs:** appropriately, inappropriately

**Adjective**

[C1] not suitable

- **Dictionary examples:**
  inappropriate behaviour
  It would be inappropriate for me to comment, without knowing the facts.

- **Learner example:**
  Secondly, [the] music was completely inappropriate to young people, because the band was chosen by the previous principal of our college.

### Inappropriately

[inˌəˈprəʊ.pri.ət.li/](/ˌɪn.əˈprəʊ.pri.ət.li/)

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** appropriate, inappropriate

**Adverbs:** appropriately, inappropriately
ADVERB

[C1] in a way that is not suitable

Dictionary example:
The meeting was inappropriately handled and an argument broke out.

Learner example:
For instance, the refreshment tent was inappropriately located, making it difficult for the participants to reach it.

indefensible /ɪnˈkeɪ.pə.bl/  
Word family:
Nouns: capability
Adjectives: capable, incapable

ADJECTIVE

incapable of sth/doing sth

[C1] not able to do something or to feel a particular emotion

Dictionary examples:
I think she's incapable of love.  
He's incapable of controlling his temper.

Learner example:
Earl has lost most of his eyesight and he is incapable of assembling the planes without my help.

incentive /ɪnˈsen.tɪv/  
NOUN [C or U]

[C2] something that encourages you to act in a particular way

Dictionary examples:
People had little incentive to save.  
The government should provide incentives for young people to stay in school.

Learner example:
Not surprisingly, they value financial rewards over other kinds of incentives.

Incident /ˈɪn.təd.i.ənt/  
NOUN [C]

[B2] an event which is either unpleasant or unusual
Dictionary examples:
an unfortunate incident
A youth was seriously injured in a shooting incident on Saturday night.

Learner example:
After that incident I never cheated again and I never talked to that teacher again.

incidentally /ɪn.sɪˈden.təli/
ADVERB
[C1] used when you add related but less important information to what has just been said or when you suddenly introduce a new subject

Dictionary example:
Incidentally, talking of Stephen, have you met Stephen’s girlfriend?

Learner example:
Incidentally, there is another big Turkish Bath in Ginarah.

Inclination /ˌɪn.klɪˈneɪ.ʃən/
Word family:
Nouns: inclination
Adjectives: inclined

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] a feeling that you want to do something

Dictionary example:
She showed little inclination to leave.

Learner example:
By inclination, she tended to take [an] interest in the li[yes] of other people.

Inclined /ɪnˈklaɪnd/
Word family:
Nouns: inclination
Adjectives: inclined

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

be inclined to think/believe/agree, etc.
[C1] to have an opinion, but not a strong opinion
Dictionary example:
I'm inclined to agree with you.

Learner example:
I am inclined to believe that the Open Day will reassure all the local residents that our college is one of major importance and our students creative and intelligent people.

inclined to do sth
[C2] often behaving in a particular way

Dictionary example:
Tom is inclined to be forgetful.

Learner example:
People are naturally inclined to try to earn more at every stage of their career.

wanting to do something

Dictionary example:
No one seemed inclined to help.

Learner example:
Moreover, it is imperative that public transport be improved, so that people will be less inclined to use their cars.

artistically/technically, etc. inclined
[C2] having natural artistic/technical, etc. ability

Dictionary example:
She's very curious, but not academically inclined.

Learner example:
My first suggestion is a pottery class that I think would be greatly appreciated by the more creatively inclined among the students.

inclusion  /ɪnˈkluː.ʒn/

Word family:
Nouns: inclusion
Verbs: include
Adjectives: inclusive

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] when you include someone or something, especially in a group, amount, or event

Dictionary example:
Her self-portrait was chosen for inclusion in the exhibition.
Learner example:
In basketball, for instance, changes in the most important competitions, such as the inclusion of foreign players, have given players the opportunity to be successful not only in their country but also worldwide.

inclusive /ɪnˈkljuːsɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: inclusion
Verbs: include
Adjectives: inclusive

ADJECTIVE
[C1] An inclusive price or amount includes everything.

Dictionary example:
Prices are inclusive of flights and accommodation.

Learner example:
When considering the rent, inclusive or exclusive [of] bill[s] will make a big difference.

income /ˈɪn.kʌm/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] money that you earn by working, investing or producing goods

Dictionary examples:
Average incomes have risen by 4.5% over the past year.
More help is needed for people on low incomes.
I haven't had much income from my stocks and shares this year.

Learner example:
When you are a student, you don't have [any] income.

inconceivable /ˌɪn.kənˈsiːvə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: concept, conception
Verbs: conceive
Adjectives: inconceivable

ADJECTIVE
[C2] impossible to imagine
Dictionary example:
I find it inconceivable that she could be a killer.

Learner example:
First of all, it is inconceivable that a young child should be raised almost without his/her parents, surrounded by myriad toys, gadgets and games instead.

**inconsiderate** /ˌɪn.kənˈsɪd.rət/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** consideration
**Verbs:** consider, reconsider
**Adjectives:** considerate, inconsiderate

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] not caring about other people's situations or the way they feel

**Dictionary example:**
It was very inconsiderate of you to keep us all waiting.

**Learner example:**
Although their deed is impolite and inconsiderate, they should be forgiven.

**inconvenience** /ˌɪn.kənˈviː.ni.ən.təs/

**NOUN** [C or U]
[C1] when something is inconvenient, or something that is inconvenient

**Dictionary examples:**
The Director apologized for any inconvenience caused.
Having to wait for ten minutes was a minor inconvenience.

**Learner example:**
I am sorry for any inconvenience these requirements may cause to you.

**inconvenient** /ɪn.kənˈviː.ni.ənt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** convenience
**Adjectives:** convenient, inconvenient
**Adverbs:** conveniently

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] involving or causing difficulty, such as unexpected changes or effort
Dictionary example:
I'm sorry, I seem to have called at an inconvenient time.

Learner example:
Please call him and make an alternative [arrangement] if it is inconvenient for you.

incorporate  /ɪnˈkər.pəˌrɛt/

VERB [T]
[C2] to include something as part of another thing

Dictionary example:
He began to incorporate dance and mime into his plays.

Learner example:
These are just some of the ideas that I feel can be incorporated into your project.

increase

Word family:
Nouns: increase
Verbs: increase
Adverbs: increasingly

NOUN [C or U]  /ˈɪn.kriːs/

RISE

[B2] a rise in the amount or size of something

Dictionary examples:
price/tax increases
There were 39,000 new cases last year – an increase of 7 per cent.
Any increase in production would be helpful.

Learner example:
Since bicycles became so popular, there has been an increase in the number of accidents.

on the increase

[C1] If something is on the increase, it is happening more often.

Dictionary example:
Violent crime is on the increase.

Learner example:
[The] number of motorists is on the increase everywhere in the world.
### increasingly  /ɪnˈkriː.sɪŋ.li/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** increase  
**Verbs:** increase  
**Adverbs:** increasingly  

**ADVERB**  
[B2] more and more  

**Dictionary examples:**  
- to be increasingly important/common  
  Increasingly, there is pressure on the council to reverse its decision.  

**Learner example:**  
- Among them are the increasingly popular reality shows and all the daily news about gossip and scandal.  

---  

### incredible  /ɪnˈkred.ə.bl/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** credibility  
**Adjectives:** incredible  
**Adverbs:** incredibly  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] impossible, or very difficult, to believe  

**Dictionary example:**  
- It seems incredible that no one complained.  

**Learner example:**  
- It was incredible but it was true.  

---  

### incredibly  /ɪnˈkred.ə.bli/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** credibility  
**Adjectives:** incredible  
**Adverbs:** incredibly  

**ADVERB**  
[B2] extremely  

**Dictionary example:**  
- [B2] extremely
Dictionary example:
I think the team played incredibly well.

Learner example:
It was incredibly crowded.

DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE
[C1] in a way that is difficult to believe

Dictionary example:
Incredibly, no one was hurt.

Learner example:
Incredibly, and against all my expectations, everything started going wrong from the very begin[n]ing.

incur /ɪnˈkɜːr/  

VERB [T] (−rr−)
[C2] to lose money, owe money, or have to pay money because of something that has happened

Dictionary example:
The company incurred huge losses as a result of its investments.

Learner example:
One of the principal problems is that governments all around the world are incurring great costs in order to maintain a national health system.

incurable /ɪnˈkjʊərə.bl/  

Word family:
Verbs: cure
Adjectives: incurable

ADJECTIVE
[C2] impossible to cure

Dictionary example:
an incurable disease

Learner example:
Most of the incurable illnesses of the past are no longer a threat, which means that the people live longer and longer than they used to.
indeed /ɪnˈdiːd/

ADVERB
MORE
[C2] FORMAL used when you say more to support or develop what has already been said

Dictionary example:
For such creatures speed is not important, indeed it is counterproductive.

Learner example:
It would be very difficult to define a country's culture by choosing only one characteristic of that country; indeed, it is a great variety of things such as language, politics, religion, customs, etc. that shape the culture of every country.

Indefinitely /ɪnˈdef.ɪ.nət.li/

Word family:
Nouns: definition
Verbs: define
Adjectives: definite, definitive
Adverbs: definitely, indefinitely

ADVERB
[C2] for a period of time for which no end has been fixed

Dictionary example:
His visit has been postponed indefinitely.

Learner example:
Each one of them tries so painfully to hide away the natural feelings emanating from within. But it is simply impossible to do so indefinitely.

independence /ˌɪn.dɪˈpen.dənts/

Word family:
Nouns: independence, dependence
Verbs: depend
Adjectives: dependent, independent
Adverbs: independently
**NOUN [u]**

**WITHOUT HELP**
[B2] when someone looks after themselves and does not need money, help or permission from other people

**Dictionary example:**
It's important that parents should allow their children some independence.

**Learner example:**
If you follow my instructions, you'll achieve financial independence sooner than you [would] have thought.

**FREE STATE**
[B2] when a country has its own government and is not ruled by another country

**Dictionary example:**
Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821.

**Learner example:**
Another film, Brave Heart, is about independence.

**independent ˌɪn.dɪˈpen.dənt/**

**Word family:**
- Nouns: independence, dependence
- Verbs: depend
- Adjectives: dependent, independent
- Adverbs: independently

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT INFLUENCED**
[B2] not influenced or controlled in any way by other people, events or things

**Dictionary examples:**
an independent enquiry/organization
The group is independent of any political party.

**Learner example:**
The film programme is excellent, as you show a large variety of independent films that are not the usual mainstream films and block busters.

**NOT RULED**
[B2] An independent country is not governed or ruled by another country.

**Dictionary examples:**
Belize became fully independent from Britain in 1981.
Tibet, once an independent country, is now part of China.
Learner example:
After 1918, our city again became [the] capital of [an] independent state.

**independently /ˌɪn.dɪˈpen.dənt.li/**

Word family:
**Nouns:** independence, dependence
**Verbs:** depend
**Adjectives:** dependent, independent
**Adverbs:** independently

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a way that is independent

**Dictionary examples:**
The two scientists both made the same discovery independently, at roughly the same time.
Each part of the organization operates independently of the others.

**Learner example:**
What students should understand is the existence of links among apparently different subjects and the impossibility of studying them independently or, [worse], studying one and neglecting the others.

**index /ˈɪn.ˈdeks/**

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] an alphabetical list, such as one printed at the back of a book showing which page a subject, name, etc. is found on

**Dictionary example:**
Try looking up 'heart disease' in the index.

**Learner example:**
The negative point of the book was its lack of an index.

**indicate /ˈɪn.dɪˌkeɪt/**

Word family:
**Nouns:** indication, indicator
**Verbs:** indicate
VERB \[T\]

SAY

[B2] to say something or give a signal to show what you mean or what you intend to do

**Dictionary examples:**
Please indicate **which** free gift you would like to receive.
She indicated **to** me (that) she didn't want me to say anything.

**Learner example:**
I have just received your letter informing me that I won a two week holiday at Camp California, so I am writing to you to indicate my preferences [regarding] travel and accommodation.

SHOW

[C1] to show that something exists or is likely to be true

**Dictionary examples:**
Recent evidence indicates **that** the skeleton is about 3 million years old.
Exploratory investigations have indicated large amounts of oil below the sea bed.

**Learner example:**
In fact, the study also indicates that time spent on watching TV has surged, especially during the last decade.

---

**Indication** ˌɪn.dɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** indication, indicator
**Verbs:** indicate

**NOUN [C or U]**

EXIST

[C1] a sign showing that something exists or is likely to be true

**Dictionary example:**
There are **strong** indications that the case will be referred to the Court of Appeal.

**Learner example:**
Unfortunately, after the equipment was installed and plug[g]ed into [the] mains, black smoke came out of the back, which in my opinion is an indication of a failure of some sort.

INTENTION

[C2] a sign showing what someone means or what they intend to do

**Dictionary example:**
Helen's face gave no indication of what she was thinking.
Learner example:
Rumour had it that Peter secretly brought roses early every morning to her doorstep, as an indication of his love for her.

**indicator** /ˈɪn.dɪ.ˈkeɪ.tə/

Word family:
Nouns: indication, indicator
Verbs: indicate

NOUN [c]
[C2] something that shows what a situation is like

**Dictionary example:**
Commodity prices can be a useful indicator of inflation.

Learner example:
The right-wing thinkers claim that unemployment is one of the indicators in [the] economy, displaying lack of balance between industrial output and citizens' demands.

**Indifference** /ˈɪnˈdɪf.ə.nts/

Word family:
Nouns: difference, indifference
Verbs: differ, differentiate
Adjectives: different, indifferent
Adverbs: differently

NOUN [u]
[C2] when you do not care about something or have any particular opinions about it

**Dictionary example:**
an air of indifference

**Learner example:**
On the other hand, there were some voices expressing their indifference towards money.

**indifferent** /ˈɪnˈdɪf.ə.nts/
ADJECTIVE
[C2] not caring about or interested in someone or something

Dictionary example:
They are indifferent to the plight of the unemployed.

Learner example:
Being a resident of our area yourself, you may not be entirely indifferent to the plans of the local authorities concerning the construction of a new supermarket.

indirect  /ɪn.dəˈrekt/

Word family:
Nouns: direction, directions, director
Verbs: direct
Adjectives: direct, indirect
Adverbs: directly, indirectly

ADJECTIVE
NOT CONNECTED
[C1] not directly caused by or connected with something

Dictionary example:
Indirect effects of the fighting include disease and food shortages.

Learner example:
At school, children should follow many rules. For example, they should finish their homework [and] respect other students' opinion[s]. From these experience[s], children can experience social life in indirect ways, and can learn how to be good members of society.

NOT OBVIOUS
[C2] done or caused in a way that is not obvious

Dictionary examples:
indirect taxes/costs
an indirect criticism

Learner example:
According to some experts there are just two solutions: delaying the age of retirement or increasing indirect taxes such as VAT.
indirectly /ˌɪn.dəˈrekt.əli/

Word family:
Nouns: direction, directions, director
Verbs: direct
Adjectives: direct, indirect
Adverbs: directly, indirectly

ADVERB
[C1] in a way that is not direct

Dictionary example:
She still controls the company indirectly, through her son.

Learner example:
This indirectly improves the quality of life and people will feel re-energised.

indispensable /ˌɪn.dɪˈspen.sə.bl/  

ADJECTIVE
[C2] completely necessary

Dictionary examples:
an indispensable tool/guide
She quickly became indispensable to him.

Learner example:
We should not be led to believe that [computers] are the indispensable ingredient to our well-being, [though] neither should we deny their wide-ranging potential.

Indisputable /ˌɪn.dɪˈspjuː.tə.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: dispute
Verbs: dispute
Adjectives: indisputable

ADJECTIVE
[C2] obviously and certainly true

Dictionary example:
an indisputable fact

Learner example:
It is an indisputable fact that young people do not have any anxieties as far as housework is concerned because every house is equipped with labour-saving devices.
**individual** /ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒu.əl/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** individual, individuality  
**Adjectives:** individual  
**Adverbs:** individually  

**NOUN [C]**  

**PERSON**  
[B2] a person, especially when considered separately and not as part of a group  

**Dictionary examples:**  
We try to treat our students as individuals.  
Every individual has rights which must never be taken away.  

**Learner example:**  
I can work as part of a team but also as an individual.  

**SPECIAL**  
[C2] a person with a particular characteristic  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a ruthless individual  
These are all hard-working individuals.  

**Learner example:**  
I realise that his character has changed a little with the passing of time; I can understand that he is nervous and that has turned into a selfish individual who only cares about himself.  

---  

**individuality** /ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒu.əl.ə.ti/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** individual, individuality  
**Adjectives:** individual  
**Adverbs:** individually  

**NOUN [U]**  
[C2] the quality of being different from others  

**Dictionary example:**  
The houses had no character and no individuality.  

**Learner example:**  
As an intellectual, he refuses to annihilate his individuality and degenerate into savagery.
individually /ˌɪn.dɪˈvɪd.ju.ə.lɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: individual, individuality
Adjectives: individual
Adverbs: individually

ADVERB

[C1] separately rather than with others

Dictionary examples:
I spoke to them all individually.
The sweets are individually wrapped.

Learner example:
This has the additional advantage that students can work individually on what seems to be most necessary for them.

indulge /ɪnˈdʌldʒ/

VERB

YOURSELF

[C2] [I or T] to let yourself do or have something that you enjoy but which may be bad for you

Dictionary examples:
They indulged in a bit of gossip.
Go on, indulge yourself! Have another chocolate.

Learner example:
Eating disorders of various kinds are certainly not unknown to our culture, yet we seem to be less concerned about what we shouldn’t do than what we tend to indulge ourselves in.

SOMEONE ELSE

[C2] [T] to let someone do or have anything they want

Dictionary example:
Their children are dreadfully indulged.

Learner example:
In an attempt to give them instant gratification, their parents do their utmost to fulfill their wishes and as a consequence of this, children become utterly indulged.
industrial  /ɪnˈdʌs.tri.əl/  

Word family:
Nouns: industry, industrialization 
Adjectives: industrial, industrialized, industrious 

ADJECTIVE
[B2] connected with industry, or having a lot of industry and factories, etc.

Dictionary examples:
industrial expansion 
an industrial landscape 
He has an industrial background.

Learner example:
I am sure that both ideas will improve the look of our industrial town.

industrialization  /ɪnˌdʌs.tri.ə.laɪˈzeɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:
Nouns: industry, industrialization 
Adjectives: industrial, industrialized, industrious 

NOUN [U] (ALSO UK industrialisation)
[C1] the process of developing industries in a country 

Dictionary example:
Japan's rapid industrialization 

Learner example:
With industrialization and economic development, Hong Kong people’s standards of living have also improve[d] dramatically.

industrialized  /ɪnˈdʌs.tri.ə.laɪzd/  

Word family:
Nouns: industry, industrialization 
Adjectives: industrial, industrialized, industrious 

ADJECTIVE (ALSO UK industrialised)
[C1] Industrialized countries have a lot of industry.

Dictionary example:
the industrialized nations 

Learner example:
The role of women has changed during the past 100 years but there are still a lot of changes needed not only in developing countries but also in industrialized countries like Germany.
**industrious** /ɪn′dʌstr.i.əs/

Word family:
**Nouns:** industry, industrialization
**Adjectives:** industrial, industrialized, industrious

ADJECTIVE FORMAL
[C2] Industrious people work hard.

*Dictionary example:*
He is good at his work and very industrious.

*Learner example:*
The society wouldn’t be as advanced as it is unless we had well educated, efficient and industrious workers.

**industry** /′ɪn.da.stri/  

Word family:
**Nouns:** industry, industrialization
**Adjectives:** industrial, industrialized, industrious

NOUN  
**PRODUCTION**
[B2] [u] the production of goods in factories

*Dictionary examples:*
trade and industry
industry and commerce
The city needs to attract more industry.

*Learner example:*
If you are interested in local industry, there is the Prefectural Local Industry museum.

**inedible** /ɪˈned.ə.bl/  

Word family:
**Adjectives:** edible, inedible

ADJECTIVE
[C1] not suitable for eating

*Dictionary example:*
The meat was inedible.

*Learner example:*
The fruit was rotten, the sandwich inedible.
inefficient /ˌɪn.ɪˈfɪʃ.ənt/

Word family:
Nouns: efficiency
Adjectives: efficient, inefficient
Adverbs: efficiently

ADJECTIVE
[C1] Inefficient people or things waste time, money or effort, and do not achieve as much as they should.

Dictionary example:
an inefficient heating system

Learner example:
The conditions in the coaches are poor with the leg room only for small children, the safety belts broken, and an inefficient air-conditioner.

inequality /ˌɪn.ɪˈkwɒl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: equality, inequality
Adjectives: equal
Adverbs: equally

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] when some groups in a society have more advantages than others

Dictionary example:
inequality between the sexes

Learner example:
She was surrounded by poverty and inequality and grew more and more dissatisfied with the Government's policies, whether internal or foreign.

inevitable /ɪˈnev.ɪ.tə.bl/

Word family:
Adjectives: inevitable
Adverbs: inevitably

ADJECTIVE
[C1] certain to happen and unable to be avoided or prevented

Dictionary example:
The accident was the inevitable consequence/result/outcome of carelessness.
**Learner example:**
Strikes always cause some problems but sometimes they are inevitable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>inevitably</th>
<th>/ɪˈnev.ɪ.tə.bli/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** inevitable
**Adverbs:** inevitably

**ADVERB**
[C1] in a way that cannot be avoided

**Dictionary example:**
Their arguments inevitably end in tears.

**Learner example:**
Should you, my humble reader, happen to reach fame and fortune, try never to forget that appearing always as an ordinary human being would inevitably grant you more empathy from the people surrounding you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inexperienced</th>
<th>/ˌɪn.ɪkˈspɪə.rɪː.əntst/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** experience
**Verbs:** experience
**Adjectives:** experienced, inexperienced

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] without much experience or knowledge of something

**Dictionary example:**
Abigail Kennedy was young and inexperienced.

**Learner example:**
The advertisement said that Danny Brook was one of the starring actors but he was replaced by another extremely disappointing and inexperienced actor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inexplicable</th>
<th>/ˌɪn.ɪkˈsplɪk.ə.bl/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** explanation
**Verbs:** explain
**Adjectives:** inexplicable

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] so strange or unusual that you cannot understand or explain it
Dictionary example:
To me his behaviour was quite inexplicable.

Learner example:
Although for inexplicable reasons she can be really stubborn sometimes, I admire her courage to admit her mistakes and apologize.

infancy /ˈɪn.fən.si/

Word family:
Nouns: infancy, infant

NOUN
[C2] [u] when you are a baby or a very young child

Dictionary example:
Their fourth child died in infancy.

Learner example:
The young musician filled my days of infancy with 'London Bridge is Falling Down.'

in its infancy
[C2] Something that is in its infancy has only just begun to develop.

Dictionary example:
In the 1950s, space travel was in its infancy.

infant /ˈɪn.fənt/

Word family:
Nouns: infancy, infant

NOUN [C] FORMAL
[C2] a baby or very young child

Dictionary example:
Mothers and infants were allowed to board the plane first.

Learner example:
The cells are extremely active while we are infants, but as we grow older, their efficiency weakens.

infect /ɪnˈfekt/

Word family:
Nouns: infection
Verbs: infect
Adjectives: infectious
VERB [T]

DISEASE
[C1] to give someone a disease

Dictionary example:
Thousands of people were infected with the virus.

Learner example:
It was only a small clinic, that refused to give attention to a group of young people all infected with AIDS.

COMPUTER
[C1] If a computer virus infects a computer, it harms it

Dictionary example:
My computer was infected by a virus.

Learner example:
With CLEAN-MAIL, you can protect your computers from getting infected with viruses effectively: virus-mails are deleted before they even arrive at your mailbox.

PLACE/SUBSTANCE
[C2] If a place, wound, or substance is infected, it contains bacteria or other things that can cause disease.

Dictionary examples:
The wound became infected.
infected water/meat

Learner example:
When the water got too badly infected, your mind could not ignore it any more and got sick.

infection /ɪnˈfekʃn/  

Word family:
Nouns: infection
Verbs: infect
Adjectives: infectious

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a disease in a part of your body that is caused by bacteria or a virus

Dictionary examples:
a serious infection
a throat infection
Bandage the wound to reduce the risk of infection.

Learner example:
He told me that she was suffer[ing] from [a] kidney infection.
**infectious /ɪnˈfɛkʃəs/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** infection
**Verbs:** infect
**Adjectives:** infectious

**ADJECTIVE**

**DISEASE**
[C2] An infectious disease can be passed from one person to another.

**Dictionary example:**
Hepatitis is an infectious disease.

**Learner example:**
For example, epidemic[s] of major infectious diseases like cholera or meningitis carry the risk of transferring the focus of infection to any part of the world.

**LAUGH**
[C2] Infectious laughter or feelings quickly spread from one person to another.

**Dictionary example:**
infectious enthusiasm

**Learner example:**
I have found that feelings and emotions are infectious and people tend to be happier with people who are fun-loving and take life less seriously.

**infer /ɪnˈfɜːr/**

**VERB [T] FORMAL (−rr−)**
[C2] to guess that something is true because of the information that you have

**Dictionary example:**
I inferred from the number of cups that he was expecting visitors.

**Learner example:**
From the above, it can be inferred that the major causes of land degradation vary according to regions.

**inferior /ɪnˈfɪəriər/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** inferior, inferiority
**Adjectives:** inferior
ADJECTIVE
[C1] not good, or not so good as someone or something else

**Dictionary examples:**
I've never felt inferior to anyone.
They're selling inferior products at inflated prices.

**Learner example:**
Young girls often feel inferior to boys in the same class.

NOUN [C]
[C2] someone who is considered to be less important than other people

**Dictionary example:**
She considered me her inferior.

**Learner example:**
Broadly speaking, he appears to be an inferior, a non-human, in the opinion of the other boys.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inferiority</th>
<th>ɪnˌfɪə.riˈər.i.ti</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Word family:
**Nouns:** inferior, inferiority
**Adjectives:** inferior

NOUN [U]
[C2] when someone feels they are not as good as other people or when something is not as good as another thing

**Dictionary example:**
With these talented sisters, I always had a feeling of inferiority.

**Learner example:**
Critics suggest that these policies have not benefited poor black Americans, that they have impeded the development of social problems and that they have inhibited black Americans and other discriminated groups through a deep sense of inferiority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinite</th>
<th>ˈɪn.fɪn.ət</th>
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Word family:
**Adjectives:** finite, infinite
**Adverbs:** infinitely

ADJECTIVE
[C2] extremely large or great
Dictionary examples:
an infinite variety/number of options
She took infinite care with the painting.

Learner example:
An overwhelming selection of goods, shops [and] even types of shopping has provided us with an infinite number of products to choose from.

infinitely /ˈɪn.fɪn.ət.lɪ/

Word family:
Adjectives: finite, infinite
Adverbs: infinitely

ADVERB
[C2] very or very much

Dictionary example:
Travel is infinitely more comfortable now than it used to be.

Learner example:
It would be infinitely preferable for the people to park their cars in the multi-storey car park.

inflation /ɪnˈflɛr.ʃən/

NOUN [U]
[B2] the rate at which prices increase, or a continuing increase in prices

Dictionary examples:
high/low inflation
the rate of inflation
3% inflation

Learner example:
In this country of high inflation we could save some money.

influence /ˈɪn.flu.əns/
NOUN [C or U]

POWER
[B2] the power to affect how someone thinks or behaves, or how something develops

Dictionary examples:
The drug companies can have a lot of influence on doctors.
At the time she was under the influence of her father.
Picasso had a big influence on art in the twentieth century.

Learner example:
Today's computers have a massive influence on the whole of society.

be a bad/good influence (on sb)
[B2] If someone or something is a bad/good influence on someone, they have a bad/good effect on them.

Dictionary example:
Television can be a bad influence on children.

Learner example:
Some people say that cell phones are a bad influence on the younger generation.

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]
[B2] to affect or change how someone or something develops, behaves or thinks

Dictionary examples:
Were you influenced by anybody at the beginning of your career?
What influenced you to choose a career in nursing?

Learner example:
Our life has been influenced by modern technology.

influential /ˌɪn.fluˈen.tʃəl/

Word family:
Nouns: influence
Verbs: influence
Adjectives: influential

ADJECTIVE
[C1] having a lot of influence

Dictionary example:
an influential figure in modern jazz

Learner example:
Although not being directly involved in global politics anymore, he is still a very powerful and influential person.
influx /ˈɪn.flʌks/

NOUN [c]
[C2] the arrival of a lot of people or things at the same time

Dictionary example:
The 1990s saw an influx of foreign players into British football.

Learner example:
Countries are known mainly for their history, that is why there is an influx of tourists in places with historical interest.

informal /ɪnˈfɔː.məl/

Word family:
Adjectives: formal, informal
Adverbs: formally, informally

ADJECTIVE
[B2] not formal or official

Dictionary examples:
The two groups agreed to hold an informal meeting.
He's the ideal sort of teacher – direct, friendly and informal.
'Hi' is an informal way of greeting people.

Learner example:
The dress-code is informal but neat and there'll be plenty of drinks and snacks.

informally /ɪnˈfɔː.məl.i/

Word family:
Adjectives: formal, informal
Adverbs: formally, informally

ADVERB
[C1] in an informal way

Dictionary example:
It's an outdoor party, so dress informally.

Learner example:
We dress casually and very informally and you often see body piercings and tat[t]oos being displayed around the place.
### Informative

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** information  
**Verbs:** inform, misinform  
**Adjectives:** informative

**Adjective**

[C1] containing a lot of useful facts

**Dictionary example:**
a very informative lecture

**Learner example:**
There were presentations from many different industries, some of them very informative and entertaining.

### Infrastructure

**Noun [C usually no plural]**

[C1] the basic systems and services, such as transport and power supplies, that a country or organization uses in order to work effectively

**Dictionary example:**
The war has badly damaged the country's infrastructure.

**Learner example:**
It is very easy to build homes but at the same time forgetting to upgrade the infrastructure and facilities.

### Ingredient

**Noun [C often plural]**

**Success**

[B2] one of the parts of something successful

**Dictionary example:**
Trust is an essential ingredient in a successful marriage.

**Learner example:**
In my opinion it is clear that with these "ingredients" you can make an interesting video about [daily] life at our school.
**inhabit**  /ɪnˈhæb.ɪt/

Word family:
* Nouns: inhabitant
* Verbs: inhabit
* Adjectives: uninhabited

**VERB [T] FORMAL**

[C2] to live in a place

**Dictionary example:**
an area inhabited by artists and writers

**Learner example:**
The Cranleigh housing estate has [only] been built recently and is mainly inhabited by young families with teenage children who wanted to escape from the rush and the traffic of the city to the pleasant suburb[an] refuge that Cranleigh offers.

---

**inhabitant**  /ɪnˈhæb.i.tənt/

Word family:
* Nouns: inhabitant
* Verbs: inhabit
* Adjectives: uninhabited

**NOUN [C OFTEN PLURAL]**

[B2] a person or animal that lives in a particular place

**Dictionary example:**
a city of 5 million inhabitants

**Learner example:**
I think that the town has about 2000 inhabitants in winter.

---

**inherent**  /ɪnˈher.i.ənt/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] existing as a natural and basic part of something

**Dictionary example:**
The desire for freedom is inherent in all people.

**Learner example:**
However, it is important to bear in mind the inherent pressures that come with fortune and fame.
**inherit** /ɪnˈher.ɪt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** inheritance

**Verbs:** inherit

**VERB**

**FROM DEAD PERSON**

[C2] [I or T] to receive money or possessions from someone after they have died

**Dictionary examples:**

Who will inherit the house when he dies?
All her children will inherit equally.

**Learner example:**
I wouldn't mind if it was just a scratch to any other [piece of ] furniture but I couldn't contain myself when my mother burst into tears looking at a broken leg of an antique chair inherited from my grandfather.

**QUALITY**

[C2] [T] to have the same physical or mental characteristics as one of your parents or grandparents

**Dictionary example:**
Miranda has inherited her father's red hair.

**Learner example:**
Her grandparents were from Sweden, and she had inherited blond hair and blue eyes from them.

**inheritance** /ɪnˈher.ɪt.əns/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** inheritance

**Verbs:** inherit

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C2] money or possessions that someone gives you when they die

**Dictionary example:**
Nick has sold off much of his inheritance.

**Learner example:**
When they first moved in they seemed to all of us like a "typical" family, not very wealthy but managing to live in the neighbourhood due to the inheritance they had received from Gina's mother.
inhibition /ˌɪn.hɪˈbɪʃ.ən/

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] a feeling of embarrassment or worry that prevents you from saying or doing what you want

Dictionary example:
The whole point about dancing is to lose all your inhibitions.

Learner example:
Secondly, parents are the closest and most easily accessible wealth of knowledge. Children lose their inhibitions and freely ask their curious questions.

inhuman /ɪnˈhjuː.mən/

Word family:
Adjectives: human, inhuman

ADJECTIVE
[C2] extremely cruel

Dictionary example:
the inhuman treatment of prisoners

Learner example:
Not very long ago, when some of us thought it wasn't possible anymore, the same terrible inhuman mistakes as in the past [were happening].

initial /ɪˈnɪʃ.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: initial, initiative
Verbs: initiate
Adjectives: initial
Adverbs: initially

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] first, or happening at the beginning

Dictionary examples:
My initial reaction was one of anger.
Initial reports say that seven people have died, though this has not yet been confirmed.

Learner example:
All this may seem trivial [and] unimportant to an ordinary man addicted to his TV-set, forgetting the initial impulse that made him choose this way [of life].
**initially /ɪˈnɪʃ.əli/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** initial, initiative
- **Verbs:** initiate
- **Adjectives:** initial
- **Adverbs:** initially

**ADVERB**

[B2] at the beginning

**Dictionary examples:**
Initially, most people approved of the new scheme.
The damage was far more serious than initially believed.

**Learner example:**
He initially disagreed with his wife but after much persuasion, he finally gave in.

**initiate /ɪˈnɪʃ.i.eɪt/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** initial, initiative
- **Verbs:** initiate
- **Adjectives:** initial
- **Adverbs:** initially

**VERB [T]**

[C2] to make something begin

**Dictionary example:**
The reforms were initiated by Gorbachev.

**Learner example:**
He initiated a restoration of the sports centre in the town where he lives and he donates money [to] charity regularly.

**initiative /ɪˈnɪʃ.ə.tɪv/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** initial, initiative
- **Verbs:** initiate
- **Adjectives:** initial
- **Adverbs:** initially
NOUN

NEW ACTION
[C1] [c] a plan or activity that is done to solve a problem or improve a situation

Dictionary examples:
a new government initiative to reduce crime
The peace initiative was welcomed by both sides.

Learner example:
Any government as well as grass root initiative will have an effect on pollution problems, but firstly, we need to change our society's overall mentality.

ABILITY
[C1] [u] the ability to make decisions and do things without needing to be told what to do

Dictionary examples:
We need someone who can work on their own initiative.
I shouldn't always have to tell you what to do – use your initiative.
She showed a lot of initiative.

Learner example:
It is difficult to judge whether you [show] more initiative than the others or not.

take the initiative
[C1] to be the first person to do something that solves a problem or improves a situation

Dictionary example:
Jackson had taken the initiative and prepared a report.

Learner example:
I took the initiative to contact Sue Wilton, who is the manager of the restaurant "El Plato".

Injection /ɪnˈdʒekʃən/

NOUN

DRUG
[C2] when someone puts a drug into your body using a needle

Dictionary example:
an injection of insulin

Learner example:
This visit was only to be the beginning of it all, as numerous trips to the hospital, fertility clinics, pills and injections soon became a part of their lives together.
MONEY
[C2] when a large amount of money is provided for a plan, service, organization, etc.

Dictionary example:
The university has welcomed the $5 million cash injection.

Learner example:
There are few areas such as the information technology, library resources and overseas visits, that need this financial injection.

Injured /ˈɪn.dʒəd/

Word family:
Nouns: injury
Verbs: injure
Adjectives: injured

ADJECTIVE
[B2] hurt or physically harmed

Dictionary example:
She was told to stay in bed to rest her injured back.

Learner example:
Zoos can take care of injured animals and help them.

Injury /ˈɪn.dʒəri/

Word family:
Nouns: injury
Verbs: injure
Adjectives: injured

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] damage to someone's body in an accident or an attack

Dictionary examples:
a head/back/knee injury
a serious/slight injury
Injuries to the spine are common amongst these workers.
They were lucky to escape (without) injury.

Learner example:
Professional footballers can also have serious injuries during their life as [a] footballer.
**add insult to injury**
[C2] to make someone's bad situation worse by doing something else to upset them

**Dictionary example:**
To add insult to injury, we had to pay for the damage!

**Learner example:**
To add insult to injury, such an approach often turns out to be counterproductive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>injustice</strong></th>
<th>/ɪnˈdʒʌs.tɪs/</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong></td>
<td>justice, injustice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong></td>
<td>just</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C1] a situation or action in which people are treated unfairly

**Dictionary examples:**
the fight against racial injustice
the injustices of the legal system

**Learner example:**
Adults enjoy the stories too, because it somehow reflects the society that we live in, and how justice is always [on] the stronger side than injustice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Innate</strong></th>
<th>/ɪˈneɪt/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] An innate quality or ability is one that you were born with, not one you have learned.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Dictionary example:**
He has an innate desire to win.

**Learner example:**
His innate ability to act as a motivator for other people has helped him obtain excellent leadership skills.
inner /ˈɪn.ər/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

LOCATION
[B2] on the inside or near the middle of something

Dictionary example:
Leading off the main hall is a series of small inner rooms.

Learner example:
Even in the inner city, streets are dark and don’t give the feeling of safety after sunset.

FEELINGS
[B2] Inner feelings or thoughts are ones that you do not show or tell other people.

Dictionary example:
Sarah always seemed to have a deep sense of inner peace.

Learner example:
Every now and then everybody feels an inner call for changes, and one of [those] changes might be a journey somewhere in the world.

innocence /ˈɪn.ə.sənts/

Word family:
Nouns: innocence
Adjectives: innocent
Adverbs: innocently

NOUN [U]

NOT GUILTY
[C1] when someone is not guilty of a crime

Dictionary examples:
She pleaded her innocence, but no one believed her.
She fought to prove her son’s innocence.

Learner example:
They were released after seven years in jail and were determined to prove their innocence and find the real murderer.

NOT EXPERIENCED
[C2] when someone does not have much experience of life and does not know about the bad things that happen
Dictionary examples:
the innocence of childhood
She has a childlike innocence which I find very appealing.

Learner example:
From the day we’re born, our awareness of the world and its people increases. With it comes knowledge and capability but also the loss of innocence.

**innocent /ˈɪn.ə.sənt/**

Word family:
**Nouns:** innocence
**Adjectives:** innocent
**Adverbs:** innocently

ADJECTIVE

**NOT GUILTY**

[B2] not guilty of committing a crime

Dictionary example:
He firmly believes that she is innocent of the crime.

Learner example:
The plan works: the jury thinks that the wife is a notorious liar and her husband is found innocent.

**NO EXPERIENCE**

[B2] not having much experience of life and not knowing about the bad things that can happen

Dictionary example:
an innocent young woman

Learner example:
She is so innocent and doesn't understand anything which is happening around [her].

**NOT DESERVED**

[B2] used to emphasize that someone who was hurt had done nothing wrong

Dictionary example:
Several innocent civilians were killed in the bombing.

Learner example:
While Jem was stealing horses, his brother was a murderer of innocent people.

**NOT INTENDED TO HARM**

[C2] not intended to harm or upset anyone
Dictionary examples:
It was an innocent mistake.
It was an innocent comment/remark, I didn't mean to hurt his feelings.

Learner example:
On the spur of the moment, I advised him to try it and that's what turned a[n] innocent episode into a nigh[t]mare.

innocently /ˈɪn.ə.sˈnt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: innocence
Adjectives: innocent
Adverbs: innocently

ADVERB
[B2] in an innocent way

Dictionary examples:
"Have I done something wrong?" she asked innocently.
He said he had obtained the television innocently, not knowing it had been stolen.

Learner example:
Denny had innocently [turned on] the light to see if there was anything of interest in the other room.

innovation /ˌɪn.əˈveɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: innovation
Adjectives: innovative

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] a new idea or method that is being tried for the first time, or the use of such ideas or methods

Dictionary example:
the latest innovations in education

Learner example:
There was a barrage of creativity and innovation rarely seen in human history.
### innovative /ˈɪn.ə.və.tɪv/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** innovation
- **Adjectives:** innovative

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] using new methods or ideas

**Dictionary example:**
an innovative approach to programme making

**Learner example:**
Problems like this will probably appear again and again but we have to believe that they can be solved in an innovative way.

### innumerable /ɪˈnjuː.mərə.bl/.

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** number
- **Verbs:** number, outnumber
- **Adjectives:** innumerable, numerous

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] very many, or too many to count

**Dictionary example:**
innumerable problems

**Learner example:**
Due to the fact that sport is given a lot of importance in Switzerland, there are innumerable facilities available.

### input /ˈɪn.pʊt/

**NOUN**

**IDEAS**

[B2] ideas, money, effort, etc. that you put into a process or activity in order to help it succeed

**Dictionary example:**
Input from students is used to develop new and exciting courses.

**Learner example:**
I could go on but my intention was to give you some input to stimulate your brain!
COMPUTER

[B2] [u] information that is put into a computer or the act of putting information into a computer

Dictionary example:
Data input is carried out by a team based overseas.

inquire (UK also enquire) /ɪnˈkwaiər/  
Word family:
Nouns: inquiry
Verbs: inquire

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to ask for information

Dictionary examples:
Shall I inquire about the price of tickets?
She rang up to inquire when her car would be ready.
"Where are we going?" he inquired politely.

Learner example:
"Say Mary, when did the war begin?", inquired the old lady.

inquiry (UK also enquiry) /ɪnˈkwaiərɪ/  
Word family:
Nouns: inquiry
Verbs: inquire

NOUN
PROCESS
[C2] [c] an official process to discover the facts about something bad that has happened

Dictionary examples:
a judicial inquiry
Citizens have demanded a full inquiry into the government's handling of the epidemic.

Learner example:
I am very much surprised that such problems had not been foreseen by the public inquiry.

ASKING QUESTIONS
[C2] [u] formal the process of asking questions in order to get information
Dictionary example:
Inquiry into the matter is pointless – no one will tell you anything.

Learner example:
Upon inquiry, it became clear it was in Tim's possession, more precisely in his diary.

**insane  /ɪnˈseɪn/**

Word family:
Adjectives: insane, sane

**ADJECTIVE**

**STUPID**
[C1] informal very silly or stupid

Dictionary example:
an insane decision

Learner example:
It was an insane idea to accommodate me so far away from the school (approximately four miles).

**ILL**
[C2] seriously mentally ill

Dictionary example:
a hospital for the criminally insane

Learner example:
It seemed as if she had become insane but it was only a way of surviving an impossible situation.

**Insecure  /ˌɪn.sɪˈkjuər/**

Word family:
Nouns: security, insecurity
Adjectives: secure, insecure

**ADJECTIVE**

**WORRIED**
[C1] having no confidence in yourself and what you can do

Dictionary example:
a shy, insecure teenager

Learner example:
People felt insecure and nervous, their morale went down.
NOT SAFE
[C2] not safe or protected

Dictionary example:
Many of our staff are worried because their jobs are insecure.

Insecurity /ˌɪn.sɪˈkjʊə.rə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: security, insecurity
Adjectives: secure, insecure

NOUN [u]
[C2] the state of not being confident or not feeling safe

Dictionary example:
We have to live with the insecurity of not knowing if we'll still have a job next week.

Learner example:
Many of us have experienced moments of insecurity when everything seems so big and new that you wonder if you can deal with all the pressure or whether you will eventually manage to adapt to the situation at hand.

Insensitive /ɪnˈsen.ə.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: sensitivity
Adjectives: sensitive, insensitive

ADJECTIVE

PEOPLE
[C1] not noticing or not caring about other people's feelings

Dictionary examples:
an insensitive remark
He was completely insensitive to Maria's feelings.

Learner example:
This way of thinking is very important because a person who spends a lot of time alone can become self-centred and insensitive to others.
inseparable  /ɪnˈsep.ər.ə.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: separation
Verbs: separate
Adjectives: separate, inseparable
Adverbs: separately

ADJECTIVE

THINGS
[C2] formal Two things that are inseparable are so closely connected that you cannot consider them separately.

Dictionary example:
Rossetti’s work was inseparable from his life.

Learner example:
The memory and the experience you have [of] the object create a special bond between you and the object, and the bond makes you inseparable from the object because you are inseparable from the memory.

FRIENDS
[C2] People who are inseparable are always together because they are such good friends.

Dictionary example:
The two girls got on very well and soon became inseparable.

Learner example:
We were inseparable pals playing th[at] favo[u]rite game of ours day and night.

insert  /ɪnˈsɜːt/  

VERB [T] formal

PUT INTO
[C1] to put something into something else

Dictionary example:
Insert the coin in the slot.

Learner example:
You just insert the CD-ROM; [the] rest will [happen] automatically.

ADD TO WRITING
[C1] to add something to the middle of a document or piece of writing
Dictionary example:
He inserted a new paragraph.

Learner example:
In the future it will be possible to buy paintings via the internet. The prices will be inserted under each painting.

inside

PREPOSITION /ɪnˈsaɪd/

TIME
[C2] in less than a particular length of time

Dictionary example:
The doctor's promised to be here inside an hour.

Learner example:
You can reach two stations on the tube-line seven inside 10 minutes; in addition there are two bus-stops even closer.

ADVERB /ɪnˈsaɪd/

FEELING
[B2] If you have a feeling inside, you have a feeling although you might not show it to other people.

Dictionary example:
She couldn't cope with the grief she felt inside.

Learner example:
They had to go to the vet more often but it wasn't hard for them because of the love that they felt inside.

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] /ˈɪn.sɑːrd/

UNDER SURFACE
[B2] in or on the part of something under its surface

Dictionary example:
He put the documents carefully in his inside pocket.

Learner example:
At first Chris didn't seem to recognize him, but as soon as he did, his hand reached [into] his inside pocket.

inside information/knowledge, etc.
[C2] information that is only known by people who are part of an organization, group, etc.
Dictionary example:
I needed someone with inside knowledge to back up my story.

Learner example:
I'm pretty sure that getting in touch with the customs and lifestyle of another country will open a completely new horizon to the students and they'll be enchanted by the 'inside knowledge' they will be able to gain.

NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] /ˈɪn.saɪd/

INNER PART
[B2] the inner part, space or side of something

Dictionary examples:
Did you clean the inside of the car?
The hotel looked shabby from the street, but it was fine on the inside.

Learner example:
Anyway, after the show I felt hungry so I went to the restaurant but it was closed because they were having the inside altered.

inside out
[B2] If a piece of clothing is inside out, the part that is usually outside is on the inside.

Dictionary example:
She had her jumper on inside out.

know sth inside out
[C1] to know everything about something

Dictionary example:
He knows the system inside out.

Learner example:
The participants got to know Britain inside out and they are happy with the knowledge they gained.

insight /ˈɪn.saɪt/

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] the ability to understand what something is really like, or an example of this

Dictionary examples:
The book gives a fascinating insight into the world of art.
This new research provides many insights into customer behaviour.
Children sometimes show remarkable insight when it comes to adult problems.
Learner example:
Special courses were offered, which provided deep insights into fascinating topics – they were great fun.

**insignificant** /ˌɪn.sɪɡˈnɪf.ɪ.kənt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** significance
**Adjectives:** significant, insignificant
**Adverbs:** significantly

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] not important or large enough to consider or worry about

**Dictionary example:**
insignificant differences

**Learner example:**
Second, the "sudden downpour of rain" you reported and which "ruined" the show was actually a short and insignificant one that only lasted a few minutes.

**insist** /ɪnˈsɪst/

**VERB** [I]

**SAY FIRMLY**
[B2] to say firmly that something is true

**Dictionary example:**
Greg still insists (that) he did nothing wrong.

**Learner example:**
Mrs McGillicuddy saw a woman being strangled on a train and, in spite of everybody seeming not to believe her, she insisted that she was right and, with her friend's help, proved it.

**insofar as** /ɪn.səˈfɑːr.əz/

**CONJUNCTION (in so far as)** FORMAL
[C2] to the degree that

**Dictionary example:**
The story is based insofar as possible on notes made by Scott himself.
Learner example:
Consequently the cited statement is definitely true but understates its point insofar as it neglects any time horizon.

**insomnia** /ɪnˈsom.ni.ə/

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] when you find it difficult to sleep

**Dictionary example:**
Many people suffer from insomnia.

**Learner example:**
If we take the example of the politicians, we will find that those who are honest are the ones who suffer from insomnia (caused by threats and worries) while the most corrupt ones are safe asleep.

**inspect** /ɪnˈspekt/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** inspector, inspection  
**Verbs:** inspect

**VERB [T]**
[C1] to look at something or someone carefully in order to discover information, especially about their quality or condition

**Dictionary examples:**
After the crash, both drivers got out and inspected their cars for damage.  
She held the bank note up to the light and inspected it **carefully**.

**Learner example:**
I invite you to inspect our facilities [so] that you can persuade yourself about the lack of equipment.

**inspection** /ɪnˈspek.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** inspector, inspection  
**Verbs:** inspect

**NOUN [C or U]**

**OFFICIAL**
[C1] an official visit to a building or organization to check that everything is correct and legal
Dictionary example:
Fire officers carried out an inspection of the building.

Learner example:
The location was just fine but I suggest that you make an inspection. You would then see what I mean... The rooms were very dirty, there was no lift in the hotel and service was poor.

EXAMINATION
[C2] when you look at something carefully

Dictionary example:
On closer inspection, the painting was discovered to be a fake.

Inspector /ɪnˈspek.tə/

Word family:
Nouns: inspector, inspection
Verbs: inspect

NOUN [C]

PERSON WHO INSPECTS
[B2] someone whose job is to check that things are being done correctly

Dictionary examples:
a tax inspector
a school inspector/an inspector of schools

Learner example:
In the middle of the exam the inspector came in and asked me some questions for fun.

POLICE
[B2] a police officer of middle rank

Learner example:
As you know I am a police inspector.

inspiration /ˌɪnˌspɪˈreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: inspiration
Verbs: inspire

NOUN

IDEAS
[B2] [C or U] someone or something that gives you ideas for doing something
Dictionary examples:
The golden autumn light provided the inspiration **for** the painting. He went to church, perhaps seeking **divine** inspiration.

Learner example:
Working with children makes me happy and gives me inspiration.

**be an inspiration to sb**
[C2] to be so good that someone else admires you and is encouraged by your behaviour

Dictionary example:
The way she has dealt with her illness is an inspiration to us all.

Learner example:
She will always be an inspiration to me for her great strength, knowledge and courage.

GOOD IDEA
[C2] [c] a sudden good idea about what you should do

Dictionary example:
I've had an inspiration about Andy's birthday present.

**inspire** /ɪnˈspaɪə/

Word family:
Nouns: inspiration
Verbs: inspire

VERB [T]

ENCOURAGE
[B2] to make someone feel that they want to do something and can do it

Dictionary example:
A drama teacher at school had inspired Sam to become an actor.

Learner example:
This has inspired me to finally write to you and ask if there is a possibility for me to join the painting course this spring.

FEELING
[B2] to make someone have a particular feeling or reaction

Dictionary example:
He inspires great loyalty in his staff.

Learner example:
In today's world where everybody is selfish, it is hard to find a person to admire, a [role] model to be inspired by.
**Provide idea**

[B2] to give someone an idea for a book, play, painting, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
This television drama was inspired by a true story.

**Learner example:**
Most of her books are inspired by her life in Bulgaria and the adventures she [had] herself.

---

**Installation** /ˌɪn.ˈstəˌleɪʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** installation
**Verbs:** install

**Noun**

**Equipment**

[C1] [u] the process of putting new equipment into position

**Dictionary example:**
Do you have to pay extra for installation?

**Learner example:**
Last but not least, students asked for the installation of a beverage machine – that would be really convenient for them.

**Software**

[C1] [u] the process of putting a computer program onto a computer

**Dictionary example:**
the installation of new software

**Learner example:**
Personally, I believe that the installation of the Japanese Word version could considerably improve the efficiency of my work.

---

**Instance** /ˈɪn.stəntʃəs/

**Noun**

**Example**

[C1] [c] an example of a particular type of event, situation, or behaviour

**Dictionary example:**
There have been several instances of violence in the school.
**Learner example:**
There may be instances when the situation is exactly [the] opposite, but in this case, it was the way that my friend's sister was brought up that triumphed.

**instant /ˈɪn.stænt/**

**Word family:**
Adjectives: instant
Adverbs: instantly

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] happening immediately, without any delay

**Dictionary examples:**
This type of account offers you instant access to your money. Contrary to expectations, the film was an instant success.

**Learner example:**
Therefore, the reception should be functional for students, that is, the students should get [an] instant answer when they have a question.

**instantly /ˈɪn.stænt.li/**

**Word family:**
Adjectives: instant
Adverbs: instantly

**ADVERB**
[B2] immediately

**Dictionary example:**
Both drivers were killed instantly.

**Learner example:**
To talk to a friend from another city or country instantly online is really nice and exciting.

**instinct /ˈɪn.stɪŋkt/**

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C2] the way someone naturally reacts or behaves, without having to think or learn about it

**Dictionary example:**
a mother's instinct to protect her children
Learner example:
It is at that point you realise that your desire of socialising and being accepted and respected by society is in fact stronger than that of following your own instincts.

**institute** /ˈɪn.str.tjuːt/  
**NOUN** [C]  
[B2] an organization where people do a particular kind of scientific, educational or social work, or the buildings which it uses  
**Dictionary example:**  
the Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**Learner example:**  
With this jump she would raise money for a cancer institute in London.

**institution** /ˌɪn.stɪˈtjuːʃən/  
**NOUN** [C]  
[ORGANIZATION]  
[B2] a large and important organization, such as a university or bank  
**Dictionary examples:**  
a medical/educational/financial institution  
Oxford and Cambridge universities are internationally respected institutions.  
**Learner example:**  
Firstly, it's important to gain information about the institution where we want to work.  
[PLACE]  
[B2] a building where people are sent so they can be looked after, for example a prison or a hospital  
**Dictionary example:**  
a young offenders' institution  
**Learner example:**  
I was working for a social institution that looks after poor children.  
**TRADITION**  
[C2] a custom that has existed for a long time  
**Dictionary example:**  
the institution of marriage
Learner example:
Nowadays, the institution of marriage seems to be coming back into fashion, and many youngsters who regard themselves as mature experience wedlock at an increasingly early age.

**instruct /ɪnˈstrʌkt/**

Word family:
Nouns: instruction, instructor
Verbs: instruct

**VERB [T]**

ORDER
[C1] to officially tell someone to do something

Dictionary example:
Staff are instructed not to use the telephones for personal calls.

Learner example:
When workers began to threaten to strike, about twenty days ago, people were instructed on how to tackle such an occurrence – you know, we are well organised and like to have emergency plans for any danger.

TEACH
[C2] to teach someone about something

Dictionary example:
She is there to instruct people in the safe use of the gym equipment.

Learner example:
He instructed her in Chinese boxing, pretending that she was a male, and she spent five years of her childhood performing hard exercises, while Mui was playing with other girls.

**instruction /ɪnˈstrækʃn/**

Word family:
Nouns: instruction, instructor
Verbs: instruct

**NOUN**

TEACHING/TRAINING
[C2] [U] the activity of teaching or training someone, or the information you are being taught

Dictionary example:
religious instruction
Learner example:
Notwithstanding, he shared not only his happiness, but also his money, contributing to the formation of an institution that has helped many children and adolescents from lower classes, by providing a wide range of sports activities coupled with educational instruction.

TELL
[C2] [c] something that someone tells you to do

Dictionary examples:
The police who broke into the house were only acting on/under instructions.
He gave me strict instructions to get there by eight.

Learner example:
I have given strict instructions to Mr. Jones that expenditures are to be at a minimum, and that the parameters defined in our budget must be str[i]ctly adhered to.

**Instrument** /ˈɪn.strə.mənt/

NOUN [C]

**Tool**
[C1] a tool that is used for doing something

Dictionary example:
scientific instruments

Learner example:
You can also see Roman medical instruments and tools, for example a pioneer axe and different knives.

**For achieving something**
[C2] someone or something that is used for achieving something

Dictionary example:
The Internet is a very powerful instrument of communication.

Learner example:
This mec[h]anical dog, harmless when not powered, is an instrument of repression and terror.

**Insufficient** /ˌɪn.səˈfɪʃ.ənt/

Word family:
Adjectives: sufficient, insufficient, self-sufficient
Adverbs: sufficiently

**Adjective**
[C1] not enough
Dictionary examples:
insufficient information
Her income is insufficient to support a family.

Learner example:
In contrast to your brochure, we did not have any special [entertainment] at the hotel and the dinner was insufficient in terms of not only its quality but also the quantity.

**insult**

NOUN [c] /ˈɪn.sʌlt/

RUDE REMARK

[B2] a rude and offensive remark or action

Dictionary example:
They were shouting insults at each other.

Learner example:
Joko’s mother would hurl insults at the poor old man, calling him sick and [hoping] that he’d die soon.

add insult to injury

[C2] to make someone’s bad situation worse by doing something else to upset them

Dictionary example:
To add insult to injury, we had to pay for the damage!

Learner example:
To add insult to injury, such an approach often turns out to be counterproductive.

VERB [t] /ɪnˈsʌlt/

[B2] to say or do something to someone that is rude and offensive

Dictionary example:
How dare you insult me in front of my friends!

Learner example:
After all, [in] insulting the performers you insult their fans...

**insurance** /ɪnˈʃɔː.rəntʃəs/

NOUN [u]

[B2] an agreement in which you pay a company money and they pay your costs if you have an accident, injury, etc.
Dictionary examples:
life/health/car/travel insurance
I'll need to take out extra car insurance for another driver.
The insurance doesn't cover you for household items.

Learner example:
Lastly, could you please tell me what kind of clothes I should prepare and [whether] I have to buy insurance myself?

Intact /ɪnˈtækt/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] not damaged or destroyed

Dictionary example:
Many of the old buildings are still intact.

Learner example:
I am fortunate that my grandmother kept it intact in her attic until I discovered it two years ago.

integral /ˈɪn.tɪ.grəl/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] necessary and important as part of something

Dictionary example:
The Internet has become an integral part of modern life.

Learner example:
Over the last few years, computers have become an integral part of our lives.

integrate /ˈɪn.tɪ.greɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: integration
Verbs: integrate

VERB [I or T]
[C1] to become part of a group or society, or to help someone do this

Dictionary example:
After a few weeks of training he was fully integrated into the team.

Learner example:
I am [a] determined, spont[ane]ous person and I have the ability to integrate well.
integration /ˌɪn.tɪˈgreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: integration
Verbs: integrate

NOUN [u]
[C1] when things or people are mixed, joined or combined

Dictionary example:
cultural integration

Learner example:
This may be explained by the increasing number of exchanges in the European Union, and the stronger economic integration of European Countries.

integrity /ɪnˈteɡ.rə.ti/

NOUN [u]
[C2] honesty and the ability to do or know what is morally right

Dictionary example:
a woman of great integrity

Learner example:
This growing shopping mania is also said to create an increasingly materialistic society, hence, our children grow up forgetting the basic values of life – simplicity, integrity, humility and plain hard work.

Intelllect /ˈɪn.tɛl.ekt/

Word family:
Nouns: intellect, intellectual
Adjectives: intellectual
Adverbs: intellectually

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] the ability to learn and understand something, and to form ideas, judgments, and opinions about what you have learned

Dictionary example:
His energy and intellect are respected by many people.

Learner example:
When I am alone, or in "qualified" company, I may listen to music of a sort that appeals to my intellect as much as to my emotions.
**intellectual** /ˌɪn.təˈlɛk.tju.əl/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** intellect, intellectual
- **Adjectives:** intellectual
- **Adverbs:** intellectually

**ADJECTIVE**

**THOUGHT**

[B2] relating to your ability to think and to understand things, especially complicated ideas

*Dictionary examples:*
- intellectual and physical development
- I like detective stories and romances – nothing too intellectual.

*Learner example:*
First of all, I don't think your programme needs any improvement: in my opinion, your selection of films is already very satisfying because it includes both spectacular Hollywood movies and intellectual films.

**INTERESTED IN IDEAS**

[C2] interested in learning and in thinking about complicated ideas

*Dictionary example:*
- She's very intellectual.

*Learner example:*
- He made a good impression on her from the beginning, dressed in a dark blue evening suit, with a patterned bow tie, glimmering leather shoes and flashing spectacles that made him look very intellectual.

**NOUN**

[C2] someone who enjoys studying and thinking about complicated ideas

*Dictionary example:*
- She was a real intellectual.

*Learner example:*
- As an intellectual and thinker (the glasses Piggy wears stand for these attributes), he is admired by Ralph, the chief.

**intellectually** /ˌɪn.təˈlɛk.tʃə.lɪ/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** intellect, intellectual
- **Adjectives:** intellectual
- **Adverbs:** intellectually

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ADVERB
[C2] in a way that relates to your ability to think and to understand things

Dictionary example:
She's hoping to find a job which is more demanding intellectually.

Learner example:
Some people complain that they do not have enough time to develop intellectually when they are in their 20s or 30s because they have to take care of their small children.

intelligence /ɪnˈtel.ɪ.dʒənts/

Word family:
Nouns: intelligence
Adjectives: intelligent

NOUN [u]
[B2] the ability to learn, understand and think about things

Dictionary examples:
an intelligence test
a child of high/average/low intelligence
It’s the intelligence of her writing that impresses me.

Learner example:
The dominant [species] among animals are pigs with their superior intelligence.

intend /ɪnˈtend/

Word family:
Nouns: intention, intent
Verbs: intend
Adjectives: intent

VERB [t]
be intended for
[C1] to be made, designed, or provided for a particular person or purpose

Dictionary examples:
The book is intended for anyone who wants to learn more about the Internet.
The course is intended for intermediate-level students.

Learner example:
The course is intended for business people who don't have English as their mother tongue.
**intense** /ɪnˈtens/

Word family:
Nouns: intensity
Verbs: intensify
Adjectives: intense
Adverbs: intensely

**ADJECTIVE**

**EXTREME**

[C1] extreme or very strong

Dictionary example:
intense heat/pain

Learner example:
Most of the rooms we stayed in did not have air-condition[ing], which caused many sleepless nights [for] the majority of us due to the intense heat.

**SERIOUS**

[C2] Intense people are very serious, and usually have strong emotions or opinions.

Dictionary example:
He's always been very intense.

Learner example:
I admire people with heart and soul, with that real charisma which can only blossom in highly intelligent and spiritual people – this is what we call 'intense personality'.

**intensely** /ɪnˈten.sli/

Word family:
Nouns: intensity
Verbs: intensify
Adjectives: intense
Adverbs: intensely

**ADVERB**

**VERY**

[C2] extremely

Dictionary example:
Her book is intensely personal.

Learner example:
Finally it was settled: they were both fertile; still able to have the child they had longed for so intensely.
SERIOUSLY
[C2] with strong, serious emotions

Dictionary example:
She stared at me intensely.

Learner example:
She caressed the frame with great tenderness and, after looking intensely at the picture, embraced it passionately.

intensify /ɪnˈten.si.faɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: intensity
Verbs: intensify
Adjectives: intense
Adverbs: intensely

VERB [I or T]
[C2] to become greater, more serious, or more extreme, or to make something do this

Dictionary example:
The fighting has intensified in the last two weeks.

Learner example:
This feeling is intensified when the relationship between Jack and Ralph develops to antagonism.

intensity /ɪnˈten.si.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: intensity
Verbs: intensify
Adjectives: intense
Adverbs: intensely

NOUN [U]
[C2] the quality of being felt strongly or having a very strong effect

Dictionary example:
the intensity of the blaze

Learner example:
As soon as a ray of light reaches the inside of the seashell, it sparkles with an intensity that nearly hurts your eye.
intensive /ɪnˈten.sɪv/  

Word family:
Adjectives: intensive
Adverbs: intensively

ADJECTIVE
[B2] involving a lot of effort or activity in a short period of time

Dictionary examples:
two weeks of intensive training
an intensive course in English
Intensive bombing had reduced the city to rubble.

Learner example:
I am 23 years old and speak English fluently due to my intensive study of the language.

intensively /ɪnˈten.sɪv.li/  

Word family:
Adjectives: intensive
Adverbs: intensively

ADVERB
[C1] in way that involves a lot of work in a short period of time

Dictionary example:
I spent three weeks working intensively on my thesis.

Learner example:
The canteen gets very busy and noisy at lunchtimes, but we all enjoy chatting to our friend after intensively studying in the classes.

intent /ɪnˈtent/  

Word family:
Nouns: intention, intent
Verbs: intend
Adjectives: intent

NOUN FORMAL
PLAN
[C2] [U NO PLURAL] when you want and plan to do something

Dictionary example:
It had not been his intent to hurt anyone.
Learner example:
Perhaps I sound a bit critical but that is not my intent.

to all intents and purposes
[C2] in all the most important ways

Dictionary example:
To all intents and purposes, the project was a disaster.

Learner example:
To all intents and purposes, the qualities needed to achieve success are based on the same ideas.

ADJECTIVE

be intent on sth/doing sth
[C2] to be determined to do or achieve something

Dictionary example:
She seems intent on winning this year’s tennis tournament.

Learner example:
Why are [the] government so intent on solving this problem, why is it so important?

intention /ɪnˈten.tʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: intention, intent
Verbs: intend
Adjectives: intent

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] something that you want and plan to do

Dictionary examples:
It wasn’t my intention to exclude her from the list – I just forgot her.
I’ve no intention of changing my plans just to fit in with his.
He’s full of good intentions, but he never does anything about them!

Learner example:
I was very pleased to hear from your club, because it was always my intention to join such a group and make music with other people.

interact /ˌɪnt.əˈrækt/

Word family:
Nouns: interaction
Verbs: interact
Adjectives: interactive
**VERB [i]**

[B2] to talk and do things with other people

**Dictionary example:**
At school, teachers said he interacted well with other students.

**Learner example:**
People say that when you use a computer you get addicted and don't interact with people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>interaction</th>
<th>/ˌɪnt.əˈræk.ʃən/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> interaction</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] the activity of talking and doing things with other people, or the way you do this

**Dictionary example:**
Our work involves a lot of interaction with the customers.

**Learner example:**
The interaction between the different groups in the Big Brother house is also very entertaining.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**ADJECTIVE**

**COMPUTER GAMES**

[B2] Interactive computer games, programs, etc. involve the user by reacting to the way they use them.

**Dictionary examples:**
an interactive game
This is an interactive museum where children can actively manipulate the exhibits.

**Learner example:**
In addition, you can play with several interactive game[s] and learn about the rules of the Olympic Games.
COMMUNICATION
[C1] involving communication between people

Dictionary example:
interactive teaching methods

Learner example:
Our special temporary membership offer is just right for people who want to enjoy their holidays in a more social and interactive way.

interest /ˈɪn.trəst/

Word family:
Nouns: interest
Adjectives: interested, interesting, uninterested, uninteresting
Adverbs: interestingly

MONEY CHARGED
[C1] [u] money which is charged by a bank or other financial organization for borrowing money

Dictionary example:
Interest charges on an overdraft are usually quite high.

Learner example:
Extremely high interest rates and high unemployment were a fatal combination for many families.

MONEY EARNED
[C1] [u] money that you earn from keeping your money in an account in a bank or other financial organization

Dictionary example:
You should put the money in a savings account where it will earn interest.

be in sb's interest(s)
[C1] to help someone and give them an advantage

Dictionary example:
It may not be in your interests to change jobs so soon.

Learner example:
It is in my interests to meet new people and I find it easy to go and talk to people I do not know.

in the interest(s) of sth
[C2] in order to achieve a particular situation or quality

Dictionary example:
In the interest of safety, passengers are advised to wear their seat belts at all times.
Learner example:
First of all, do make sure that the front door is always locked. In the interests of everybody’s security, it is essential to remember [this].

**ADVANTAGE**

[C2] [c or u] something that gives someone or something an advantage

**Dictionary example:**
A union looks after the interests of its members.

**Learner example:**
I realize that you are trying to serve your customers the best way you can, but you might want to consider the interests of the people who live in this area.

**a conflict of interest**

[C2] a situation where someone cannot make fair decisions because they are influenced by something

**Dictionary example:**
She resigned from the committee because of a conflict of interest.

**Learner example:**
It could become a conflict of interest, but he never lets it.

**interestingly** /ˈɪn.trə.stɪŋ.li/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** interest

**Adjectives:** interested, interesting, uninterested, uninteresting

**Adverbs:** interestingly

**ADVERB**

[C1] used to introduce information that you think is surprising and interesting

**Dictionary example:**
Interestingly, he never actually said that he was innocent.

**Learner example:**
Russians today prefer fast food due to a rapid lifestyle. Interestingly, this refers only to lunch time; about 80% of Russians will prefer eating [a] traditional Russian meal for dinner.

**interfere** /ˌɪnt.əˈfər/
TRY TO CONTROL

[B2] to try to control or become involved in a situation, in a way that is annoying

Dictionary examples:
I know he's worried about us, but I wish he wouldn't interfere.
You shouldn't interfere in other people's business.

Learner example:
I would like to stress that very often famous people become reserved, bad-tempered and angry with the world for interfering in their lives.

CAUSE PROBLEMS

[C1] to prevent something from working effectively or from developing successfully

Dictionary example:
I try not to let my dancing classes interfere with my schoolwork.

Learner example:
We realise this activity would interfere with our visit to the Science Museum, but we, in exchange, would gladly give up our free time on Wednesday to perform the programme completely.

Interference /ˌɪn.təˈfɪə.rənts/

Word family:
Nouns: interference
Verbs: interfere

SITUATION

[C1] when someone tries to interfere in a situation

Dictionary example:
There have been claims of too much political interference in education.

Learner example:
The famous have all their gestures watched and judged. How can anyone live with so much interference?

ELECTRONIC SIGNAL

[C2] noise or other electronic signals that stop you from getting good pictures or sound on a television or radio

Dictionary example:
The storm caused a lot of interference.
Furthermore, my husband is quite angry because as the aircrafts fly so low, they touch the antenna causing an interference either on the television or on the radio.

**interim /ˈɪn.tər.ɪm/**

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[C2] temporary and intended to be used or accepted until something permanent exists

**Dictionary examples:**
- an interim solution
- an interim government

**interior /ɪnˈtɪə.ri.ər/**

**NOUN**

[B2] [c] the inside part of something

**Dictionary examples:**
- The estate agent had pictures of the house from the outside but none of its interior.
- The car’s interior is very impressive – wonderful leather seats and a wooden dashboard.

**Learner example:**
- The interior is quite modern and clean.

**internal /ɪnˈtɜː.nəl/**

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** internal
- **Adverbs:** internally

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] existing or happening inside a person, object, organization, place or country

**Dictionary examples:**
- He sustained injuries to his arms, legs and several internal organs.
- The bank conducted its own internal investigation into the robbery.
- The government warned its neighbours not to interfere in its internal affairs.

**Learner example:**
- The letter box for internal post should be hung on the wall, so that pupils could make any suggestions about [the] school, or even complaints, directly to reception.
**internally** /ɪnˈtɜː.nə.l.i/

Word family:

**Adjectives:** internal

**Adverbs:** internally

**ADVERB**

[C1] inside a person, object, organization, place or country

**Dictionary example:**
This medicine is for external use only and should not be taken internally.

**Learner example:**
I am actually very interested in taking the course, because recently I have changed my job and one of my functions is to create a page on the intranet to share information about the company internally.

**interpret** /ɪnˈtɜː.prət/

Word family:

**Nouns:** interpretation, misinterpretation

**Verbs:** interpret, misinterpret

**VERB**

**LANGUAGE**

[B2] [I or T] to change what someone has said into a different language

**Dictionary example:**
We had to ask the guide to interpret for us.

**Learner example:**
My boss decided it was high time I tried to interpret for him outside our office.

**DECIDE MEANING**

[C1] [T] to decide what the intended meaning of something is

**Dictionary examples:**
It's difficult to interpret these statistics without knowing how they were obtained. A jury should not interpret the silence of a defendant as a sign of guilt.

**Learner example:**
Musicians try to interpret it, but admittedly they will never find the whole meaning of it.
**interpretation**  /ɪnˌtɜː.prɪˈteɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** interpretation, misinterpretation

**Verbs:** interpret, misinterpret

**NOUN**

**EXPLANATION**

[C2] an explanation or opinion of what something means

**Dictionary example:**
traditional interpretations of the Latin text

**Learner example:**
Yet this raises the question of the actual effect travel has on our understanding and interpretation of the world outside our country, as well as on the idea we have of our country itself.

**STORY/MUSIC**

[C2] the way someone performs a particular play, piece of music, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
a beautiful interpretation of Swan Lake

**Learner example:**
Every time I think of this memorable day, I wish I could thank my host-family over and over again since then – little did I know that I would be accepted at Paris' Conservatory a few months later, thanks to my interpretation of Mozart's concerto!

**interrupt**  /ˌɪn.təˈrʌpt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** interruption

**Verbs:** interrupt

**VERB**

**STOP HAPPENING**

[B2] [ɪ] to stop something from happening for a short period

**Dictionary example:**
We had to interrupt our trip when we heard John's mother was ill.

**Learner example:**
Unfortunately, I am studying at university and I can't afford to interrupt my studies.
### interruption /ˌɪnt.əˈrʌp.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** interruption
**Verbs:** interrupt

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] when an action or activity is interrupted, or something that interrupts someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
There were so many interruptions, I couldn't get on with my work.

**Learner example:**
I stayed two or three minutes in the darkness thinking that it was only a [brief] interruption, but it was not the case.

### interval /ˈɪnt.ə.vəl/

**NOUN [C]**

**TIME**

[C2] a period of time between two actions, activities, or events

**Dictionary example:**
After an interval of three days, the peace talks resumed.

**Learner example:**
When we adopt this perspective, we witness history becoming en[mesh]ed with our present and future, as all cyclical events repeat themselves at regular intervals.

### intervene /ˌɪn.təˈviːn/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** intervention
**Verbs:** intervene

**VERB [i]**

[C2] to become involved in a situation in order to try to stop a fight, argument, problem, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
Government officials refused to intervene in the recent disputes.
Harris intervened to stop the attack.
Learner example:
While an old cynic like Bismarck might not have approved of intervening in the Balkans, even he should see the point of this.

**intervention** /ˌɪn.təˈven.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: *intervention*
Verbs: *intervene*

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C2] when someone intervenes, especially to influence what happens

**Dictionary example:**
Without medical intervention, the child would have died.

**Learner example:**
I write to seek your intervention in a matter that has seriously impacted on the reputation of your retail business.

**Intimate** /ˈɪn.tɪm.ət/

**ADJECTIVE**

PRIVATE
[C2] private and personal

**Dictionary examples:**
intimate details of her family life
intimate conversations

**Learner example:**
Finally, we have to take into consideration that cultural and educational development opens the path for learning and becoming conscious of our intimate feelings and personality and helps us to become better people.

**RELATIONSHIP**
[C2] having a special relationship with someone who you like or love very much

**Dictionary example:**
an intimate friend

**Learner example:**
Finally, before 5 am the couple leaves the party (in desperate need of [rest]) and so do their intimate friends and family.
SMALL
[C2] If a place or event is intimate, it is small in a way that feels comfortable or private.

Dictionary example:
an intimate hotel

Learner example:
The dining room is small and intimate, allowing a relaxed and personal atmosphere, which is highlighted by the soft, Indian background music and the dimmed lights.

an intimate knowledge/understanding of sth
[C2] when you know all of the facts about something or about how it works

Dictionary example:
He has an intimate knowledge of the area.

Learner example:
The fact that Sinclair spend[s] most of his weekends hiking is easily understood through his intimate knowledge of wilderness lore, of which tidbits pop up now and then in the text.

Into /ˈɪn.tuː/

PREPOSITION

into the bargain
[C2] as well as everything else

Dictionary example:
Caffeine has no good effects on health and is mildly addictive into the bargain.

Learner example:
The Open Air Museum is unique, with vast numbers of old houses; you can roam there for days and receive history lessons into the bargain.

intolerable /ɪnˈtɒl.ər.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: intolerance, tolerance
Verbs: tolerate
Adjectives: intolerable, intolerant, tolerant

ADJECTIVE
[C2] too bad or unpleasant to deal with or accept
**Dictionary examples:**

an intolerable situation
The constant fighting made life at home intolerable.

**Learner example:**
The situation has become absolutely intolerable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>intollerance</th>
<th>/ɪnˈtɒl.ər.əns/</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** intolerance, tolerance

**Verbs:** tolerate

**Adjectives:** intolerable, intolerant, tolerant

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] when someone is intolerant

**Dictionary example:**

religious intolerance

**Learner example:**
The process of mutual understanding that emerges from this contact can help solve one of the greatest problems facing mankind, the ethnic, racial or religious intolerance that plagues different parts of the world.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>/ɪnˈtɒl.ənt/</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** intolerance, tolerance

**Verbs:** tolerate

**Adjectives:** intolerable, intolerant, tolerant

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] refusing to accept any opinions, beliefs, customs, etc., that are different from your own

**Dictionary example:**
She can be very intolerant of other people's opinions.

**Learner example:**
Right now, tolerance and understanding come very naturally to me, in contrast with the narrow-minded, intolerant attitude I had to share when I had hardly ever gone beyond the limits of my home town.
intransitive /ɪnˈtræn.zə.tɪv/ SPECIALIZED

ADJECTIVE
[B2] An intransitive verb does not have an object.

Dictionary examples:
In the sentence 'I tried to persuade him, but he wouldn't come', 'come' is an intransitive verb.
In the Wordlist, verbs which are intransitive are marked [I].

intriguing /ɪnˈtriːg.ɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] very interesting

Dictionary example:
an intriguing story

Learner example:
Only a minority of our citizens make regular use of the library, either by enjoying a quiet few minutes to scour the bookshelves for an intriguing story to keep them going through the next rainy weekend or by reading one of the numerous newspapers on display.

intrinsic /ɪnˈtrɪn.zɪk/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] An intrinsic quality or thing forms part of the basic character of something or someone.

Dictionary example:
Drama is an intrinsic part of the school's curriculum.

Learner example:
Working is an intrinsic part of human nature, without which life may be unthinkable for some of us.

introduce /ˌɪn.trəˈdjuːs/

Word family:
Nouns: introduction
Verbs: introduce
VERB [T]

SOMETHING NEW
[B2] to make something exist, happen or be used for the first time

Dictionary examples:
The smaller 10 pence coin was introduced in 1992.
We have introduced a new training schedule for employees.

Learner example:
Mr. Dixon, you and your staff have already introduced a number of alterations that have improved the interior of the building.

TO AN AUDIENCE
[C2] to tell an audience who is going to speak to them or perform for them

Dictionary example:
I'd like to introduce Rachel Elliott who is our speaker this evening.

introduction /ˌɪn.trəˈdʌk.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: introduction
Verbs: introduce

NOUN

FIRST MEETING
[B2] [c or u] the action of telling someone another person's name the first time that they meet

Dictionary example:
You'll have to do/make the introductions – I don't know everyone's name.

Learner example:
As we didn't know each other, the meeting started with the introduction of everybody.

TEXT
[B2] [c] the opening text of a book, speech, article, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Read the introduction to the article and decide what it will be about.
The book has an introduction by Antonia Byatt.

Learner example:
Report introduction: The purpose to this report is to give suggestion[s] [of] how to make the reception [area] more welcoming for everyone.
SOMETHING NEW

[B2] [u] when you make something exist, happen or be used for the first time

Dictionary examples:
The introduction of new working practices has dramatically improved productivity. Within a few years of their introduction, CDs were outselling vinyl records.

Learner example:
With the introduction of the computer, we can [now] access [the] Internet to communicate with our relatives and friends living abroad.

BASIC KNOWLEDGE

[B2] [c] a book or course which provides basic knowledge about a subject

Dictionary example:
an introduction to psychology

Learner example:
Please send me some information about your club and tell me about courses like "[an] introduction to flying".

FIRST EXPERIENCE

[C1] [NO PLURAL] the first time someone experiences something

Dictionary example:
It was our first introduction to great poetry.

Learner example:
In 1998 it was the first introduction to home internet access and as we can see from the chart, less than 10% of people had one at home.

introvert /ˈɪn.troʊ.vɜːt/

NOUN [c]

[C2] someone who is quiet and shy and prefers to be alone

Dictionary example:
He's quite an introvert.

Learner example:
As an introvert, he had some problems with airing his opinions but when it came to competing with others he was the best.
intrude /ɪnˈtruːd/  

Word family:  
Nouns: intruder, intrusion  
Verbs: intrude  

VERB [i]  
[C2] to become involved in a situation which people want to be private

Dictionary examples:  
I don't mean to intrude, but are you okay?  
They should not have intruded on the family's grief.  
He was fed up with the media intruding into his life.  

Learner example:  
The fact is that raising a child is a strictly personal matter and also a demanding task nowadays and no one can intrude on a family's privacy, to influence its decision.

intruder /ɪnˈtruːdə/  

Word family:  
Nouns: intruder, intrusion  
Verbs: intrude  

NOUN [c]  

CRIME  
[C2] someone who enters a place where they are not allowed to be, often to commit a crime

Dictionary example:  
I heard intruders at the back of the house.  

Learner example:  
The Police Department did accept that the Jouzalez house was not robbed, but only showed signs of mess and disorder, as if the intruders were looking for something specific, for [a] certain document.  

NOT WANTED  
[C2] someone who goes to a place or becomes involved in a situation where others do not want them

Dictionary example:  
I felt like an intruder at their family meal.  

Learner example:  
Hooper considered the newcomer to be an intruder, to be subtly persecuted.
intrusion /ɪnˈtruː.ʒən/

Word family:
Nouns: intruder, intrusion
Verbs: intrude

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] when someone becomes involved in a situation which people want to be private

Dictionary example:
She could not bear the intrusion into her private life.

Learner example:
Agatha lay underneath her covers dreading the moment when some intrusion might force her to leave the sanctuary of her four-poster bed.

intuition /ˌɪn.tjuˈɪ.ʃən/

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] the feeling that you know something without being able to explain why

Dictionary example:
Her approach to childcare is based on intuition.

Learner example:
But Roger had repeatedly told Lindsay that he was innocent, and her intuition told her that he wasn’t lying.

invade /ɪnˈveɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: invasion
Verbs: invade

VERB

WAR
[B2] I or T to enter a country by force in order to take control of it

Dictionary example:
Concentrations of troops near the border look set to invade within the next few days.

Learner example:
Hitler invaded France.
PLACE

[C1] [ɪ] to enter a place in large numbers

Dictionary example:
Every summer the town is invaded by tourists.

Learner example:
As tourists invade us in large hoards, the menace of destroying the green values of our land appears.

invade sb's privacy

[C2] to become involved in someone's private life when they do not want you to

Dictionary example:
They were fed up with journalists invading their privacy.

Learner example:
He would never invade our privacy or force us to talk about our problems.

BECOME INVOLVED

[C2] [ɪ] to become a part of someone's life without them asking for or wanting the involvement

Dictionary example:
Computers are invading our lives.

Learner example:
The biggest one, the computer, has invaded our life and changed the whole rhythm.

invaluable /ɪnˈvæl.ju.ə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: value
Verbs: value
Adjectives: valuable, invaluable

ADJECTIVE

[C1] extremely useful

Dictionary example:
Her contacts in government proved invaluable to the company.

Learner example:
16 June, 2004 Dear Mr. Alcott, I would like to thank you for [the] organisation of the event which allowed me to obtain invaluable information on up–to–date labour market trends and career opportunities.
invariably /ɪnˈveə.rɪ.ə.bli/

Word family:
Nouns: variation, variety, variable
Verbs: vary
Adjectives: varied, various, variable
Adverbs: invariably

ADVERB
[C2] always

Dictionary example:
The train is invariably packed.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, there is invariably an exception to the rule.

invasion /ɪnˈveɪʒn/

Word family:
Nouns: invasion
Verbs: invade

NOUN [C or U]

WAR
[B2] when an army enters a country by force in order to take control of it

Dictionary example:
They were planning to mount an invasion of the north of the country.

Learner example:
Then, we went to the North of Denmark to see what remains of [the] Viking invasions.

an invasion of privacy
[C2] becoming involved in someone’s private life when they do not want you to

Dictionary example:
These phone calls to my home are an invasion of my privacy.

LARGE NUMBERS
[C2] when people enter a place in large numbers

Dictionary example:
Every year, there is an invasion of tourists.

Learner example:
The invasion of tourists seems to take away some of the place’s privacy and it can even destroy its usually peaceful environment.
**invent** /ɪnˈvent/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** invention, inventor  
**Verbs:** invent  

**VERB [T]**  

**NOT TRUE**  

[B2] to think of a story or explanation in order to deceive someone  

**Dictionary example:**  
But I didn't invent the story – everything I told you is true.  

**Learner example:**  
We knew that our parents wouldn't let us travel alone so we had to invent a story to avoid [them realizing] what happened.

**inventor** /ɪnˈvent.ər/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** invention, inventor  
**Verbs:** invent  

**NOUN [c]**  

[B2] someone who designs and makes new things  

**Dictionary example:**  
He was the inventor of the vacuum cleaner.  

**Learner example:**  
[The] mobile phone is also very important these days, thanks to Lars Magnus Ericsson, who was the inventor of mobile phones.

**inverted commas** /ɪnˌvɜː.tɪdˈkɒm.əz/  

**NOUN [plural]**  

[B2] the " " punctuation marks that are put around a word or phrase to show that someone else has written or said it  

**Dictionary example:**  
Direct speech should be shown in inverted commas.
invest /ɪnˈvest/  

Word family:
Nouns: investment, investor  
Verbs: invest  

VERB [I or T]

MONEY  
[B2] to give money to a bank, business, etc., or buy something, because you hope to get a profit  

Dictionary examples:  
The institute will invest 5 million in the project.  
He's not certain whether to invest in the real estate market.  

Learner example:  
However, you could invest the extra money in the infrastructure.

TIME/ENERGY, ETC.  
[B2] to use a lot of time, effort, or emotions because you want to succeed  

Dictionary example:  
You have all invested significant amounts of time and energy in making this project the success that it is.  

Learner example:  
So, investing a bit of time and care on yourself might be the reason for your 90th birthday party!

investigate /ɪnˈves.tɪ.geɪt/  

Word family:
Nouns: investigation, investigator  
Verbs: investigate  

VERB [I or T]

[B2] to try to discover all the facts about something, especially a crime or accident  

Dictionary examples:  
Police are investigating allegations of corruption involving senior executives.  
We are of course investigating how an error like this could have occurred.  

Learner example:  
John, who was the husband of Julia, went to his office and started investigating the kidnapping.
investigation /ɪnˌvest.iˈgeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: investigation, investigator
Verbs: investigate

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] when officials try to discover all the facts about something, especially a crime or an accident

Dictionary examples:
to carry out/hold an investigation
An investigation has been under way for several days into the disappearance of a thirteen-year-old boy.
a full/thorough investigation of the incident
Currently, the individuals who might have caused the accident are subject to/under investigation.

Learner example:
After a month[-long] investigation of the environment, I found we still don't do enough to protect the environment.

investigator /ɪnˈves.tɪˌgeɪ.tər/

Word family:
Nouns: investigation, investigator
Verbs: investigate

NOUN [C]
[B2] a person whose job is to examine a crime, accident, etc. in order to discover the truth

Dictionary examples:
Investigators have studied the possible effects of contamination.
a private investigator

Learner example:
My name is Jacques Martinov, and I am a private investigator.

investment /ɪnˈvest.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: investment, investor
Verbs: invest

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NOUN

MONEY
[B2] [c or u] the money that you put in a bank, business, etc. in order to make a profit, or the act of doing this

Dictionary examples:
Stocks are regarded as good long-term investments.
The account requires a minimum investment of $1000.

Learner example:
I would like to join one of your team[s] to learn much more about my hobby: investments in shares.

TIME/EFFORT, ETC.
[B2] [c] something that you do or have, in order to have more in the future

Dictionary examples:
Going to college is an investment in the future.
There's been a significant investment of time and energy in order to make the project a success.

Learner example:
Of course I was able to purchase a second-hand one but I thought that it was a good investment to have a new computer provided with up-to-date software.

**investor /ɪnˈves.tər/**

Word family:
Nouns: investment, investor
Verbs: invest

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a person who puts money into a bank, business, etc. in order to make a profit

Dictionary examples:
A New York investor offered to acquire the company's shares for $13 each.
Small investors are hoping that the markets will improve.

Learner example:
This should be done by lowering taxes and preparing other incentives for potential investors.

**invisible /ɪnˈvɪz.ə.bl/**

Word family:
Nouns: vision
Adjectives: invisible, visible, visual
Adverbs: visibly
ADJECTIVE

[B2] impossible to see

Dictionary examples:
The aircraft is designed to be invisible to radar.
The house was invisible from the road.

Learner example:
[At] that moment I really wished I could disappear or become invisible!

invitation /ˌɪn.vɪˈteɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: invitation
Verbs: invite

NOUN

CAUSE RESULT

[C2] [NO PLURAL] something that is likely to cause a particular result, especially a bad one

Dictionary example:
It is an invitation to violence.

Learner example:
This was hard to resist for computer programmers who understood it as an invitation to try and fool the examiner with a cunning computer programme.

invite /ɪnˈvaɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: invitation
Verbs: invite

VERB [T]

ASK OFFICIALLY

[C1] to formally ask someone to do something

Dictionary example:
I was invited to appear on television.

Learner example:
We invite your newspaper to reconsider its position, hoping that the council will think about our proposals.
REACTION
[C2] to do something that is likely to cause a particular reaction or result, especially a bad one

Dictionary example:
Unconventional ideas often invite attack/criticism.

involve /ɪnˈvɒlv/  
Word family:
Nouns: involvement  
Verbs: involve  
Adjectives: involved

VERB [T]
TAKE PART
[B2] to make someone be part of an activity or process

Dictionary example:
I prefer teaching methods that actively involve students in learning.

Learner example:
Trying to involve children and young people in general, interactive activities could be really successful.

involved /ɪnˈvɒlvd/  
Word family:
Nouns: involvement  
Verbs: involve  
Adjectives: involved

ADJECTIVE
be/get involved (in/with sth)
[B2] to do things and be part of an activity or event

Dictionary examples:
How did you get involved in acting?  
She’s been involved with animal rights for many years.

Learner example:
According to your letter, you want to encourage more people to get involved in the swimming club and the chess club.
involvement /ɪnˈvɒlv.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: involvement
Verbs: involve
Adjectives: involved

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] when someone or something is involved in an activity or event

Dictionary examples:
The team's continued involvement in the competition is uncertain.
He denies any involvement in the attack.

Learner example:
By reading we get a sort of personal involvement with the characters, it's [as] if it was our own story.

ironic /aɪəˈrɒn.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: irony
Adjectives: ironic
Adverbs: ironically

ADJECTIVE
[C2] An ironic situation is strange because it is the opposite of what you would expect.

Dictionary example:
It's ironic that she was hurt by the very person she's trying to help.

Learner example:
As I used my stealth to move through the shadows, I thought it ironic that the rich man's expensive and probably imported carpets should assist me in keeping quiet.

Ironically /aɪˈrɒn.i.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: irony
Adjectives: ironic
Adverbs: ironically

ADVERB
[C2] used to emphasize that a situation is strange because it is the opposite of what you expected
**Dictionary example:**
Ironically, the only good book on this subject has gone out of print.

**Learner example:**
Either way, food is a big industry and a vital contributor to our culture, but ironically, food is also the biggest problem in the world.

### irony /ˈaɪər.n.i/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** irony
- **Adjectives:** ironic
- **Adverbs:** ironically

**NOUN**

**SITUATION**

[C2] a situation that is strange because it is the opposite of what you expected

**Dictionary example:**
The irony is that now he's retired, he's busier than ever.

**Learner example:**
The irony of all [this] is the fact that she lives in the same house with Kingshaw and Hooper and she keeps being unable to notice what is really going on till the very end.

**HUMOUR**

[C2] a type of humour in which people say the opposite of what they really mean

**Dictionary example:**
There is a lot of irony in his writing.

**Learner example:**
His strength lies in drawing exact pictures of the human mind by using extraordinary metaphors and idioms and describing our society with his never-ending tone of sarcasm and irony.

### irrational /ɪˈræʃ.n.əl/

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** irrational, rational

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] Irrational feelings and actions are based on your emotions and not on good reasons.

**Dictionary examples:**
irrational behaviour
an irrational fear of flying

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**Learner example:**
It was an irrational fear, but try to explain this to a five-year-old girl who constantly dreamt about vampire dolls killing her while she was unable to move!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>irregular /ɪˈreg.ʃə.lə/</th>
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</table>

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** irregular, regular  
**Adverbs:** regularly

**ADJECTIVE**

**TIME**

[B2] Irregular actions or events happen with a different amount of time between each one.

**Dictionary example:**
They met at irregular intervals.

**Learner example:**
To make matters worse, the meal times are irregular, so as a result I am skinny.

**SHAPE**

[B2] not smooth or straight, or having parts that are different sizes

**Dictionary example:**
an irregular coastline

**Learner example:**
In my hurry, I never saw the irregular floor and I fell [over]!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>irresistible /ˌɪr.ɪˈzɪs.tə.bl/</th>
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</table>

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** resistance  
**Verbs:** resist  
**Adjectives:** irresistible

**ADJECTIVE**

**ATTRACTIVE**

[C2] extremely attractive and impossible not to like or want

**Dictionary example:**
an irresistible smile

**Learner example:**
For instance, a perfume might make men irresistible to women, or vice versa.
STRONG

[C2] too powerful to control or ignore

Dictionary examples:
irresistible pressure
an irresistible desire to run away

Learner example:
From time to time we do feel an irresistible desire to get possession of something that is not a must. We are so tempted that we buy it.

irrespective /ˌɪr.ɪˈspek.tɪv/

Word family:
Adjectives: respective
Adverbs: irrespective, respectively

ADVERB

irrespective of sth

[C2] used to say that something does not affect a situation

Dictionary example:
Everyone should be treated equally, irrespective of skin colour.

Learner example:
He demonstrated that irrespective of the political circumstances, art will always go on, it cannot be subdued.

irresponsible /ˌɪr.ɪˈspɒnt.seɪ.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: responsibility
Adjectives: irresponsible, responsible

ADJECTIVE

[B2] not thinking about the possible bad results of what you are doing

Dictionary examples:
an irresponsible attitude
irresponsible behaviour

Learner example:
Of course cinemas and schools do not allow people [to] use mobile phones inside the buildings, but the existence of irresponsible people who do not respect the prohibitions [make]s everything worse.
irreversible /ˌɪr.iˈvɜːsə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: reversal, reverse
Verbs: reverse
Adjectives: irreversible, reversible

ADJECTIVE
[C2] Something that is irreversible cannot be changed back to how it was before.

Dictionary example:
Smoking has caused irreversible damage to his lungs.

Learner example:
It is important to remember that everything done excessively can have irreversible consequences!

irritable /ˈɪr.i.tə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: irritation
Verbs: irritate
Adjectives: irritated, irritating, irritable

ADJECTIVE
[C2] becoming annoyed very easily

Dictionary example:
Jack's been irritable all day.

Learner example:
Lord Trimingham remains calm throughout the story whereas Ted Burgess seems quite irritable and impulsive.

irritate /ˈɪr.i.teɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: irritation
Verbs: irritate
Adjectives: irritated, irritating, irritable

VERB [T]
[C1] to annoy someone

Dictionary example:
His comments really irritated me.

Learner example:
Children get hyperactive and irritate other passengers.
irritated /ˈɪr.ɪˌteɪ.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: irritation
Verbs: irritate
Adjectives: irritated, irritating, irritable

ADJECTIVE

[B2] annoyed

Dictionary example:
Ben began to get increasingly irritated by/with her questions.

Learner example:
Tom noticed that she was irritated about something.

irritating /ˈɪr.ɪˌteɪ.tɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: irritation
Verbs: irritate
Adjectives: irritated, irritating, irritable

ADJECTIVE

[B2] making you feel annoyed

Dictionary example:
an irritating habit

Learner example:
John was absolutely fed up with Bill’s irritating behaviour.

irritation /ˌɪr.ɪˈteɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: irritation
Verbs: irritate
Adjectives: irritated, irritating, irritable

NOUN [C or U]

[C2] the feeling of being annoyed, or something that makes you annoyed

Dictionary examples:
That kind of behaviour is sure to cause irritation.
Traffic noise is one of the irritations of living here.
Learner example:
Most of the time, he found himself restless and to overcome the boredom and his irritation, he would go to the village pub and listen to the musicians and drink with them.

isolated /ˈaɪs.o.lə.tid/

Word family:
Nouns: isolation
Adjectives: isolated

ADJECTIVE

FAR AWAY
[C1] a long way from other places

Dictionary example:
an isolated village in the mountains

Learner example:
You might get lost in an isolated region without anyone to help you.

ALONE
[C1] alone and not having help or support from other people

Dictionary example:
Kazuo felt very isolated at his new school.

Learner example:
Before you even know it, you'll feel isolated and alone because other people will have forgotten about you.

an isolated case/event/example, etc.
[C2] a case/event/example, etc. that happens only once

Dictionary example:
This robbery was not an isolated incident.

Learner example:
This is just an isolated example among an endless list.

isolation /ˌaɪ.səˈleɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: isolation
Adjectives: isolated
NOUN

SEPARATE
[C1] [u] the state of being separate from other people, places, or things

Dictionary example:
the country's economic isolation from the rest of the world

Learner example:
Due to the isolation, the country had to feed itself with everything which was needed.

in isolation
[C2] alone, or separately from other people, places, or things

Dictionary example:
These poems cannot be considered in isolation.

Learner example:
In conclusion, it is my opinion that the problem of parking space cannot be solved in isolation.

LONELY
[C2] [u] a feeling of being lonely

Dictionary example:
I had this awful sense of isolation.

Learner example:
Unemployment can lead to isolation.

issue /ˈɪʃ.u:/

NOUN [c]

MAGAZINE
[B2] the newspaper, magazine, etc. that is produced on a particular day/week/month

Dictionary example:
Have you seen the latest issue of Computer World?

Learner example:
Having seen your advertisement in the 4th issue of Asahi News, I hasten to write this letter.

take issue (with sb/sth)
[C1] to disagree with what someone says or writes

Dictionary example:
I would take issue with you on that.
Learner example:
On behalf of the staff who worked for this event, I would like to take issue with the report's inaccuracies and unfair remarks.

at issue
[C2] most important in what is being discussed

Dictionary example:
The point at issue is what is best for the child.

Learner example:
I wouldn't like to fall into the trap of generalizing the matter at issue, but I believe there are two ways of travelling.

VERB
[C2] to officially say something or give someone something

Dictionary examples:
The office will be issuing permits on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
The school issued a statement about its plans to the press./The school issued the press with a statement about its plans.

Learner example:
Finally, the doctors issued an ultimatum.

It /ɪt/

PRONOUN

SEEM
[B2] used as the subject of verbs such as 'seem', 'appear' and 'look'

Dictionary example:
It seemed unfair to leave her at home.

Learner example:
It seemed fantastic but we knew our parents would never agree.

it's sb/sth
[B2] used to say the name of a person or thing when the person you are speaking to does not know

Dictionary example:
It's your Dad on the phone.

EMPHASIZE
[C2] used to emphasize one part of a sentence

Dictionary example:
It's the children I'm concerned about, not me.
**itch**  /ɪtʃ/

**VERB**

**SKIN**

[B2] If a part of your body itches, it feels uncomfortable and you want to rub it with your nails.

*Dictionary example:*  
Woollen sweaters make my arms itch.

*Learner example:*  
On the other hand I loathe jumpers since they make me itch, so I buy them once in a blue moon!

**be itching to do sth**  INFORMAL  
[C2] to want to do something very much

*Dictionary example:*  
You could tell that they were itching to leave.

*Learner example:*  
The difference between these two kinds of people lies exactly there: the package-tourist is itching to go back home [as soon as] he sets off whereas the traveller may never go back home.

**item**  /ˈaɪ.təm/

**NOUN [c]**

**NEWS**  
[B2] a piece of news on television or radio, or in a newspaper

*Dictionary example:*  
a small item on the back page of the local newspaper

*Learner example:*  
Last week, in the "East London Journal", I read an item about your opening an Investor Club.

**itinerary**  /ˈaɪ.tɪn.ər.i/  

**NOUN [c]**  
[C1] a list of places that you plan to visit on a journey

*Dictionary example:*  
The President's itinerary includes visits to Boston and New York.
**Learner example:**
Finally, although the itinerary involved a visit to St. Andrews, for some unknown reasons we never went there and I was really disappointed.

**itself** /ɪtˈself/

**PRONOUN**

**in itself**

[B2] used emphasize that something is true of one particular thing but that other things may have to be considered

**Dictionary example:**
The plan wasn't illegal in itself but it would lead to some doubtful practices.

**Learner example:**
To begin with, a car, in my opinion, can't be harmful in itself.
jam /dʒæm/  

**NOUN**

**TRAFFIC**

[B2] [c] (also traffic jam) a line of cars, trucks, etc. that are moving slowly or not moving

**Dictionary example:**
We were stuck in a jam for hours.

**Learner example:**
On a bike, you don’t have to wait if there is a jam or something like that.

**BLOCK**

[C1] [c] something that is stuck in a machine or that prevents the parts of a machine from moving

**Dictionary example:**
The photocopier has a paper jam.

**VERB**

**STUCK**

[C1] [I or T] to get stuck or make something get stuck

**Dictionary examples:**
The machine keeps jamming.
Dirt has jammed the engine.

**Learner example:**
I understand the request for a new printer could be considered expensive, but it would benefit the office in the long run by diminishing the waste of paper and toner due to the paper jamming the printer.

**FILL**

[C2] [T OFTEN PASSIVE] to fill a place completely

**Dictionary examples:**
The streets were jammed with cars.
The whole area was jammed with fans waiting for the band to come on stage.
Learner example:
Our quiet roads will be jammed with cars coming from other towns, especially the Saturday morning.

**jargon /ˈdʒɑː.ɡən/**

**NOUN [u]**
[C1] words and phrases used by particular groups of people that are difficult for other people to understand

**Dictionary example:**
legal jargon

**Learner example:**
Although you communicate with your colleagues in the afternoon, if you only get 'jargon' there and see your friends from your own country every day without speaking in English, it certainly doesn't help you improve your ability.

**jaw /dʒɔː/**

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] the lower part of your face which moves when you open your mouth

**Dictionary examples:**
a broken jaw
He has a strong/square jaw.

**Learner example:**
Some of Jem's features such as his curved nose, his cruel jaw or even his hands, made Mary think [of] Joss Merlyn.

**jealous /ˈdʒel.əs/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** jealousy
**Adjectives:** jealous
**Adverbs:** jealously

**ADJECTIVE**

**WANTING SOMETHING**
[B2] unhappy and angry because you want something that someone else has
**Dictionary example:**
He had always been very jealous of his brother's good looks.

**Learner example:**
Why had this man in his nightmare told him that one could be jealous of his success?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>jealously</strong> /ˈdʒeləs.li/</th>
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<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> jealousy</td>
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<td><strong>Adverbs:</strong> jealously</td>
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**ADVERB**

[B2] in a jealous way

**Dictionary example:**
She eyed Gwen's engagement ring jealously.

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<tr>
<th><strong>jealousy</strong> /ˈdʒeləsi/</th>
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**NOUN [U]**

[C1] a feeling of unhappiness or anger because you want what someone else has or fear that someone will take what you have

**Dictionary examples:**
He broke his brother's new bike in a fit of jealousy.
Jealousy can ruin relationships.

**Learner example:**
What is more, the most successful colleagues generated some jealousy and incomprehension [in] the others.

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<tr>
<th><strong>jewel</strong> /ˈdʒuː.əl/</th>
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<td><strong>NOUN [C]</strong></td>
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<td>[B2] a valuable stone that is used to make jewellery or to decorate objects</td>
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</table>

**Dictionary example:**
She was wearing a large gold necklace set with jewels.
Learner example:
We opened it and we were left speechless as in the chest there were the most shiny jewels and coins we had ever seen.

job  /dʒɒb/

NOUN

RESPONSIBILITY
[B2] [NO PLURAL] something that is your responsibility

Dictionary examples:
She believed her job as a politician was to represent the views of her party and the people who voted for her.
I know it's not my job to tell you how to run your life, but I do think you've made a mistake.

Learner example:
One day, my boss said to me: "Serve tea every morning". I'm a computer operat[or]. I'm not his wife. It is not my job.

do a good/excellent, etc. job
[B2] to do something well/very well, etc.

Dictionary example:
She did a great job of organizing the event.

Learner example:
Dear Bill, I think you did a very good job writing this chapter.

out of a job
[C2] without a job

Dictionary example:
How long have you been out of a job?

Learner example:
So, what is so terrible about being out of a job, you might ask yourself.

it's a good job
[C2] If it is a good job that something happened, it is lucky that it happened.

Dictionary example:
It's a good job that Jo was there to help you.

Learner example:
It's a good job that I didn't cry.

do the job
[C2] If something does the job, it is suitable for a particular purpose.
Dictionary example:
Here, this knife should do the job.

Learner example:
Allow them to bring home friends and therefore develop social skills. In my opinion, that should do the job.

**make a bad/good, etc. job of sth**
[C2] to do sth badly/well, etc.

Dictionary example:
Paul's made a good job of painting the hall.

Learner example:
It's time my mother stop[ped] worrying about me, after all, she's been preparing me all my life for this moment; it's finally time to see if she has made a good job of it.

---

**join** /dʒɔɪn/

Word family:
Verbs: join
Adjectives: joint
Adverbs: jointly

**VERB**

**join forces**
[C2] When two people or groups join forces, they act or work together.

Dictionary example:
She joined forces with her sister-in-law to set up a restaurant.

Learner example:
The second proposal is that we join forces with Green Peace in picketing the refinery, this of course is up to the individual members.

---

**joint** /dʒɔɪnt/

Word family:
Verbs: join
Adjectives: joint
Adverbs: jointly

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] belonging to or shared between two or more people
Dictionary examples:
a joint bank account
The project was a joint **effort** between the two schools.
The two Russian ice-skaters came joint second in the world championship.
Adrian has a joint **honours** degree in English and philosophy.

**NOUN [c]**

**PLACE**
[C1] INFORMAL a place where something is sold, especially a restaurant or bar

**Dictionary example:**
a pizza joint

**Learner example:**
The following day a visit was scheduled to "a typical English restaurant" which turned out to be a hamburger joint.

**BODY PART**
[C2] a place in your body where two bones meet

**Dictionary example:**
the knee joint

**Learner example:**
Would you really like to have a job in which you would risk not being able to walk because of the damage to your joints?

**jointly /ˈdʒɔɪnt.li/**

Word family:
Verbs: join
Adjectives: joint
Adverbs: **jointly**

**ADVERB**
[C1] in a shared way

**Dictionary example:**
The Channel Tunnel was jointly funded by the French and British.

**Learner example:**
Avesta is now jointly owned by Swedes and Englishmen after merging with British Steel.
**joke /dʒəʊk/**

**NOUN [C]**

**be a joke** INFORMAL

[C1] to not be serious or not deserve respect

*Dictionary example:*
The investigation was a joke.

*Learner example:
Talking about restaurants, your "typical English restaurant" was a joke.

**crack a joke**

[C1] to tell a joke

*Dictionary example:
He seemed very relaxed, laughing and cracking jokes.

*Learner example:
Many members will get the chance to show their talent and we will get to crack some jokes too!

**journal /ˈdʒɜː.nəl/**

**NOUN [c]**

**MAGAZINE**

[C1] a magazine containing articles about a particular subject

*Dictionary example:
a medical journal

*Learner example:
What I miss, however, in our library are the books and journals devoted to science.

**BOOK**

[C2] a book in which you regularly write about what has happened to you

*Dictionary example:
I kept a journal during that time.

*Learner example:
He looked everywhere but he couldn't find his uncle's personal journal.

**journalism /ˈdʒɜː.nə.lɪ.zəm/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** journalism, journalist
NOUN [u]
[B2] the work of collecting, writing and publishing news stories and articles in newspapers and magazines or broadcasting them on the radio and television

Dictionary example:
I did a postgraduate degree in journalism.

Learner example:
She told the leader of the band that she was studying journalism and that her dream was to write for Rolling Stone Magazine.

joy /dʒɔɪ/

NOUN

HAPPINESS
[B2] [u] great happiness

Dictionary examples:
They were filled with joy when their first child was born.
She wept for joy when she was told that her husband was still alive.

Learner example:
Well, you should be bouncing up and down with joy (just kidding)!

CAUSE OF HAPPINESS
[B2] [c] something or someone that makes you feel very happy

Dictionary examples:
Listening to music is one of his greatest joys.
the joys of parenthood
She's a joy to work with.

Learner example:
Take the train and experience the joy of travelling.

judge /dʒʌdʒ/

Word family:
Nouns: judge, judgment
Verbs: judge

NOUN [c]

COURT
[B2] someone who controls a trial in court, decides how criminals should be punished, and makes decisions about legal matters
Dictionary example:
The judge ruled that they had acted correctly.

Learner example:
To the surprise of everyone in the village, the judge found her guilty but didn't send her to jail because he thought she should take care of Linda, who had no other relatives.

a bad/good, etc. judge of sth
[C2] someone who is usually wrong/usually right, etc. when they judge something

Dictionary example:
a good judge of character

Learner example:
She is a very good judge of character and the institute has reared some very promising scientists.

VERB
judging by/from (also to judge by/from)
[B2] used to express the reasons why you have a particular opinion

Dictionary example:
Judging by what he said, I think it's very unlikely that he'll be able to support your application.

Learner example:
I didn't like San Diego so much – just judging by my first impression.

COMPETITION
[C1] [I or T] to officially decide who will be the winner of a competition

Dictionary example:
I've been asked to judge the art competition.

Learner example:
If you don't object, we would like to see you judging the competition and giving prizes to the winners.

BAD OPINION
[C2] [I or T] to have a bad opinion of someone's behaviour, often because you think you are better than them

Dictionary example:
What gives you the right to judge people?

Learner example:
"I'm not judging you, dear", I whispered softly.
**Judgment (also judgement)** /ˈdʒʌdʒ.mənt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** judge, judgment

**Verbs:** judge

**Noun**

**Opinion**

[B2] [c] an opinion about someone or something that you decide on after thinking carefully

*Dictionary example:*
It proved difficult to come to/form/make a judgment about how well the school was performing.

*Learner example:*
Your judgment about the other performers is completely unfair: they were also very good.

**Ability**

[C2] [u] the ability to make good decisions or to be right in your opinions

*Dictionary example:*
to have good/bad judgment

*Learner example:*
They should also develop analytical ability as well as good judgement.

**Juggle** /ˈdʒʌ.ɡəl/

**Verb [t]**

[C2] to try to do several things at once, when it is difficult to have enough time

*Dictionary example:*
Many women have to juggle work and family.

*Learner example:*
Juggling with time and living the rat–race, I focused my life on my profession.

**Juicy** /ˈdʒuː.si/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** juice

**Adjectives:** juicy
ADJECTIVE

EXCITING
[C2] interesting because of shocking or personal information

Dictionary example:
juicy gossip

Learner example:
"That's it," she thought, "somebody must have taken it to their room last night, hoping for some juicy gossip!"

jump /dʒʌmp/

VERB

FEAR
[B2] [j] to make a sudden movement because you are frightened or surprised

Dictionary example:
Her scream made me jump.

Learner example:
The noise of a doorbell made me jump.

jump to conclusions
[C2] to guess the facts about a situation without having enough information

Dictionary example:
He saw them talking together and jumped to conclusions.

Learner example:
I think, before jumping to conclusions, we should first try to analyse the situation.

junior /ˈdʒuː.ni.ər/

ADJECTIVE

LOW RANK
[B2] low or lower in rank or position

Dictionary examples:
a junior minister
junior office staff
Learner example:
There were six junior clerks and a teacher from the bank in a teaching room when suddenly the chairman of the bank came in.

YOUNG PEOPLE
[B2] for or relating to young people

Dictionary example:
a junior tennis tournament

Learner example:
I am used to work[ing] with children, as an instructor for a junior football team in my city.

NOUN

10/20, etc. years sb's junior
[C2] 10/20, etc. years younger than someone

Dictionary example:
My wife is 8 years my junior.

Learner example:
I have a sister four years my junior and in my opinion we have no reason to complain.

junk /dʒʌŋk/

NOUN [U] INFORMAL
[C1] old things which have little value

Dictionary example:
His car is just a heap of junk.

Learner example:
I would also like to get rid of the junk in the other bedroom.

junk food /ˈdʒʌŋkˌfuːd/

NOUN [U]
[B2] food which is unhealthy but which is quick and easy to eat

Dictionary example:
He eats far too much junk food.

Learner example:
Nowadays young people often have junk food such as chips, beef burgers and so on.
**junk mail** /ˈdʒʌŋkˌmeɪl/

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] letters or emails sent by companies to advertise their goods and services

*Dictionary example:*
Most of these letters are junk mail.

*Learner example:*
I collect the post which is usually junk mail.

**jury** /ˈdʒʊə.ri/

**NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]**

**COURT**

[B2] a group of people who have been chosen to listen to all the facts in a trial in a law court and to decide whether a person is guilty or not guilty, or whether a claim has been proved

*Dictionary examples:*
members of the jury
The jury was/were unable to agree.
Police officers aren't usually allowed to be/sit/serve on a jury.

*Learner example:*
The accused is defended by a famous lawyer who tells his wife that a loving wife's confirmation of her husband's alibi will not convince the jury.

**COMPETITION**

[C1] a group of people who decide the winner of a competition

*Dictionary example:*
The jury must now decide.

*Learner example:*
People who think they are talented enough to sing and appear on TV apply for the show and go to auditions to sing their heart out in front of a jury.

**the jury is (still) out**

[C2] If the jury is (still) out on a subject, people do not yet know the answer or have a definite opinion about it.

*Dictionary example:*
The jury's still out on the safety of GM food.

*Learner example:*
I think that the jury is still out on the effects of television and other media.
just  /dʒʌst/  

Word family: 
Nouns: justice, injustice  
Adjectives: just  

ADVERB  

just as  
[B2] at the same time as  

Dictionary example:  
She woke up just as we got there.  

Learner example:  
Just as I was turning on the radio somebody knocked at the door.  

it's just as well  
[C1] used to say that it is lucky that something happened  

Dictionary example:  
It's just as well we brought an umbrella.  

Learner example:  
It is just as well that my friends had cars to give me a lift to the school.  

I/you/we, etc. will just have to do sth  
[C1] used to say that there is nothing else someone can do  

Dictionary example:  
You'll just have to wait.  

Learner example:  
We will just have to wait and see.....  

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] fair or morally right  

Dictionary example:  
a just society  

Learner example:  
He is really involved in what he is doing and does not fear [facing] the difficulties if it is to defend a just cause.  

justice  /ˈdʒʌstɪs/  

Word family: 
Nouns: justice, injustice  
Adjectives: just  

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FAIRNESS
[B2] behaviour or treatment that is fair and morally correct

Dictionary examples:
There's no justice in the world when people can be made to suffer like that.
The winner has been disqualified for cheating, so justice has been done.

Learner example:
Both of them symbolize courage, [a] love of justice, [and a] fight for freedom, which makes them look like heroes.

LAW
[B2] the system of laws which judges and punishes people

Dictionary examples:
The justice system in this country consists of a series of law courts at different levels.
The police are doing all they can to bring those responsible for the bombing to justice.
They are victims of a miscarriage of justice.

Learner example:
I hope by the time I [am] out of prison, [the] justice [system] will have changed.

do sb/sth justice; do justice to sb/sth
[C2] to show the best or real qualities of something or someone

Dictionary example:
This postcard doesn't do justice to the wonderful scenery.

Learner example:
No words can do justice to the indignation that I feel.

justifiable /ˈdʒʌst.i.ˈfeɪ.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: justification
Verbs: justify
Adjectives: justifiable, justified, unjustified

ADJECTIVE
[C2] having a good reason

Dictionary example:
justifiable anger

Learner example:
Thus, we can understand that this attitude to reading is, to some extent, justifiable.
**justification** /ˌdʒʌstɪˈfɪkeɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** justification  
**Verbs:** justify  
**Adjectives:** justifiable, justified, unjustified

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C2] a reason for something

**Dictionary example:**
There's no justification for treating her so unfairly.

**Learner example:**
Unfortunately that day, I took the diary with me, although there was no justification for taking it because I was just going to visit my grandparents and I had no intention of staying there more than one day.

**justified** /ˈdʒʌstɪ.фаɪd/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** justification  
**Verbs:** justify  
**Adjectives:** justifiable, justified, unjustified

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] fair or having a good reason

**Dictionary examples:**
justified criticism  
He's perfectly justified in asking for a salary increase.

**Learner example:**
Finally, I would strongly recommend that steps are taken to remedy matters and feel we are justified in requesting partial compensation.

**justify** /ˈdʒʌstɪ.фаɪ/
Dictionary examples:
I can't really justify taking another day off work.
Are you sure that these measures are justified?

Learner example:
The fact that you want to be the best in your job does not justify your attitude.

**justify yourself**

[B2] If you justify yourself, you give a good reason for what you have done.

Dictionary example:
It was the only thing that I could do – I don't have to justify myself to anyone.

Learner example:
How we can justify ourselves, when we are completely against captivity?

juvenile /ˈdʒuː.vɪ.n.əl/  

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] by, for, or relating to young people

Dictionary example:
juvenile crime

Learner example:
Among many aspects of crime, researchers have been keenly studying juvenile crime.
keen /kiːn/

ADJECTIVE

VERY GOOD

[C1] very good or well developed

Dictionary example:
a keen sense of smell

Learner example:
Furthermore, she has a keen sense of humour and does not mind a practical joke, which is an advantage with children.

keep /kiːp/

Word family:
Nouns: keeper
Verbs: keep

VERB (kept, kept)

keep sb waiting
[B2] to be late so that someone has to wait for you

Dictionary examples:
I'm sorry to have kept you waiting.
The dentist kept me waiting for ages.

Learner example:
A week later, when we were going to have our second lesson, she kept us waiting for almost an hour.

keep a/your promise
[B2] to do what you have promised to do

Dictionary example:
James kept his promise and repaid all of the money he had borrowed.

Learner example:
She didn't keep her promise and she ruined my life.
keep notes/records, etc.
[B2] to write something down in order to remember it

Dictionary example:
Remember to keep a record of how much you spend.

Learner example:
Furthermore, a computer helps us to keep records by saving file[s].

keep your/an eye on sb/sth
[B2] to watch or look after someone or something

Dictionary example:
Could you keep an eye on this pan of soup for a moment?

Learner example:
You have to supply [e]verything they need and keep an eye on them all the time.

FOOD
[B2] [I] If food or drink keeps, it remains fresh.

Dictionary example:
Once opened, this product will keep for three days if refrigerated.

ANIMALS
[B2] [†] to have and look after animals

Dictionary example:
Our neighbours keep chickens.

Learner example:
It is cruel to keep dogs, cats, [and] birds in flats.

keep sb company
[B2] to stay with someone so that they are not alone

Dictionary example:
Come and keep me company, Isabel.

Learner example:
I wish you came and kept me company.

keep sb/sth in mind
[B2] to remember to consider someone or something that may be useful in the future

Dictionary example:
I'll keep you in mind if another job comes up.

Learner example:
But we should keep in mind that books improve our vocabulary and, what's more, our imagination.
**keep track**
[C1] to continue to know about someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
He changes jobs so often I can’t keep track any more.
Be sure to keep track of the time so you won't be late.

**Learner example:**
Trying to keep track of these changes by translating them would be an inappropriate task.

**keep your word**
[C1] to do what you said you would do

**Dictionary example:**
He agreed to come and I’m sure he’ll keep his word.

**Learner example:**
It turned out that the company that had been hired to organize it did not keep their word.

**keep sb going**
[C1] to provide what someone needs for a short period of time

**Dictionary example:**
Dinner is at eight, but I had an apple to keep me going.

**Learner example:**
Because of health concerns, advertisements lately show the people in Holland how important it is to have a good breakfast and that it will keep you going the whole day.

**PROVIDE MONEY**
[C1] [T] to provide enough money for someone to live

**Dictionary example:**
I can’t keep a family on that salary.

**Learner example:**
The economy ha[d] been developed and people could earn money in order to keep the family.

**keep your cool**
[C1] to remain calm

**Dictionary example:**
You did well to keep your cool in all that panic.

**Learner example:**
Whatever the problem is, keep your cool, don’t panic.

**keep an eye out for sb/sth**
[C1] to watch carefully for someone or something to appear

**Dictionary example:**
Keep an eye out for the delivery van.
Learner example:
Although individually we try to deliver the best care possible for our individual patients, we do keep an ear or an eye out for the other members of the team that day.

**keep pace with sb/sth**
[C1] to move or develop at the same speed as someone or something else

**Dictionary example:**
We have to keep pace with the changing times.

**Learner example:**
It was first published a century ago and what amazes people most is that [it] keeps pace with the development of the country without leaving out references to our history and tradition.

**keep sb posted**
[C1] to make certain that someone always knows what is happening

**Dictionary example:**
Keep me posted on anything that happens while I'm away.

**Learner example:**
We will keep our members posted on the best eating places in town.

**keep a low profile**
[C1] to try not to be noticed

**Dictionary example:**
She has kept a low profile since the divorce.

**Learner example:**
Finally, I believe that the best way to handle these issues is to try to keep a low profile at all times and to remain indifferent to gossip.

**keep your eyes open (for sb/sth)**
[C2] to watch carefully for someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
Keep your eyes open for anything unusual.

**Learner example:**
It has helped us identify and successfully combat many a nutritional hazard, keeping our eyes open to immoderate consumption of some substances and its effects.

**keep body and soul together**
[C2] to be able to pay for your food, clothing and somewhere to live

**Dictionary example:**
His wages are barely enough to keep body and soul together.

**Learner example:**
Not only does he keep body and soul together, but he is [o]n good terms with his wife.
keep your eyes peeled (for sb/sth)
[C2] to watch carefully for someone or something

Dictionary example:
Keep your eyes peeled, he should be here any minute.

Learner example:
Ever since, I try to keep my eyes peeled for anything similar.

keep a straight face
[C2] to manage to stop yourself from smiling or laughing

Dictionary example:
I can never play jokes on people because I can't keep a straight face.

keep your fingers crossed/ cross your fingers INFORMAL
[C2] to hope that things will happen in the way that you want them to

Dictionary examples:
Let's keep our fingers crossed that she gets the job.
We're crossing our fingers and hoping that the weather stays fine.

Learner example:
Wish me luck, Winnie," she sighed "keep your fingers crossed, please".

keep a cool head
[C2] to remain calm in a difficult situation

Dictionary example:
To be successful in business, you need to keep a cool head in negotiations.

Learner example:
Kevin managed to keep a cool head and took over the navigation.

keep your head above water
[C2] to have just enough money to live or to continue a business

Dictionary example:
With extra income from private sponsorship, the club is just about managing to keep its head above water.

Learner example:
I also started to realise how much she had on her plate, how very little help she had and how, at times, she had to struggle just like me to keep her head above water.

keep (sth) quiet
[C2] to not talk about something that is secret

Dictionary example:
It might be wise to keep this quiet for a while.

Learner example:
They tried to keep it quiet but, somehow, half the village knew about the news in a few days.
keep your temper
[C2] to succeed in staying calm and not becoming angry

Dictionary example:
I can’t discuss this with you unless you promise to keep your temper.

Learner example:
He never offends people and he keeps his temper even if someone insults him.

keep sb on their toes
[C2] to make sure that someone gives all their attention to what they are doing and is ready for anything that might happen

Dictionary example:
We have random inspections to keep everyone on their toes.

key /kiː/

NOUN [C]

KEYBOARD
[B2] one of the parts that you press with your fingers on a computer or musical instrument to produce letters, numbers, symbols or musical notes

Dictionary examples:
Press the shift key to write in capital letters.
piano keys

Learner example:
What is more, you can get the information you need in just one second by pressing the "enter" key [o]n a computer.

ADJECTIVE

IMPORTANT
[B2] very important in influencing or achieving something

Dictionary examples:
She was a key figure in the international art world.
a key factor in tackling the problem

Learner example:
Unfortunately one day I decided that it was time to become more independent and I didn’t ask a key question.

be key to sth
[C1] to be very important in influencing or achieving something
**Dictionary example:**
Early diagnosis is key to your chances of surviving.

**Learner example:**
Distribution is key to achieving economic growth and the positioning of domestic and imported goods.

**VERB**

`key in sth` or `key sth in` **PHRASAL VERB**

[B2] to put information into a computer using a keyboard

**Dictionary example:**
I've got all the data now but it still needs to be keyed in.

**Learner example:**
Just key in the appropriate information and in a few seconds you will receive prices and conditions.

**kick**  /kɪk/

**VERB** [I or T]

**kick yourself** **INFORMAL**
[C2] to be very annoyed with yourself for doing something stupid or wrong

**Dictionary example:**
I could have kicked myself for saying that.

**Learner example:**
Nevertheless what kept me kicking myself was that this time my partner was in danger as well.

**NOUN** [C]

**FEELING**
[C2] **INFORMAL** a special feeling of excitement and energy

**Dictionary example:**
She gets a kick out of performing live.

**Learner example:**
I really get a kick out of anything which concerns magic.
kidney /ˈkɪd.ni/

NOUN [c]
[C2] one of the two organs in your body which remove waste from the blood and produce urine

Dictionary example:
kidney failure/disease

Learner example:
Her kidneys didn’t work well enough to keep her healthy and someone had to be found who could give one of his kidneys to her.

kill /kɪl/

Word family:
Nouns: killer, killing
Verbs: kill

VERB [t]

kill time
[B2] to do something while you are waiting for something else to happen or have nothing else to do

Dictionary example:
We killed time playing video games.

Learner example:
When you are at home alone and have nothing to do, you can kill time watching television.

CAUSE PAIN
[C1] INFORMAL to cause you a lot of pain or effort

Dictionary examples:
My feet are killing me.
It wouldn’t kill you to tidy up occasionally.

Learner example:
I didn’t have enough room to move and the seat belt was broken so when we finally arrived [in] Edinburgh my back was killing me.

END
[C2] to stop an activity or experience completely

Dictionary example:
His remark killed the conversation.
kind /kaɪnd/

Word family:
Nouns: kindness
Adjectives: kind, unkind
Adverbs: kindly

NOUN [C]

kind of INFORMAL
[B2] used to describe something approximately

Dictionary examples:
It's a kind of shed.
He was kind of half laughing and half crying.

Learner example:
I know that the Frene Hotel is kind of expensive, but it's just for one night so I think we can make it.

one of a kind
[C2] used to describe someone or something that is completely different from other people or things

Dictionary example:
My Dad was one of a kind – funny, kind and generous.

Learner example:
Pele is indeed one of a kind and can be considered a model for youngsters.

kindly /ˈkaɪnd.li/

Word family:
Nouns: kindness
Adjectives: kind, unkind
Adverbs: kindly

ADVERB

not take kindly to sth
[C2] to not like something that someone says or does

Dictionary example:
He doesn't take kindly to criticism.

Learner example:
His wife didn't take kindly to his lateness and immediately snarled at him as though [she was] a tigress snapping her claws in a cat-fight.
**kindness /ˈkaɪnd.nəs/**

Word family:

Nouns: kindness

Adjectives: kind, unkind

Adverbs: kindly

**NOUN [u]**  
[B2] the quality of being kind

Dictionary example:
love and kindness

Learner example:
Thank you again for your kindness and hospitality.

**king /kɪŋ/**

**NOUN [c]**

BEST PERSON
[C1] the best or most important person in a particular activity

Dictionary example:
He's the new king of pop music.

Learner example:
He is the king of football, which is not at all an exag[geration, even though he is retired now.

**kingdom /ˈkɪŋ.dəm/**

**NOUN [c]**

COUNTRY
[B2] a country ruled by a king or queen

Dictionary example:
the kingdom of Sweden

Learner example:
The kingdom Chosun lasted until the beginning of [the] 20th century.

the animal/plant kingdom
[C2] all animals or plants considered together

Dictionary example:
The monarch butterfly is one of the most beautiful creatures in the animal kingdom.
Learner example:
As well as being of paramount importance for the animal kingdom, Hawley Woods is the only green open space left in our area where we humans can walk, jog or simply lie on the grass.

kneel /niːl/

VERB [i] (knelt or kneeled, knelt or kneeled)
[B2] to go down into, or stay in, a position where one or both knees are on the ground

Dictionary examples:
She knelt (down) beside the child.
He knelt in front of the altar and prayed.

Learner example:
Robert knelt down by her, pronouncing the simple words "Will you marry me?"

knob /nɒb/

NOUN [c]
[C1] a round handle, or a round button on a machine

Dictionary examples:
a door knob
Turn the black knob to switch on the radio.

Learner example:
It's so obvious that when we turn a knob on or when we switch on something [and] there is no electricity, we are at a loss!

knock /nɒk/

VERB

knock sth down PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to destroy a building or part of a building

Dictionary example:
They've knocked down the old cinema.

Learner example:
Since many of the office building are almost empty I also think that we should have them knocked down and replaced by green parks or other areas where no cars are to be allowed.
knock sb out PHRASAL VERB

HIT SOMEONE
[B2] to make someone become unconscious, usually by hitting them on the head

Dictionary example:
He was knocked out halfway through the fight.

Learner example:
Chris knocked him out with a strong punch without doubting that he was a criminal.

DEFEAT IN COMPETITION
[B2] [OFTEN PASSIVE] to defeat a person or team in a competition so they cannot take part any more

Dictionary example:
The French team were knocked out in the semi final.

knock sth/sb over PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to hit or push something or someone, especially accidentally, so that they fall to the ground or onto their side

Dictionary examples:
I knocked a bottle of wine over while I was reaching for a dish.
He banged into me so hard that he nearly knocked me over.

Learner example:
I knocked over the girl's cup, which was still full of milk.

knot /nɒt/

NOUN [C]

FASTENING
[C2] a place where one or more pieces of string, rope, etc. have been tied

Dictionary example:
Tie a knot in the rope.

Learner example:
The man was always wearing a shabby coat and a big red scarf which was tied in a very complicated knot.

tie the knot
[C2] INFORMAL to get married

Dictionary example:
We're planning to tie the knot in April.
Learner example:
She was going to tie the knot in July.

**know /nəʊ/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: knowledge, unknown
Verbs: know
Adjectives: known, unknown, knowledgeable
Adverbs: knowingly

**VERB** (knew, known)

as far as I know
[B2] used to say that you think something is true, but cannot be sure

Dictionary example:
As far as I know, he's never been in trouble with the police.

Learner example:
As far as I know, accommodation at Camp California is in tents or log cabins.

know better (than to do **sth**)
[B2] to have the intelligence or judgment not to do something

Dictionary example:
She should have known better than to eat so much. No wonder she feels sick now.

Learner example:
I should have known better but I had to tell it to someone.

I know
[B2] used when you agree with something someone has just said

Dictionary example:
"It's a lovely day, isn't it?" "I know – let's hope it lasts."

you never know
[B2] used to say that something could be possible although it does not seem likely

Dictionary example:
You never know – you might win the lottery.

Learner example:
You never know, maybe I'll find something interesting and I'll change my point of view.

before you know it
[C1] very soon

Dictionary example:
We'll be there before you know it.
Learner example:
It is a bit dark inside and especially in winter, it is dark before you know it.

**know sth inside out**
[C1] to know everything about something

Dictionary example:
He knows the system inside out.

Learner example:
The participants got to know Britain inside out and they are happy with the knowledge they gained.

**know what you are talking about**
[C1] to understand a subject because of your experience

Dictionary example:
He doesn't know what he's talking about – he's never even been to Africa.

Learner example:
I believe that you don't really know what you're talking about.

**GUESS CORRECTLY**
[C2] [ɪ] to guess something correctly

Dictionary example:
I should have known he wouldn't come.

Learner example:
I should have known that he wouldn't understand.

**know best**
[C2] to be the most suitable person to have responsibility and make important decisions

Dictionary example:
When it comes to dealing with my own son, I think I know best.

Learner example:
How true is that expression "Father knows best". If my father [was alive] today he would probably be laughing his head off.

**know better**
[C2] to have enough experience not to do something stupid or something that will not achieve anything

Dictionary example:
I thought she'd listen to me – I should have known better.

Learner example:
Surely two grown-ups should have known better than to shout at each other at the top of their lungs.
the next thing I knew
[C2] used to talk about part of a story that happens in a sudden and surprising way

Dictionary example:
A car came speeding round the corner, and the next thing I knew I was lying on the ground.

Learner example:
And the next thing I knew was that I was playing cards with 3 men.

know your stuff INFORMAL
[C2] to know a lot about a subject, or to be very good at doing something

Dictionary example:
She's an excellent teacher – she really knows her stuff.

Learner example:
The thing was that she should have been be able to tell them what to do; she never doubted her own abilities. She knew 'her stuff' all right.

knowingly ˈnəʊ.ɪŋ.li/

Word family:
Nouns: knowledge, unknown
Verbs: know
Adjectives: known, unknown, knowledgeable
Adverbs: knowingly

ADVERB

INTENTIONALLY
[C2] If you knowingly do something, you mean to do it although it is wrong.

Dictionary example:
I would never knowingly hurt her.

Learner example:
Separate sex schools unavoidably tend to instill values knowingly or unknowingly.

SHOWING KNOWLEDGE
[C2] showing that you know what another person is really thinking

Dictionary example:
He smiled knowingly.

Learner example:
On staring at the picture, he saw two women smiling enigmatically, rather knowingly.
knowledge /ˈnɒl.ɪdʒ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: knowledge, unknown  
Verbs: know  
Adjectives: known, unknown, knowledgeable  
Adverbs: knowingly  

noun  

to (the best of) my knowledge  
[B2] used to say that you think that something is true, but cannot be sure  

Dictionary example:  
To the best of my knowledge, she's never worked abroad.  

Learner example:  
Besides, to the best of my knowledge, nowhere in the city can [you] try such lovely mushrooms.  

common knowledge  
[B2] something that a lot of people know  

Dictionary example:  
It's common knowledge that he spent time in jail.  

Learner example:  
It is common knowledge that such attention [in the mass–media] inevitably tells on relationships in the family.  

a working knowledge of sth  
[B2] knowledge about something which is good enough to be useful  

Dictionary example:  
She has a working knowledge of German and Russian.  

Learner example:  
Furthermore, I have a working knowledge of English, Spanish, Catalan and Italian.  

knowledgeable /ˈnɒl.ɪdʒ.ə.bl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: knowledge, unknown  
Verbs: know  
Adjectives: known, unknown, knowledgeable  
Adverbs: knowingly  

Adjective  
[C1] knowing a lot
Dictionary example:
He's very knowledgeable about art.

Learner example:
The teaching staff are largely responsible for the quality of the classes, as they're very knowledgeable and patient; being able to find them after classes, though, was impossible.

known /ˈnɔːn/

Word family:
Nouns: knowledge, unknown  
Verbs: know  
Adjectives: known, unknown, knowledgeable  
Adverbs: knowingly

ADJECTIVE

FAMILIAR

[B2] recognised or known about by most people

Dictionary examples:
These people are known criminals.  
He is known to the police because of his previous criminal record.

be known to do sth

[C1] if something or someone is known to do something, people know that it is true or happens

Dictionary examples:
He is known to dislike opera.  
Her car was known to break down frequently.

Learner example:
Firstly, the development of technology is known to cause ob[e]sity.

knuckle /ˈnʌk.l/

NOUN [c]

[C2] one of the parts of your finger where it bends

Dictionary example:
I grazed my knuckles on the concrete.

Learner example:
What he could see was those two skinny figures, holding hands so tight[ly] that their knuckles were white.
**label** /ˈlɛlbəl/

**NOUN [c]**

**WORD**

[C2] a word or phrase that is used to describe the qualities of someone or something, usually in a way that is not fair

**Dictionary example:**
He seems to be stuck with the label of 'troublemaker'.

**Learner example:**
He pointed out that the label of "traveller" could only be given to those people who would be willing to spend a long period living in another country, enough time to understand the functioning of society and its rules and to be accepted as an "informed" citizen, or at least not to be regarded as a foreigner.

**VERB [v] (-ll- or US usually -l-)**

**INFORMATION**

[C1] to fix a small piece of paper or other material to something which gives information about it

**Dictionary examples:**
All food has to be labelled with 'best before' or 'use by' dates.
The parcel was clearly labelled 'Fragile'.

**Learner example:**
Moreover, the book shelves are clearly labelled and the books are in alphabetical order.

**DESCRIBE**

[C2] to describe the qualities of someone or something using a word or phrase, usually in a way that is not fair

**Dictionary example:**
They've been unfairly labelled as criminals.

**Learner example:**
As a matter of fact, Mediterranean [people] (contrary to North European countries), are labelled as hot–blooded people.
labour /ˈleɪ.bər/

NOUN

WORK
[C1] [u] work, especially the type of work that needs a lot of physical effort

Dictionary examples:
The car parts themselves are not expensive, it's the labour that costs the money.
manual labour

Learner example:
My contribution towards this project is that I will provide two of my trucks and labour for the transportation of garbage within the community to the dumping sites.

WORKERS
[C1] [u] workers, especially people who do practical work with their hands

Dictionary examples:
skilled/unskilled labour
casual labour

Learner example:
This is seen in some AIDS programme[s] by developed countries to developing countries where many poor people including women and children benefit from skilled labour from abroad.

the labour market
[C1] the number of people who are available and willing to work

Dictionary example:
More women have entered the labour market in recent years.

Learner example:
WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE best suits [the] situation of a young Pole entering the labour market.

a labour of love
[C2] an activity that is hard work but which you do because you enjoy it

Dictionary example:
He prefers to paint the house himself – it's a real labour of love.

Learner example:
[Being a] musician is a labour of love.

BIRTH
[C2] [c or u] the stage of pregnancy when the woman has pain because the baby is coming out

Dictionary examples:
to be in labour
labour pains
22 years ago, Alison Smith gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl, in a very painful labour.

**lack** /læk/

**VERB [T]**

**NOT HAVE**

[B2] to not have or not have enough of something that is needed or wanted

**Dictionary examples:**
- He just lacks a little confidence.
- What we lack in this house is space to store things.
- We are lacking three members of staff due to illness.

**Learner example:**
- He lacks confidence due to such a terrible appearance.

**be lacking in sth**

[C1] to not have a quality

**Dictionary example:**
- He's totally lacking in charm of any sort.

**Learner example:**
- On the other hand, Japanese children are lacking in creativity and originality.

**be lacking**

[C2] If something that you need is lacking, you do not have enough of it.

**Dictionary example:**
- Enthusiasm has been sadly lacking these past few months at work.

**Learner example:**
- And, last not least, I would really like to show them the importance and beauty of our cultural heritage which was lacking in my upbringing.

**lad** /læd/

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] a boy or young man

**Dictionary examples:**
- A group of young lads were standing outside the shop.
- He's a nice lad.
- The Prime Minister's a local lad.
- Come on, lads, let's get this job finished!
Learner example:
A young lad from Bristol said that he does not really care what he does as long as it brings him "[an] awful lot of money".

ladder /ˈlæd.ər/

NOUN [C]
STAGES
[C1] a series of increasingly important jobs or stages in a particular type of work or process

Dictionary examples:
a first step on the employment ladder
He moved rapidly up the corporate ladder.

Learner example:
Far too often it is not "the key" but "the missing link", preventing us from taking the next step on the career ladder.

laid-back /ˌleɪdˈbæk/

ADJECTIVE INFORMAL
[C2] very relaxed and not seeming worried about anything, or causing people to feel this way

Dictionary examples:
a laid-back style of teaching
He’s very laid-back.
The place had a laid-back atmosphere.

Learner example:
It was very nice to be with laid-back people, not only because it led me to forget about unnecessary worries, but also it made me think about myself more thoroughly than before.

land /lænd/

Word family:
Nouns: land, landing
Verbs: land
NOUN

NOT SEA

[B2] [u] the surface of the Earth that is not sea

Dictionary examples:
It is cheaper to drill for oil on land than at sea.
The treaty has led to a dramatic reduction in the number of land-based missiles in Europe.

Learner example:
Firstly, the car is the fastest way of transportation by land [that] we have.

COUNTRY

[C2] [c] LITERARY a country

Dictionary examples:
a land of ice and snow
The group want to promote their ideas in schools throughout the land.

Learner example:
Australia is said to be "the land of contrasts" and so indeed it is.

VERB

land in/on, etc.

[C1] If an object or person lands somewhere, they fall to the ground there.

Dictionary examples:
The ball landed in the neighbour's garden.
She landed flat on her back.

Learner example:
Then, when your booking form landed on my door mat, I decided to take matters into my own hands and to pay a visit to this conference.

ACHIEVE

[C2] [ɪ] to get something, usually something good

Dictionary example:
He's just landed a new job at an agency in London.

Learner example:
To return to our first point, people do not usually land a job in their field of study or childhood dream.

landing /ˈlænd.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: land, landing
Verbs: land
NOUN [C]
[B2] an arrival on the ground of an aircraft or boat

Dictionary example:
One person has died after the pilot of a light aircraft was forced to make a crash/emergency landing in a field.

Learner example:
The company said our landing would depend on the weather forecast.

landlady /ˈlændˌleɪdi/  

NOUN [C]
[B2] a woman who you rent a room or a house from

Dictionary example:
My landlady doesn't let us have guests.

Learner example:
The thing is our landlady loves money and we have to pay plenty of money excluding [the] accommodation fee.

landlord /ˈlænd.lɔːd/  

NOUN [C]
[B2] a man who you rent a room or house from

Dictionary example:
I've asked our landlord to fix the window.

Learner example:
I came downstairs [and] saw my landlord, [who] seemed very angry.

landmark /ˈlændˌmɑːk/  

NOUN [C]

BUILDING
[C1] a building that you can easily recognize, especially one that helps you to know where you are

Dictionary example:
a historic landmark
Learner example:
What they enjoyed most was the bus tour of London, on Tuesday, as it was a chance for them to see all the famous landmarks without walking.

EVENT
[C2] an event which is famous or important in the history of something

Dictionary example:
His speech was a landmark in the history of civil rights.

Learner example:
This film will never be "Titanic" successful, or "Casablanca" successful, or "Matrix" successful, but it will always be a [...] landmark in the history of action and martial arts films, forever redefining its genre.

lane /leɪn/

NOUN [C]

ROAD
[B2] a narrow road in the countryside or in a town

Dictionary example:
He drives so fast along those narrow country lanes.

Learner example:
I think the best place to buy all this junk food is from my aunty's sweet shop, just 2 miles down your lane.

PART
[B2] part of a road or track that is separated from the other parts, usually by a painted line

Dictionary examples:
the inside/middle/outside lane
the fast/slow lane
They're widening the road from two to three lanes.

Learner example:
For example, most buses drive in an extra lane.

the fast lane
[C2] the busy and exciting way of life that a successful person has

Dictionary example:
Fed up with life in the fast lane, Jack gave up his job and moved to the countryside.
Learner example:
Finally, should you ask why people are not happier than before, the answer is that nowadays they spend more hours on work than before, because modern life is mostly a life in the fast lane.

**a stroll/trip/walk down memory lane**

[C2] an occasion when you remember some of the good things you did in the past

**Dictionary example:**
We were just taking a walk down memory lane and recalling our youth.

**Learner example:**
I want to return there, without the kids, even without my husband, to have a long stroll down memory lane.

---

**language /ˈlæŋ.wɪdʒ/**

**NOUN**

**TYPE OF WORDS**

[C1] [u] words of a particular type, especially the words used by people in a particular job or academic field

**Dictionary examples:**
legal language
the language of business

**Learner example:**
English has become the language of science, so it seems, even though some of the papers, studies and publications are hard to read and understand.

**COMPUTERS**

[C1] [c or u] a system of instructions that is used to write computer programs

**Dictionary example:**
I’m not familiar with that language.

**Learner example:**
Students must have knowledge of at least one programming language, preferably Visual C++.

**foul language**

[C1] very rude and offensive words

**Dictionary example:**
There was a lot of foul language in the movie.

**Learner example:**
It is the responsibility of the parents not to fight or use any foul language in front of the kids, as they may learn and use it in front of others.
**strong language**
[C1] words that some people might consider to be offensive

**Dictionary example:**
The movie contains strong language.

**Learner example:**
But what I do see is local kids standing by the corner, chat[t]ing, smoking fags and using strong language.

**lap /læp/**

**NOUN [C]**

**BODY**
[B2] Your lap is the top part of your legs when you are sitting down.

**Dictionary example:**
Come on kids – sit on my lap and I'll read you a story.

**Learner example:**
Clara opened her eyes and she was sit[t]ing [o]n [a] comfortable sofa in her warm room, and in her lap was [a] history book.

**SPORTS**
[B2] one complete turn around a race track or from one end of a swimming pool to the other

**Dictionary example:**
He's two laps behind the leaders.

**Learner example:**
The race began and David was 2nd after 25 laps, behind Nilson's rear bumper.

**large /lɑːdʒ/**

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** large
**Adverbs:** largely

**ADJECTIVE**

**by and large**
[C1] in general

**Dictionary example:**
By and large, people have welcomed the changes.
Learner example:
By and large, it is clear that we all enjoy some kind of sport.

**sb/sth at large**
[C2] people or things in general

Dictionary example:
This group is not representative of the population at large.

Learner example:
Television – sometimes also described as the 'idiot box' – has been accused of turning a whole generation into 'couch potatoes' and blamed for every malady affecting the society at large.

**loom large**
[C2] If something looms large, it becomes very important and often causes worry.

Dictionary example:
The issue of pay will loom large at this year's conference.

Learner example:
It was, she dreaded to admit, a sense of regret. She shook her head as if doing so shooed the feeling away. On the contrary, however, it was looming large while she was stamping along the busy street.

| largely | /ˈlɑːdʒ.lɪ/ |

Word family:
**Adjectives:** large
**Adverbs:** largely

**ADVERB**
[B2] almost completely

Dictionary examples:
a largely male company
Their complaints have been largely ignored.
Until recently, the civil war had been largely unreported in the press.

Learner example:
What I'm trying to say is that images, film-frames, videos and sound clips would be largely accepted by the young people because we’re moving into a new high-technology age.

| laser | /ˈleɪ.zə/ |

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] a machine that produces a strong beam of light that has medical and technical uses or a beam of light produced by a machine like this
Dictionary examples:
laser beam
laser surgery

Learner example:
These appliances have been the key to medical achievements, such as laser-based surgery or different kinds of diagnosis and treatment.

last /lɑːst/

Word family:
Nouns: last
Adjectives: last
Adverbs: last, lastly

ADJECTIVE; DETERMINER

the last person/thing, etc.
[B2] the least expected or wanted person or thing

Dictionary examples:
Three extra people to feed – that’s the last thing I need!
The last thing I wanted was to make you unhappy.
Matthew is the last person I’d expect to be interested in dance.
He’s the last person I’d trust with my keys.

Learner example:
I thought it would be the last thing I wanted, but it wasn’t. I’ve really enjoyed this opportunity.

a last resort
[C2] something that you do because everything else has failed

Dictionary example:
Soldiers were given the authority to shoot, but only as a last resort.

Learner example:
But forcing the child to believe in the way we would like it to believe should be used only as a last resort, after discussion and persuading, not before.

ADVERB

AFTER ALL OTHERS
[B2] after everything or everyone else

Dictionary examples:
I wasn’t expecting to win the race but I didn’t think I’d come last!
We’ve still got to check the figures but we’ll do that last.
Learner example:
When I reached the other end of the pool, my heart suddenly stopped and I just couldn’t move my legs to continue swimming. So, I arrived last.

**last but not least**
[B2] something that you say to introduce the last person or thing on a list

**Dictionary example:**
This is Jeremy, this is Cath and, last but not least, this is Eva.

**Learner example:**
And, last but not least, some complaints were made [about] the entertainment the café provides.

**NOUN; PRONOUN**

**the last**
[B2] a person or thing that does something after all the others

**Dictionary example:**
We were the last to get there.

**Learner example:**
After a short time, the last of Mrs. O’Connell’s guests arrived.

**the day/week/year, etc. before last**
[B2] the day, week, year, etc. before the one that has just finished

**Dictionary example:**
I only had my hair cut the week before last.

**Learner example:**
But the year before last I went with my parents on holiday and we had a lot of fun.

**the last of sth**
[C2] the only part of something that remains

**Dictionary examples:**
We've just finished the last of the apples.
She was among the last of the truly great entertainers.

**Learner example:**
They felt the joy their predecessors must have felt after years of struggle, after risking their lives, after accepting in resignation to be the last of a lineage that had lasted for centuries.

**the last sb heard/saw of sb**
[C2] the last time someone heard anything about a person or the last time they saw them

**Dictionary examples:**
I had a letter from Bristol, and that was the last I heard of her.
I told them exactly what I thought, and that was the last I saw of them.
Learner example:
That was the last I heard of her for a long time.

**VERB** [i]

**BE ENOUGH**
[C1] to be enough for a period of time

**Dictionary examples:**
I've only got £30 to last me till the end of the month.
We've got enough food to last another week.

**Learner example:**
Until now half of the Filipinos in the Philippines who [devote] themselves to farming are still on [a] hand to mouth existence, having just enough food to last until the next harvest.

**lastly /ˈlaːst.li/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: last
Adjectives: last
Adverbs: last, lasty

**ADVERB**
[B2] finally

**Dictionary example:**
And lastly, I'd like to thank everyone who took part in the event.

**Learner example:**
Lastly, I'd like to say that it's very kind of you to suggest bringing something back for me.

**last-minute /ˈlaːstˌmɪnɪt/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] done at the latest possible opportunity

**Dictionary example:**
a last-minute cancellation

**Learner example:**
I could come the following day to help you [with] the last-minute preparations if you want [me] to.
**late /ˈleɪt/**

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** late, latest

**Adverbs:** lately, later

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**ADJECTIVE**

**DEAD**

[C2] **[ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]** describes someone who has died, especially recently

**Dictionary example:**
She gave her late husband's clothes to charity.

**Learner example:**
It took me a while to find a person whom I regard as successful, the outcome is a friend of my late father.

**at the latest**

[C2] If you tell someone to do something by a particular time at the latest, you mean they must do it before that time.

**Dictionary example:**
She said to be there by 8 o'clock at the latest.

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**ADVERB**

**NEAR THE END**

[B2] near the end of a period of time

**Dictionary examples:**
We talked late into the night.
As late as the 1980s they were still using horses on this farm.

**Learner example:**
Firstly, he usually starts working at eight in the morning and he keeps on writing and phoning till late in the evening.

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**later /ˈlɛə.tə/**

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** late, latest

**Adverbs:** lately, later

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**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

**IN THE FUTURE**

[B2] happening at a time in the future, or after the time you have mentioned
**Dictionary examples:**
We could catch a later train.
You can always change your password at a later date.

**Learner example:**
He said he'll come at a later date.

**TOWARDS THE END**
[C2] happening towards the end of a period of time or the end of someone's life

**Dictionary examples:**
He needed round-the-clock care in the later stages of his illness.
During his later years, he lived in London.

**Learner example:**
Another solution could be for people to take out private pension schemes which w[ould] help them financially in the later stages of their lives.

**RECENT**
[C2] more modern or recent

**Dictionary examples:**
Later versions of the software are much better.
Later models included a 2.5 litre engine.
I prefer her earlier paintings to her later work.

**Learner example:**
I consider his childhood as especially worth mentioning due to the fact that it had a great impact on his later work.

**latter** /ˈlæt.ər/

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**
[B2] near or towards the end of something

**Dictionary examples:**
Building of the new library should begin in the latter part of next year.
In the latter stages of the fight he began to tire.

**Learner example:**
I agree with the latter opinion.

**PRONOUN**

**the latter**
[B2] the second of two people, things or groups previously mentioned

**Dictionary example:**
My boss offered me more money or a car, and I chose the latter.
**Learner example:**
The former is a Chinese restaurant and the latter an Indian.

**laugh** /lɑːf/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** laugh, laughter
**Verbs:** laugh

**VERB [i]**

**be no laughing matter**

[C2] If a subject is no laughing matter, it is serious and not something that people should joke about.

**Dictionary example:**
This weather is no laughing matter.

**Learner example:**
Anna and Tom knew this was no laughing matter.

**laughter** /ˈlɑːf.tər/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** laugh, laughter
**Verbs:** laugh

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] the act or sound of laughing

**Dictionary examples:**
She roared with laughter.
As we approached the hall we could hear the sound of laughter.

**Learner example:**
There was a roar of laughter.

**launch** /lɔːntʃ/

**VERB [T]**

**BEGIN**

[B2] to begin an important plan or activity

**Dictionary examples:**
The scheme was launched by the government a year ago.
Learner example:
Dear Phil, I was very proud last Monday when you asked me to help you to launch this association.

NEW PRODUCT
[B2] If a company launches a product or service, it makes it available for the first time.

Dictionary examples:
The book was launched last February.
The airline will launch its new transatlantic service next month.

Learner example:
The firm was launching a new product and Peter was the manager in charge [of] making this product the most desirable thing to buy.

SEND
[C1] to send a spacecraft or bomb into the sky, or a ship into the water

Dictionary examples:
A spokesman for the dockyard said they hoped to launch the first submarine within two years.
to launch a missile

Learner example:
Could our grandparents or grandparents' parents imagine that one day, we would be able to launch rockets, to have satellites in the sky?

NOUN [c]

START OF ACTIVITY
[C1] the start of an important plan or activity or the process of making a new product or service available

Dictionary examples:
The launch of their new campaign began today with a press conference.
How much champagne will we need for the launch?
Illness prevented her attending the launch party for her latest novel.

Learner example:
As for the natural resources, it is not very effective as nothing has changed since the launch of the campaign.

LEAVE LAND
[C1] the launching of a spacecraft, ship, or weapon

Dictionary example:
The launch of the space shuttle was delayed for 24 hours because of bad weather.

Learner example:
Since I was [a] young boy I was constantly imagining that I was able to travel through time and be an eye-witness to some of mankind['s] most [significant] moments – the birth of Christ, the discovery of America, [and] even up to recent events such as the launch of the first space shuttle.
### laundry

/ˈlɔːn.dri/

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] clothes, sheets, etc. that need to be washed

**Dictionary example:**
to do the laundry

**Learner example:**
Does the camp have laundry facilities?

### lavish

/ˈlæv.ɪʃ/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] showing that a lot of money has been spent

**Dictionary example:**
a lavish meal/party

**Learner example:**
Wilbur arrived later, too late for the compulsory martini but still on time for the lavish meal of 7 courses.

### law

/lɔː/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** law, lawyer

**NOUN**

**RULE**

[B2] [c or u] an official rule in a country

**Dictionary examples:**
There are laws against drinking in the street.
The laws governing the possession of firearms are being reviewed.
They led the fight to impose laws on smoking.
They have passed a new law to ban fox hunting.

**Learner example:**
I think it would be a good idea to let shop owner[s] decide themselves about opening time and not to constrict this by law.

**the law**

[B2] the system of official rules in a country
Dictionary examples:
What does the law say about having alcohol in the blood while driving?
Of course robbery is against the law!
The judge ruled that the directors had knowingly broken the law.
You can't take that course of action and remain within the law.

Learner example:
As a result, the law is being constantly broken.

by law
[C1] If you have to do something by law, it is illegal not to do it.

Dictionary example:
They have to provide a contract by law.

Learner example:
Swedish organisations and [companies] are forced by law to put forward programmes for employing more women and improving their conditions.

ALWAYS TRUE
[C2] [c] something that is always true in science, mathematics, etc.

Dictionary examples:
the laws of nature/physics
the law of averages/gravity

Learner example:
Unfortunately, several problems have been caused by this "artificial attempt" against the laws of Nature.

take the law into your own hands
[C2] to do something illegal in order to punish someone because you know that the law will not punish that person

Dictionary example:
The police did nothing about the thefts, so they took the law into their own hands.

Learner example:
Therefore, locals are scared to death, leading to their taking the law into their own hands.

law and order
[C2] the obeying of laws in society

Dictionary example:
a breakdown in law and order

Learner example:
The breakdown in law and order, lack of basic amenities to support life, absence of a fair and enabling environment for citizens to thrive, to mention but a few, are some among many factors [that] constitute the cogent reason why most Nigerians choose to travel out of their own country.
lawn /lɔːn/

NOUN [c]
[C1] an area of grass that is cut

Dictionary example:
Will you mow the lawn at the weekend?

Learner example:
Please find enclosed a map of Brighton. Concerning the house, I ask you to mow the lawn regularly and to water the flowers and the green plants every day.

lay /lei/

VERB [t] (laid, laid)

lay eggs
[B2] If an animal lays eggs, it produces them out of its body.

Dictionary example:
The hens have laid a lot of eggs this week.

Learner example:
The only thing they can do is to lay eggs.

lay sth down/in/on, etc.
[C1] to put something down somewhere carefully

Dictionary examples:
She laid the baby on the bed.
He laid the tray down on the table.
She laid aside her book and went to answer the phone.

Learner example:
Veterans lay flowers on the graves of those who'd died during the War.

layer /ˈleɪ.ər/

NOUN [c]
[B2] an amount of a substance covering a surface, or one of several amounts of substance, each on top of the other
**Dictionary examples:**
the ozone layer
A thick layer of dust lay over everything.
There was a thin layer of oil on the surface of the water.
We stripped several layers of paint off the door.

**Learner example:**
I think clothes will have many gadgets on them like a small oxygen mask [or] a hat designed to protect people from the strong rays of the sun at midday because the ozone layer will be destroyed in a hundred years' [time].

**layout**

NOUN [C]
[C1] the way that something is arranged

**Dictionary examples:**
Pay attention to the layout of your report.
Do you like the layout of the kitchen?

**Learner example:**
Concerning the layout of the new centre, I think that the changes you proposed to the size and location of the coffee bar will be of invaluable help.

**laziness**

Word family:
Nouns: laziness
Adjectives: lazy

NOUN [u]
[B2] being lazy

**Dictionary example:**
I could go to the gym – it's just laziness that stops me.

**Learner example:**
Sorry I haven't dropped you a line before now – no excuses really, just laziness.

**lazy**

Word family:
Nouns: laziness
Adjectives: lazy
ADJECTIVE

RELAXED

[B2] slow and relaxed

Dictionary example:
a lazy morning/weekend

Learner example:
All in all we spent a lazy holiday there with fine weather and a warm blue sea.

lead /liːd/

Word family:
Nouns: lead, leader, leadership
Verbs: lead, mislead
Adjectives: lead, leading, misleading

VERB (led, led)

lead into/to/towards, etc.

[B2] If something, for example a path or road, leads somewhere, it goes in that direction.

Dictionary examples:
That path leads to the beach.
There's a track that leads directly to the reservoir.
A narrow trail of blood led directly into the cave.

Learner example:
I discovered a small path which led to an old castle we had never seen before.

BE WINNING

[B2] [I or T] to be winning a game or a competition

Dictionary examples:
After thirty minutes the challengers were leading by two goals.
With two laps to go Ngomo led by less than two seconds.
The Lions lead the Hawks 28 – 9.

Learner example:
Marseille led 1–0 versus Milan AC in the match which qualified the winner for the semi–finals.

CONTROL

[B2] [I or T] to be in control of a group, country, or situation
Dictionary examples:
I think we've chosen the right person to lead the expedition.
I've asked Gemma to lead the discussion.
Who will be leading the enquiry into the accident?

Learner example:
I also led a group of people cleaning the wood just outside the city.

lead a busy/normal/quiet, etc. life
[B2] to live in a particular way

Dictionary example:
He was able to lead a normal life despite his illness.

Learner example:
Owing to the great speed of technological development, people need to lead a faster life [than before].

BE THE BEST

[C2] [I or you] to be better than anyone else

Dictionary example:
I still believe that we lead the world in acting talent.

lead sb to do sth
[C2] to cause someone to do or think something

Dictionary examples:
What led you to think that?
The brochure led me to believe that the price included home delivery.

Learner example:
The girl's disappearance leads him to think she was taken away.

be led by sth
[C2] to be caused or influenced by something

Dictionary example:
Her actions were led by greed.

Learner example:
The main reason that I believe so is that they do not seem to possess any tendency to fall in love blindly and let themselves be led by instinct.

lead sb to a conclusion
[C2] to cause you to think that something is probably true

Dictionary example:
So you thought I was leaving, did you? What led you to that conclusion?

Learner example:
These results lead us to the conclusion that only people with "minds tough enough" will survive.

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NOUN

WINNING
[B2] [NO PLURAL] a winning position during a race or other situation where people are competing, or a position ahead of other people

Dictionary examples:
For the first time in the race Harrison is in the lead.
With a final burst of speed she went/moved into the lead.
After last night's win Johnson has taken the lead in the championship table.
By the end of the day's play Davies had a lead of three points.
The whole family walked down to the beach, with Mum in the lead.

Learner example:
David was in the lead with a revolver tightly held in his hand.

FILM/PLAY
[C2] the main person in a film or play

Dictionary example:
She plays the lead in both films.

Learner example:
A child who leaves school feeling that he has succeeded in leaving his mark by holding the school record for high jump or getting the lead in the school production is a happy, confident child who is able to face the next chapter in his life knowing he can and will do well.

leader /ˈliː.dər/

Word family:
Nouns: lead, leader, leadership
Verbs: lead, mislead
Adjectives: lead, leading, misleading

NOUN [C]

WINNER
[C1] someone or something that is winning during a race or other situation where people are competing

Dictionary examples:
He's fallen two laps behind the leaders.
Microsoft is a world leader in software design.

Learner example:
The work experience with SuNatCo must, [without] doubt, positively affect your future career, as our firm is a world leader in the sphere of communications.
leadership /ˈliː.dərˌʃɪp/

Word family:
Nouns: lead, leader, leadership
Verbs: lead, mislead
Adjectives: lead, leading, misleading

NOUN [u]

JOB
[C1] the job of being in control of a group, country, or situation

Dictionary examples:
The group flourished under her firm leadership.
R&M gained market leadership by selling products that were of superior quality.

Learner example:
Apart from his charismatic leadership and his pioneering spirit, Eleftherios Venizelos was very close to people who were impoverished and deeply disappointed at that time.

the leadership
[C1] the people in control of a group, country, or situation

Dictionary examples:
There is growing discontent with the leadership.
The election for the leadership of the council will take place on Tuesday.

Learner example:
His reappearance is when he wins the leadership of the Social Democratic Party and when a few months later he becomes Prime-Minster.

QUALITY
[C1] the set of characteristics that make a good leader

Dictionary examples:
What the company lacks is leadership.
He lacks leadership qualities/skills.

Learner example:
I also have strong leadership skills and I can lead a team, if necessary.

leading /ˈliː.dɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: lead, leader, leadership
Verbs: lead, mislead
Adjectives: lead, leading, misleading
ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] very important or most important

Dictionary examples:
a leading expert on the country's ecology
the world's leading manufacturer of audio equipment

Learner example:
Indeed hard work plays the leading role concerning both family welfare and [the] national economy.

leaf /liːf/

NOUN [C] (PLURAL leaves)

turn over a new leaf
[C2] to start to behave in a better way

Dictionary example:
I'm not drinking any more – I've turned over a new leaf.

Learner example:
She promised to turn over a new leaf.

leaflet /ˈliːf.ət/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a piece of folded paper or a small book which contains information

Dictionary example:
I picked up a useful leaflet on how to fill in tax forms.

Learner example:
Another idea is to place a table where students, staff and visitors can find some information about the school and their activities, some leaflets and brochures.

leak /liːk/

VERB

LIQUID
[B2] [I or T] If a liquid or gas leaks, it comes out of a hole by accident, and if a container leaks, it allows liquid or gas to come out when it should not.
Dictionary examples:
Water was leaking from the pipe.
Oil leaked out of the car.
The tin was leaking.
The car leaked oil all over the drive.

Learner example:
There is always a possibility that this tent is leaking.

SECRETS
[C2] [ɪ] If someone leaks secret information, they intentionally tell people about it.

Dictionary example:
Details of the report had been leaked to the press.

Learner example:
"If these facts [were] leaked to the press, my career would be done for," he said.

NOUN [c]

HOLE
[B2] a hole in something that a liquid or gas comes out of, or the liquid or gas that comes out

Dictionary examples:
There's water on the floor – we must have a leak.
If you suspect a gas leak, phone the emergency number.

Learner example:
The theatre restaurant was closed because there was a serious leak in a [pipe] and the kitchen was flooded.

SECRET
[C2] secret information that has intentionally been told to someone

Dictionary example:
There have been several leaks to the press.

lean /liːn/

VERB [ɪ or ð] (leaned or leant, leaned or leant)

lean (sth) back/forward/out, etc.
[B2] to move the top part of your body in a particular direction

Dictionary examples:
She leaned forward and whispered in my ear.
He was leaning out of the window.
Lean your head back a bit.
Learner example:
John loved figures, combining them into long lines, counting them and solving difficult problems. And he had a secret. He saw numbers in different colours. [...] John tried to hide his papers with a book but Mr. Robinson leaned forward and whispered: "My number one is always red".

**lean (sth) against/on sth**

[B2] to rest against something for support, or to move something into this position

**Dictionary examples:**
She leaned her head on his shoulder.
His spade was leaning against the fence.

**Learner example:**
She turned around and saw this boy leaning against the wall.

**leap /liːp/**

**VERB (leapt, leaped)**

**leap into/out of/up, etc.**

[C2] to suddenly move somewhere

**Dictionary examples:**
He leapt out of his car and ran towards the house.
I leapt up to answer the phone.

**Learner example:**
At the split second the man rings the bell, there are over a 100 people suddenly leaping up from behind the desk.

**NOUN [C]**

**CHANGE**

[C2] a sudden improvement or increase

**Dictionary examples:**
There was a big leap in profits last year.
This represents a great leap forward in technology.

**Learner example:**
Ultimately, we could be taking a "giant leap" towards technological excellence.

**by/in leaps and bounds**

[C2] If progress or growth happens in leaps and bounds, it happens very quickly.

**Dictionary example:**
Her Spanish has come on in leaps and bounds this year.
Learner example:
To begin with, it is undeniable that technology, which is developing in leaps and bounds, has contributed to the wide range of goods that we enjoy nowadays.

**learn** /lɜːn/ (learned or learnt, learned or learnt)

Word family:
Nouns: learner, learning
Verbs: learn

**CHANGE BEHAVIOUR**
[B2] [I or T] to start to understand that you must change the way you behave

Dictionary examples:
She'll have to learn that she can't have everything she wants.
She soon learnt not to contradict him.
He's not afraid to learn from his mistakes.

Learner example:
I am sure that the organisedrs will learn from their mistakes and that next year you will enjoy it.

**learner** /ˈlɜːnər/

Word family:
Nouns: learner, learning
Verbs: learn

NOUN [C]
[B2] someone who is getting knowledge or a new skill

Dictionary example:
learners of English

Learner example:
She is very shy, so her Japanese didn't improve very rapidly, but she was a very industrious learner.

**learning** /ˈlɜːnɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: learner, learning
Verbs: learn
NOUN [u]
[B2] the process of getting knowledge or a new skill

Dictionary examples:
language learning
This technique makes learning fun.
For the first month in her new job she was on a steep learning curve.

Learner example:
These events are not only to entertain students, they are also a part of the learning process, as by communicating with each other, students learn the language.

least /liːst/

ADVERB

at least
[B2] used to reduce the effect of a statement

Dictionary example:
I've met the President – at least, he shook my hand once.

Learner example:
But after years of developing my slalom, I wanted to learn something new, so, I started Hot-Dogging. Hot-Dog is great fun. At least, people say so.

last but not least
[B2] something that you say to introduce the last person or thing on a list

Dictionary example:
This is Jeremy, this is Cath and, last but not least, this is Eva.

Learner example:
And, last but not least, some complaints were made [about] the entertainment the café provides.

not least FORMAL
[C2] especially

Dictionary example:
The whole trip was fascinating, not least because of the people I met.

Learner example:
We are all human beings but we are all different, not least because of a different cultural background.

not in the least
[C2] not at all

Dictionary example:
I don't mind staying at home, not in the least.
Learner example:
Educating two children was not so easy a task, not in the least!

PRONOUN

LESS

[B2] less than anyone or anything else

Dictionary examples:
He contributed least to the workshop.
I like the green one least of all.
He’s the relative I like (the) least.
Giving her a bed for the night was the least I could do.

Learner example:
Taking you to the airport was the least I could do for such a good friend.

at the very least

[C1] not less than, and probably much more than

Dictionary examples:
At the very least, you should apologize.
We should earn £500 at the very least.

Learner example:
Thus, I trust you will agree that at the very least I deserve a letter of explanation from you and a substantial refund of my money.

to say the least

[C1] used to emphasize that you could have said something in a much stronger way

Dictionary example:
We were surprised, to say the least.

Learner example:
You get slightly bored, to say the least.

DETERMINER

[B2] the smallest amount

Dictionary examples:
She earns the least money of all of us.
I spent the least time on the third question.

Learner example:
My favourite way to travel is by plane, because I think that the most important point when you are travelling is to arrive [at] your destination in the least time.
leave /liːv/

**VERB (left, left)**

**STAY IN SAME CONDITION**

[B2] [t] to cause something to stay in a particular condition

**Dictionary examples:**
Leave that chair where it is.
Don't leave any lights on, will you?
I'll have to go back – I think I've left the iron on.
You can leave the window open.

**Learner example:**
And I heard my husband shouting: "Mag, do you always have to leave all the lights on?"

**leave sb alone**

[B2] to stop speaking to or annoying someone

**Dictionary example:**
Leave me alone! I'm trying to work.

**Learner example:**
I asked [him] to leave me alone and [un]plugged the phone.

**leave sb doing sth**

[C1] If you leave something or someone doing something, you allow them to continue doing it, or they continue doing it when you go away.

**Dictionary example:**
I left the children watching television.

**Learner example:**
She also has the tendency to leave the children doing what they want, sometimes without realising the consequen[c]es.

**PRODUCE SITUATION**

[C2] to produce a particular, often bad, situation

**Dictionary examples:**
Far from improving things, the new law has left many people worse off than before.
Storms have left areas of Britain without electricity.
The family were left homeless.

**Learner example:**
He was born on a ranch in Jalisco, the fourth of eight children, and when the youngest was only six months old, my grandfather died, leaving the family penniless.

**DO LATER**

[C2] [t] to do something later that you could do immediately
**Dictionary examples:**
Don't leave your packing till the night before you go.
I'll leave these letters till Monday.
Don't leave it too late.
They left booking their holiday till/to the last minute.

**Learner example:**
I left it until the following day since I was too worn out to go on.

**AFTER DEATH**

[C2] to arrange for someone to receive something after you die

**Dictionary example:**
He left his nieces all his money./He left all his money to his nieces.

**Learner example:**
"I hate him", Jane thought, "and [I wonder] why on earth Uncle John left him all his money and the most beautiful estate in our country with this old manor house, in which all my ancestors were born."

**leave someone to their own devices**

[C2] to leave someone to do what they want to do

**Dictionary example:**
With both parents out at work, the kids were often left to their own devices.

**Learner example:**
The moment teenagers leave school, they are left to their own devices.

**leave no stone unturned**

[C2] to do everything that you can in order to achieve something or to find someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
Both sides have vowed to leave no stone unturned in the search for peace.

**Learner example:**
She has left no stone unturned so as to reach her goal, always asserting her assets and views with conviction.

**NOUN**

[C2] [u] time allowed away from work for holiday or illness

**Dictionary examples:**
How much annual/paid leave do you get?
She's (gone) on leave.
I've asked if I can take a week's unpaid leave.

**Learner example:**
It was from him, her lover, and told her that he was on leave and would come to visit her.
**lecture /ˈlek.tʃə/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** lecture, lecturer

**Verbs:** lecture

**VERB**

[C2] [I] to give a formal talk to a group of people, often at a university

**Dictionary examples:**
She travelled widely throughout North America lecturing on women’s rights.  
For ten years, she lectured in law.

**Learner example:**
He was also lecturing at the local university and really knew what he was talking about in respect to the underwater world.

---

**lecturer /ˈlek.tʃər.ə/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** lecture, lecturer

**Verbs:** lecture

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] someone who teaches at a university or college

**Dictionary example:**

a lecturer in psychology

**Learner example:**

In addition, my lecturers can’t give me particular explanations for my questions.

---

**leek /liːk/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] a long white and green vegetable that smells and tastes similar to an onion

**Dictionary example:**

leek soup

**Learner example:**

I had some roasted chicken pieces with some leek and broccoli and roasted potatoes and Jan had his favourite spaghetti with cream sauce.
left-wing  /ˌleftˈwɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] relating to the belief that wealth and power should be shared equally

Dictionary example:
He is interested in left-wing politics.

Learner example:
Women’s politics are usually followed by the left-wing parties in Austria.

legacy  /ˈleg.ə.si/

NOUN [C]

MONEY/PROPERTY
[C2] money or property that you receive from someone after they die

Dictionary example:
An elderly cousin had left her a small legacy.

Learner example:
So, soon after I agreed to receive the great legacy from my great aunt with joy, I realised that a problem would occur accordingly.

SITUATION
[C2] a situation that was caused by something from an earlier time

Dictionary example:
The war has left a legacy of hatred.

Learner example:
Many of his novels deal with the social and political problems facing his country, including the difficulty of the post-colonial legacy.

legal  /ˈliː.gl/
Dictionary examples:
legal advice
a legal obligation/requirement
your legal rights

Learner example:
Unless I hear from you within ten days, I shall have to take legal advice on the matter.

ALLOWED
[B2] allowed by the law

Dictionary example:
Is abortion legal in your country?

Learner example:
Can anybody say how any enterprise should or must work? Is it legal?

legal action
[C1] a legal process in a court

Dictionary example:
They are planning to take legal action against the company.

Learner example:
If we do not get a satisfactory answer to this letter, apologising and offering the compensation that the students deserve, we will have no other option but to take legal action.

legally /ˈliː.gəl.i/

Word family:
Adjectives: illegal, legal
Adverbs: illegally, legally

ADVERB
[B2] as stated or allowed by the law

Dictionary example:
Children under sixteen are not legally allowed to buy cigarettes.

Learner example:
He already had a driving licence, so by that time he could legally drive his own Ferrari.

legend /ˈledʒ.ənd/

Word family:
Nouns: legend
Adjectives: legendary
NOUN

STORY

[B2] [c or u] an old story or set of stories from ancient times

Dictionary examples:
The dance was based on several Hindu legends.
She is writing a thesis on Irish legend and mythology.
Legend has it that he always wore his boots in bed.

Learner example:
You know I'm fond of medieval tales and legends, so while we're in Scotland, let's visit a haunted castle!

FAME

[C1] [c] a famous person

Dictionary examples:
a living legend
Jazz legend, Ella Fitzgerald, once sang in this bar.

Learner example:
The audience at the London Palladium was much more quiet, partly because we were in a theatre, partly because everyone was speechless in front of such a living legend.

legendary /ˈledʒəri/  

Word family:
Nouns: legend
Adjectives: legendary

ADJECTIVE

FAMOUS

[C1] famous for being excellent

Dictionary examples:
the legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix
He became editor of the legendary Irish journal, 'The Bell'.

Learner example:
If I went back to the beginning of [the] 70s, then I would probably have had a chance to work with Bill Gates and his 'legendary crew'.

OLD

[C1] from a legend

Dictionary example:
a legendary Greek hero
Learner example:
The last article concerned Hercules, the legendary hero.

legislation  /ˌledʒ.ɪˈsleɪ.ʃən/

NOUN [U]
[C2] a law or a set of laws

Dictionary example:
The government has promised to introduce legislation to limit fuel emissions from cars.

Learner example:
And while governments have taken measures to reduce emission of fuels into the atmosphere and prevent toxic waste from being discharged into the oceans, the existing legislation is not rigorously enforced.

legitimate  /ləˈdʒɪt.ɪ.mət/

ADJECTIVE

REASONABLE
[C2] reasonable and acceptable

Dictionary example:
He claimed that the restaurant bill was a legitimate business expense.

Learner example:
Not even when he mentioned acts of violence as a legitimate way of achieving one's goals did she react.

LEGAL
[C2] allowed by law

Dictionary example:
The army must give power back to the legitimate government.

Learner example:
After all, Ralph has the conch, which symbolizes legitimate power, and has been democratically elected.
lend /lend/ (lent, lent)

VERB

BANK

[B2] [I or T] If a bank lends money, it gives money to someone who then pays the money back in small amounts over a period.

Dictionary examples:
The bank refuses to lend to students.
The bank agreed to lend him $5000.

lend itself to sth FORMAL

[C2] to be suitable for a particular purpose

Dictionary example:
The novel's complex, imaginative style does not lend itself to translation.

Learner example:
Last but not least, the fact that he managed to reconquer the realm of rock music for the German tongue lends itself to be[ing] displayed, together with similar efforts by bands like Aurhefu, who achieved a similar "resurrection" for the Welsh language.

length /lenkθ/

Word family:
Nouns: length
Verbs: lengthen
Adjectives: lengthy

NOUN [C or U]

TIME

[B2] the amount of time something takes

Dictionary examples:
the length of a film/speech/play
He is unable to concentrate on his work for any length of time.

Learner example:
We will need you to start the talk at 7:00 p.m. with a length of one hour.

BOOK, ETC.

[C] the amount of writing in a book or document

Dictionary examples:
He's written books of various lengths on the subject.
All of your essays will be about the same length.
the length and breadth of sth
[C2] in every part of a place

Dictionary example:
They travelled the length and breadth of Scotland together.

Learner example:
It is the reason that we can easily see the foreigners wandering [the] length and breadth [of] the museum being unaware of the origin of items they look at.

at length
[C2] If you talk about something at length, you talk for a long time.

Dictionary example:
We discussed both topics at length.

Learner example:
Since we have already arranged for your family to come to stay in my home and discussed the arrangements at length and in detail, I will no longer bother you with terms of payment and other information that, judging by your letter, seems to be quite irrelevant.

(keep sb) at arm's length
[C2] to not allow someone to become too friendly with you

Dictionary example:
I always had the feeling she was keeping me at arm's length.

Learner example:
At first she keeps them at arm's length, but Mr Emerson is direct and advises Lucy to behave in a more natural way instead of doing what some old ladies say.

lengthen /ˈleŋ.θən/

Word family:
Nouns: length
Verbs: lengthen
Adjectives: lengthy

VERB [I or T]
[C1] to become longer or to make something longer

Dictionary example:
There are plans to lengthen the school day.

Learner example:
Furthermore, I suggest [...] that you lengthen the stay in Cambridge which was definitely too short.
**lengthy** /ˈleŋ.kθi/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** length  
**Verbs:** *lengthen*  
**Adjectives:** *lengthy*  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] continuing for a long time  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a lengthy discussion/process  
Many airline passengers face lengthy delays because of the strike.  

**Learner example:**  
It is worth watching because it is a really lovely story and you can gain a lot of optimism from it by realising that problems are not always as big as they seem to be, but as it is a soap opera it is extremely lengthy.

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**lenient** /ˈliː.ni.ənt/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] A lenient punishment is not severe.  

**Dictionary example:**  
He asked the judge to pass a lenient sentence.  

**Learner example:**  
The Court had been too lenient towards his detested father.

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**leopard** /ˈlep.əd/  

**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] a large wild cat that has yellow fur with black spots on it and lives in Africa and southern Asia  

**Dictionary example:**  
We saw leopards in their natural habitat.  

**Learner example:**  
We saw different kinds of animals like a leopard, a buffalo and so on.
less /les/

Word family:
Verbs: lessen
Adverbs: less

ADVERB

more or less
[B2] almost or approximately

Dictionary examples:
We've more or less finished work on the house.
He more or less admitted he'd done it.
The new window will cost £500 more or less.

Learner example:
I will [now] give you some information, so that you know more or less what you can expect.

I/he, etc. couldn't care less INFORMAL
[C1] used to emphasize that someone is not interested in or worried about something or someone

Dictionary example:
I couldn't care less what people think.

Learner example:
There was hunger, there was poverty and the king couldn't care less about his people['s] well-being.

lessen /ˈles.ən/

Word family:
Verbs: lessen
Adverbs: less

VERB [I or T]
[C1] to become less or to make something less

Dictionary examples:
Exercise and a healthy diet lessen the chance of heart disease.
Strengthen the legs and it lessens the strain on the knees.

Learner example:
Should you give back the students' money and take into consideration our complaints, I am sure that you will lessen our disappointment.
lesson /ˈles.ən/

NOUN [C]

EXPERIENCE
[B2] an experience which teaches you how to behave better in a similar situation in the future

Dictionary examples:
There is a lesson for all parents in this tragic accident.
My parents made me pay back all the money and it was a lesson I never forgot.
We can learn important lessons from this disaster.

Learner example:
I think he learned a valuable lesson.

learn your lesson
[B2] to decide not to do something again because it has caused you problems in the past

Dictionary example:
I'm not going out without my umbrella again – I've learnt my lesson!

Learner example:
She learnt her lesson and she won't go out before [an] exam any more.

teach sb a lesson
[C2] to punish someone so that they will not behave badly again

Dictionary example:
The next time she's late, go without her. That should teach her a lesson.

Learner example:
He didn't want to hurt Diane just teach her a lesson.

let /let/

VERB (letting, let, let)

let sb/sth in/past/through, etc.
[B2] to allow someone or something to move to a particular place

Dictionary examples:
They won't let us past the gate.
The roof lets in a lot of rain.

Learner example:
I had got so drunk that I could not control myself, so the doorman would not let me in.
let me/us
[B2] something that you say when you are offering to help someone

Dictionary example:
Let me carry your cases.

let alone
[C1] used to emphasize that something is more impossible than another thing

Dictionary example:
You couldn't trust her to look after your dog, let alone your child.

Learner example:
We are surrounded by amazing pieces of technology which we do not fully understand, let alone use to their full capacity.

let go (of sb/sth)
[C2] to stop holding someone or something

Dictionary examples:
Hold onto the rope and don't let go!
I let go of the feather and it floated to the ground.

Learner example:
I kicked that man as hard as I could and it worked – he let go of my mouth to hold between his legs and then I screamed with a voice which could only be compared [to] Tarzan's.

let go (of sth)
[C2] to stop thinking about or being angry about the past or something that happened in the past

Dictionary examples:
I have tried to let go of the past.
You've been storing up these feelings for years, and it's time to let go now.

Learner example:
It was obvious to me that he had had a hard time letting go of the past.

let's face it
[C2] something that you say when the truth is unpleasant but must be accepted

Dictionary example:
Let's face it, we're not getting any younger.

Learner example:
Let's face it, we live in an era dominated by machines.

let your guard down
[C2] to relax when you should be careful or ready to deal with something

Dictionary example:
He's worried that if he lets his guard down that his staff will start to become lazy.
Learner example:
That of course will go against anything Stevens has ever done and he never lets his guard down.

let your hair down informal
[C2] to relax and enjoy yourself

Dictionary example:
I'd love to see Clare let her hair down for once.

Learner example:
Holidays indeed, represent the perfect and fundamental escapism from everyday life: we are free to let our hair down and savour the pure taste of idleness.

let off steam
[C2] to get rid of your anger, excitement, etc. by being noisy or using a lot of energy

Dictionary example:
The children need to run around and let off steam.

Learner example:
I believe that listening to it on a daily basis will be an ideal way for us to relieve the day's pressure and let off steam.

lethal /ˈliːθəl/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] able to cause death

Dictionary example:
a lethal injection/weapon

Learner example:
If we learn from the mistakes and there are no more wars, governments will donate money [to] social needs rather than assigning enormous sums on maintaining huge armies and inventing new types of lethal weapon[s].

level /ˈlev.əl/

NOUN [c]

AMOUNT
[B2] the amount or number of something
Dictionary examples:
Inflation is going to rise 2% from its present level.
Chess requires a very high level of concentration.
There is some danger of low level radiation.

Learner example:
Your body requires a high level of nutrients to keep body functions working smoothly.

HEIGHT
[B2] the height of something

Dictionary example:
The water level in the lake is much higher after heavy rain.

Learner example:
Also, due to global warming, sea levels might rise and [the] risk of flooding will also rise.

RANK
[C1] a position within a system in which people are arranged according to their importance

Dictionary example:
These are subjects for discussion at management level.

Learner example:
But there is one big problem if the women can reach the upper management level: those women won't have any children.

ADJECTIVE
[B2] flat or horizontal

Dictionary examples:
Make sure the camera is level before you take the picture.
Before I fix it to the wall, would you say this shelf was level?

liability /ˌlaɪ.əˈbɪl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: liability
Adjectives: liable

NOUN

RESPONSIBILITY
[C1] [u] when you are legally responsible for something

Dictionary example:
They have admitted liability for the damage caused.
Learner example:
As soon as I had noticed it, I went to complain to the coach driver and he just disclaimed liability.

TROUBLE
[C1] [NO PLURAL] someone or something that is likely to cause you a lot of trouble

Dictionary example:
Wherever we go she upsets someone – she's a real liability.

Learner example:
It destroys the individual, brings shame to his family, and [he becomes] a liability instead of an asset to his society.

liable /ˈlaɪ.ə.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: liability
Adjectives: liable

ADJECTIVE

RESPONSIBLE
[C1] legally responsible

Dictionary example:
Corporate officials are liable for the safety of their employees.

Learner example:
As per our terms and conditions you are liable to pay for any damages occurred during the move and that is why we paid more money or premium to your Company than the others.

be liable to do sth
[C2] to be likely to do something

Dictionary example:
He's liable to make a fuss if you wake him.

Learner example:
I have taught them what is right and what is wrong, but also that a person is liable to make mistakes.

liar /ˈlaɪ.ər/  

Word family:
Nouns: liar, lie
Verbs: lie

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NOUN [C]

[B2] someone who tells lies

Dictionary examples:
He's such a liar – you can't trust a word he says.
You liar – I never touched it!

Learner example:
The plan works: the jury thinks that the wife is a notorious liar and her husband is found innocent.

liberal /ˈlɪb.ər.əl/  

ADJECTIVE

SOCIETY

[C1] accepting beliefs and behaviour that are new or different from your own

Dictionary examples:
a liberal society/attitude
Her parents were far more liberal than mine.

Learner example:
In a liberal society everything depends on a mixture of wise legislation and responsible individual behavior.

POLITICS

[C1] Liberal political ideas emphasize the need to make new laws as society changes and the need for government to provide social services.

Dictionary example:
They are one of a group of liberal parties in the European Union.

Learner example:
He studied law in Paris and got involved in politics as a member of the liberal party during the first years of the last Century.

liberation /ˌlɪb.əˈreɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:
Nouns: liberty, liberation

NOUN [C or U]

[C1] when something or someone is released or made free

Dictionary examples:
the liberation of France from Nazi occupation
Leaving school was such a liberation for me.
Learner example:
Moreover, with the liberation of Greece, he was appointed as the First Governor of the new state.

liberty /ˈlɪb.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: liberty, liberation

NOUN [u]

FREEDOM
[B2] the freedom to live as you wish or go where you want

Dictionary examples:
For most citizens, liberty means the freedom to practise their religious or political beliefs. Hundreds of political prisoners are to be given their liberty. Of the ten men who escaped this morning from Dartmoor Prison, only two are still at liberty.

Learner example:
Personally, I think [a zoo] is a cruel way to [im]prison them after such a long period of time [when] they have been useful to Man, who is now depriving them of their liberty, preventing them from hunting and forcing them to eat what they are given.

take the liberty of doing sth
[C1] to do something that will have an effect on someone else, without asking their permission

Dictionary example:
I took the liberty of booking theatre seats for us.

Learner example:
I have taken the liberty of listing some of my ideas and suggestions and hope they will be of interest to you.

be at liberty to do sth FORMAL
[C2] to be allowed to do something

Dictionary example:
I'm not at liberty to discuss the matter at present.

Learner example:
On [the] one hand the child is at liberty to do whatever it pleases to do but on the other hand it was never taught the responsibilities implicit[ly] tied to such actions.
lick /lɪk/

VERB [r]
[B2] to move your tongue across the surface of something

Dictionary examples:
He licked the chocolate off his fingers.
She licked the stamps and stuck them on the parcel.

Learner example:
As soon as I come home, she jumps on me and licks my face. [...] Princess is my ideal dog.

lid /lɪd/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a cover on a container, which can be lifted up or removed

Dictionary examples:
Can you get the lid off this jar?
Put a lid on the saucepan.

lie¹ /lɑː/

VERB [i] (lying, lay, lain)

RESPONSIBILITY/BLAME
[C2] If responsibility, blame, a decision, a choice, etc. lies with someone, they have responsibility, must make the decision, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Responsibility for the disaster must ultimately lie with the government.
Where does the blame lie?

Learner example:
The greater responsibility lies with us to keep our villages and cities clean and, therefore, healthy.

life /laɪf/ (PLURAL lives)

NOUN

PERSON'S EXISTENCE
[B2] [c] the existence of a person
Dictionary examples:
How many lives will be lost to AIDS?
A simple mixture of glucose and water can save lives in many parts of the world.

Learner example:
Finally if you witness an accident you [should] inform the police quickly, which can save lives.

ENERGY
[B2] [u] energy or enthusiasm

Dictionary example:
She's so full of life.

Learner example:
Above all, I like children very much because the[y're] full of life [and] always make a great impression on me when I have a chat with them.

for life
[C1] for the whole of someone's life

Dictionary example:
I will have to take this medicine for life.

Learner example:
A wedding opens a new life when the two parties commit to each other for life.

ACTIVE PERIOD
[C2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] the amount of time that a machine, system, etc. exists or can be used

Dictionary examples:
The newer batteries have a much longer life.
Careful use will prolong the life of your machine.
The legislation won't be passed during the life of the present parliament.

a matter of life and/or death
[C2] a serious situation where people could die

Dictionary example:
Getting water to these people is a matter of life and death.

Learner example:
I told him it was a matter of life and death.

lifelong /ˌlaɪfˈlɒŋ/  
ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] for all of your life
Dictionary example:
a lifelong friend/ambition/interest

Learner example:
Education is a lifelong process and you never stop learning.

**lifespan  /ˈlaɪf.spæn/**

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] the amount of time that a person lives or a thing exists

**Dictionary examples:**
The average human lifespan has increased steadily in the last century.
Some electrical goods have a short lifespan.

**Learner example:**
The average lifespan for women is about 75 years and for men 69.

**lifestyle  /ˈlaɪf.staɪl/**

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] the way that you live

**Dictionary examples:**
He doesn't have a very healthy lifestyle.
She needs a pretty high income to support her lifestyle.
an alternative lifestyle

**Learner example:**
I would like to go on a[n] advent[ure] like this, with a group of people with different backgrounds, cultures and lifestyles.

**lifetime  /ˈlaɪf.tæm/**

**NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL]**

[B2] the period of time that someone is alive

**Dictionary examples:**
We'll see a tremendous lot of technological changes during/in our lifetime.
Winners of the competition will receive the holiday of a lifetime.
I've only been working here two days, but it seems like a lifetime.
A watch of this quality should last a lifetime.
Marriage is no longer always seen as a lifetime commitment.
Learner example:
I'm sure you would love it, meeting so many famous musicians, who you might meet only once in a lifetime.

light /laɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: light, lighter, lighting
Verbs: light
Adjectives: light
Adverbs: lightly

NOUN

in the light of sth
[C1] If something is done or happens in the light of facts, it is done or happens because of those facts.

Dictionary example:
The drug has been withdrawn in the light of new research.

Learner example:
In the light of this news, we took this issue as a class project and investigated it by interviewing residents.

come to light
[C2] If information about something bad comes to light, it is discovered.

Dictionary example:
She knew that the fraud would eventually come to light.

Learner example:
Eventually, their "liaison" comes to light and Leo blames himself for the disastrous outcome of the events throughout his life.

bring sth to light
[C2] If information about something bad is brought to light, it is discovered.

Dictionary example:
The trial brought to light numerous contradictions in his story.

Learner example:
The evening investigation which was carried out by [the] mysterious Inspector brought all these facts to light.

shed light on
[C2] to provide new information about something that makes it easier to understand
**Dictionary example:**
As an economist, he was able to shed some light on the situation.

**Learner example:**
In my opinion, a more complex evaluation of our attitude towards work will shed light on the process of work choice and it will give a greater amount of awareness to everyone.

**ADJECTIVE**

**make light of ** *sth*  
[C2] to talk or behave as if you do not think a problem is serious

**Dictionary example:**
I just laughed and tried to make light of it.

**Learner example:**
They project an optimistic image and make light of the troubles in life.

**VERB (lit or lighted, lit or lighted)**

**MAKE BRIGHT**

[B2] [ɪ] to produce light somewhere so that you can see things

**Dictionary examples:**
The stage had been lit with candles.  
Fireworks lit *up* the sky.

**Learner example:**
Lightning lit up my bedroom and I saw a shadow moving outside the house.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>lighting</th>
<th>/ˈlaɪt.ɪŋ/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** light, lighter, lighting

**Verbs:** light

**Adjectives:** light

**Adverbs:** lightly

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] the light created by electrical equipment, candles, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
We have put some lighting in the garden.

**Learner example:**
I fixed the lighting on the ceiling and attached several spotlights to the walls.
lightly /ˈlɑːt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: light, lighter, lighting
Verbs: light
Adjectives: light
Adverbs: lightly

ADVERB

NOT MUCH

[C1] not much

Dictionary example:
lightly cooked vegetables

not do sth lightly

[C2] to think carefully about something before you do it, knowing that it is serious

Dictionary example:
It's not a decision that I take lightly.

Learner example:
I hope you give my suggestion further consideration and not treat it lightly.

like /laɪk/

Word family:
Verbs: dislike, like

PREPOSITION

TYPICAL OF

[B2] typical or characteristic of

Dictionary examples:
That's just like Maisie to turn up half an hour late to her own party!
It's not like you to be so quiet – are you all right?

like mad

[B2] a lot

Dictionary example:
The band practised like mad before their first concert.

Learner example:
It was raining like mad, so we were wet to the skin.

like crazy INFORMAL

[C1] doing something a lot or in a fast way
Dictionary example:
We worked like crazy to get everything finished.

Learner example:
My heart was beating like crazy and when the ski–boat started its journey along the blue waves of the sea...

like hell INFORMAL
[C2] very much

Dictionary example:
It's raining like hell out there.

Learner example:
Soon it will be dark, and still pouring down like hell.

something like
[C2] similar to or approximately

Dictionary example:
He paid something like $2000 for his car.

Learner example:
He earns something like £100,000 a week or even more.

likelihood /ˈlaɪk.əlɪˌhʊd/

Word family:
Nouns: likelihood
Adjectives: likely, unlikely

NOUN [u]
[C2] the chance that something will happen

Dictionary examples:
There's little likelihood of a compromise.
There's not much likelihood of that happening.

Learner example:
There is little likelihood of having a good place to live in without the scientists' support.

in all likelihood
[C2] almost certainly

Dictionary example:
The facilities are wasted on people who in all likelihood will not use them.

Learner example:
In all likelihood, you will have to work during the weekends, even in summer, so I firmly believe that loving your job is very important.
likely /ˈlʌɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: likelihood
Adjectives: likely, unlikely

ADVERB

[C1] probably

Dictionary example:
She'll most likely come without him.

Learner example:
You will most likely not get there before 2.30. Welcome!

likewise /ˈlaɪ.kwəz/

ADVERB FORMAL

[C2] in the same way

Dictionary examples:
Water these plants twice a week and likewise the ones in the bedroom.
Watch what she does and then do likewise.

Learner example:
And likewise, common sense tells us it doesn't matter that oranges from Spain contain 0.01% more vitamin C than those from Florida, as long as we eat them every once in a while.

limit /ˈlɪm.ɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: limit, limitation
Verbs: limit
Adjectives: limited, unlimited

NOUN [C]

within limits
[C2] avoiding behaviour that is extreme or silly

Dictionary example:
You can wear what you want, within limits.

Learner example:
They should be given a choice of food, within limits.
off limits
[C2] If an area is off limits, you are not allowed to enter it.

Dictionary example:
Most of the palace is off limits to the public.

Learner example:
The only place that was off limits for us was on the other side of the mountain, because it was too dangerous.

the upper limit
[C2] the highest amount or level, or the longest time that something is allowed

Dictionary example:
£45,000 is the upper limit for salaries in this job.

Learner example:
I understand that it will be more expensive than the accommodation I currently have, and I am willing to stretch the upper limit of the rent I can afford to pay.

VERB [T]
[B2] to control something so that it is less than a particular amount or number

Dictionary examples:
I’ve been asked to limit my speech to ten minutes maximum.
Having so little money to spend on an apartment does limit you in your choice.

Learner example:
In general, kids and teenagers are, at home, allowed to do almost anything they want, which sometimes puts parents in a very difficult position when trying to establish rules in order to limit the freedom of the young.

limitation /ˌlɪm.ɪˈteɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: limit, limitation
Verbs: limit
Adjectives: limited, unlimited

NOUN

RULE
[C1] [C or U] a rule or situation that limits something

Dictionary example:
You can’t write everything you want because of space limitations.
Learner example:
The only thing that is crucial now is that ministries of culture and tourism should set strict limitations about building and constructing in order not to [destroy] the stunning views of our beautiful country.

limitations
[C1] things that someone or something is not good at doing

Dictionary example:
Both films show her limitations as an actress.

Learner example:
I would like to be a super-woman but I will have to live with my limitations.

limited /ˈlim.ɪ.tid/

Word family:
Nouns: limit, limitation
Verbs: limit
Adjectives: limited, unlimited

ADJECTIVE

WITHIN RANGE
[B2] kept within a particular size, range, time, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Places on the bus are limited to fifty - so book early!
Free places on the course will be available for a limited period (of time).

Learner example:
Above all, would it possible to enjoy the offer in September or is it limited to July?

line /lain/

NOUN [C]

TELEPHONE
[B2] the connection between two telephones

Dictionary examples:
I'm afraid your line's been disconnected because your last bill hasn't been paid.
If you want to air your opinions live on the radio, the lines will be open from eight o'clock.
I've got Chris Foster on the line for you. Do you want to take it now or call her back later?
Please hold the line. I'll see if she's available.
Learner example:  
I have been told that if I also get a modem and connect to my telephone line and the PC, I could get in contact with different kinds of bulletin boards that your members use.

**PRODUCT**

[C1] a type of product that a company sells  

**Dictionary example:**  
They're advertising a new line in garden furniture.

Learner example:  
If, on [the] one hand, the changing market is forcing us to [remove] some product lines, on the other [it] is giving us new opportunities, as is the case for handhelds.

**a fine/thin line**

[C1] If there is a fine line between one thing and another, they are very similar. You often say this when one thing is acceptable and the other is not.

**Dictionary example:**  
There's a thin line between courage and foolishness.

Learner example:  
It took me 6 months to realise that there is a fine line between telling off and psychological abuse.

**ROW**

[C2] a row of people or things

**Dictionary examples:**

- a line of trees  
The prisoners formed a line against the wall.

Learner example:  
Its facade was cut by a line of French windows and there was a large number of people in front of the front door.

**BORDER**

[C2] a long thin and sometimes imaginary mark that forms the edge, border or limit of something

**Dictionary examples:**

- That ball was definitely in! It was nowhere near the line!  
The police couldn't arrest him because he'd fled across the state line.

**APPROACH TO SUBJECT**

[C2] a way of dealing with or thinking about something or someone
Dictionary examples:
The government's official line has always been to refuse to negotiate with terrorists.
The courts should take a tougher line with sex offenders.
Several Labour MPs disagree with their party's line on taxation.
What sort of line do you think we should take in the pay negotiations?
The police are confident that this new line of inquiry will lead them to the murderer.

MILITARY
[C2] a row of positions used to defend against enemy attack, especially the ones closest to enemy positions

Dictionary example:
They were taken prisoner while on a reconnaissance mission behind enemy lines.

Learner example:
She was never afraid of going to the front line in battle.

(be) on the line
[C2] If someone's job, reputation, life, etc. is on the line, they may lose it.

Dictionary example:
If we don't win the contract, all our jobs are on the line.

Learner example:
The person who hopes to achieve success shouldn't be afraid of taking risks and sometimes putting his or her career on the line for the sake of gaining much bigger benefits.

the bottom line
[C2] the most important fact in a situation

Dictionary example:
The bottom line is that people's health is at risk if they smoke.

Learner example:
The bottom line is that the adults of today have to stop for a second and think about what they are doing.

along the lines of sth
[C2] based on and similar to something

Dictionary example:
He gave a talk along the lines of the one he gave in Oxford.

Learner example:
Imagine one is encouraged by friends and institutions for their 'different' artistic or other activities, even if their works are not along the lines of 'acceptable' norms and tradition.

be in line with sth
[C2] to be similar to and suitable for something

Dictionary example:
They were offered a pay increase in line with inflation.
**Learner example:**
The other two courses, at 5%, are still in line with the national average.

**draw the line (at sth)**
[C2] If someone says they know where to draw the line, they are talking about knowing at what point an activity or situation becomes unacceptable because it is wrong or too extreme

**Dictionary example:**
I swear a lot but even I draw the line at certain words.

**Learner example:**
A mistake is a mistake, people say. But in my opinion rape is not the same as shoplifting. So where do you draw the line?

**sb's line of reasoning/thinking, etc.**
[C2] your reasons for believing that something is true or right

**Dictionary example:**
I couldn't really follow his line of reasoning.

**Learner example:**
Similarly, the ones that follow this line of thought argue for long-living because by this, many talented and creative people will have the opportunity to develop a further concept of their thoughts and ideas; artists will have time to finish their masterpieces and all the world will appreciate their production.

**be out of line**
[C2] If someone's actions or words are out of line, they are not suitable or acceptable.

**Dictionary example:**
Her remarks to the press were way out of line.

**Learner example:**
Today I see that my mother was right in this aspect since I acted extremely out of line sometimes and a soft hand certainly wouldn't help me in the future.

**read between the lines**
[C2] If you read between the lines, you understand what someone really means, or what is really happening in a situation.

**Dictionary example:**
Reading between the lines, it was obvious that something was wrong.

**Learner example:**
Having powerful [in]sight, [being] able to read between the lines of even an unwritten story and exhibiting an interdisciplinary background are, again, qualities that perfectly describe the friends that [there have been] in my life.
toe the line
[C2] to do what you are ordered or expected to do

Dictionary example:
Ministers who refused to toe the Party line were swiftly got rid of.

Learner example:
Her mother and her elder brother had always toed the line and so had she until she had reached adolescence.

VERB [T]
[C2] to form a row along the side of something

Dictionary example:
Trees and cafes lined the street.

Learner example:
Under the arch formed by the top branches of the trees which lined both sides of the street, she was so much absorbed in her thought that she did not hear the sound of approaching steps.

linen /ˈlɪn.ɪn/

NOUN [U]
CLOTH
[C2] an expensive cloth that is like rough cotton

Dictionary example:
a linen jacket

Learner example:
It has all the basic seams, and so far I have tried it with denim, cotton, linen, silk and even with leather, and it does the job perfectly.

SHEETS ETC.
[C2] pieces of cloth that you use to cover tables and beds

Dictionary example:
bed linen

Learner example:
You will find spare sets of linen in the children’s bedroom as well as two spare quilts.

linger /ˈlɪŋ.gər/

VERB [I]
[C2] to stay somewhere for a long time
Dictionary example:
The smell from the fire still lingered hours later.

Learner example:
Many recollections of that evening have perished, like how I worked up the nerve to ask her, but one thing that lingers in my mind is that song we danced to.

linguistic /ˈlɪŋɡwɪstɪk/
ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C1] relating to language or linguistics

Dictionary example:
I'm particularly interested in the linguistic development of young children.

Learner example:
Firstly, the claim that only one hour per day was required in order to obtain linguistic fluency is an unrealistic assumption.

link /lɪŋk/
NOUN [C]

CONNECTION
[B2] a connection between two people, things or ideas

Dictionary examples:
There's a direct link between diet and heart disease.
Their links with Britain are still strong.

Learner example:
There is a direct bus link between the two locations: this is bus line number six.

VERB [T]
[B2] to make a connection between two or more people, things or ideas

Dictionary examples:
The explosions are not thought to be linked in any way.
The use of CFCs has been linked to the hole in the ozone layer.

Learner example:
The technological revolution taking place today can be directly linked to the amazing evolution of communication.
list /list/

VERB [T]
[B2] to make a list, or to include something in a list

Dictionary example:
I've listed some useful reading material on the handout.

Learner example:
I listed some reasons why we should apply for this job.

listen /ˈlɪs.ən/

VERB [I]

listen in PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to secretly listen to someone else's conversation

Dictionary example:
Do you think he's been listening in on our conversations?

Learner example:
As John kept coming back late from work and giving the same kind of excuse, Maria decided to bug his phone at work as well as his workplace and then began to listen in on him.

listener /ˈlɪs.ənər/

NOUN [C]
[C1] someone who listens

Dictionary examples:
The new radio station already has twelve million listeners.
She's a good listener.

Learner example:
She is a good listener, as well as quite talkative.

literacy /ˈlɪt.rə.si/

NOUN [U]
[C1] the ability to read and write

Dictionary example:
Adult literacy is low in this area.
Learner example:
School on the one hand has been a place to learn the important basi[c]s, like literacy and numeracy.

**literal /ˈlɪt.ər.əl/**

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** literal
**Adverbs:** literally

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] The literal meaning of a word or phrase is its real or original meaning.

**Dictionary example:**
the literal meaning/sense

**Learner example:**
This unconditional love does not include any rod in both [the] literal and figurative sense[s] of the word.

**literally /ˈlɪt.ər.əli/**

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** literal
**Adverbs:** literally

**ADVERB**

[B2] having the real or original meaning of a word or phrase

**Dictionary example:**
They were responsible for literally millions of deaths.

**Learner example:**
Sometimes they literally g[o] mad; they bite their mates or even kill their own children.

**literary /ˈlɪt.ər.i/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** literature
**Adjectives:** literary, illiterate, literate

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] connected with literature
Dictionary examples:
  a literary critic
  literary prizes
  a literary style

Learner example:
Since I am aware of your interest in literature, I have chosen a literary figure.

literate /ˈlɪt.ər.ət/

Word family:
Nouns: literature
Adjectives: literary, illiterate, literate

ADJECTIVE
  [C2] able to read and write

Dictionary example:
He was barely literate.

Learner example:
To sum up, in no way is education a waste of time. What we do need is [to] improve it and make people believe that being educated and literate is a great asset.

litter /ˈlɪt.ər/

NOUN [U]
  [B2] pieces of paper and other waste that are left in public places

Dictionary example:
The streets were full of litter.

Learner example:
There [is] a lot of litter on the streets.

little /ˈlɪt.əl/

ADJECTIVE
  SHORT
  [B2] short in time or distance
Dictionary examples:
It'll only take a little **while** to finish this.
Let's have a little break.
It's only a little way to the school.

**Learner example:**
I was on a phone for a little while and the lights went out... who knows why!!

**EMPHASIZE**

[B2] **[ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]** used to show affection or dislike for someone or something

Dictionary examples:
Oh, what a sweet little house!
It's not a bad little restaurant, this, is it?
He's a nasty little man.

**Learner example:**
"Oh no Mr. Dracula...don't hurt me! Please don't hurt me!" I said desperately. "With such a pretty little neck? Oh no! I have to give you just a tiny little bite..."

**PRONOUN**

**little by little**

[B2] a small amount at a time

Dictionary example:
Little by little, the boy learned to trust us.

**Learner example:**
However, as the time went by, I couldn't but feel my dream disappearing little by little.

**ADVERB**

**a little**

[B2] **FORMAL** slightly

Dictionary example:
There's only a little further to go.

**Learner example:**
I'm a little surprised by my "popularity".

**NOT ENOUGH**

[C1] not much or not enough

**Dictionary examples:**
a little-known fact
Little **did he know** what lay in store for him.

**Learner example:**
Little did I know that I would be even more confused afterwards.
**little more/better**
[C2] not much more or better

**Dictionary examples:**
We earned little more than pocket money.
She’s little better than a thief.

**Learner example:**
It was little better than a slum, completely unfurnished, except for a desk with a diary on it.

---

**live**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** living

**Verbs:** live

**Adjectives:** lively, living

**VERB /ˈlɪv/**

**STAY ALIVE**
[C2] [I] to keep yourself alive

**Dictionary examples:**
For several years she lived by begging.
He only agreed to marry her so he could live off her (money).

**Learner example:**
Later on, though, as she gets to know Douglas and his friends a little bit better, she discovers that she simply cannot identify with this group of individuals, who look down upon India’s native population while parasitically living off of it.

---

**liver /ˈlɪv.ər/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] a large organ in your body that cleans your blood

**Dictionary example:**
He has something wrong with his liver.

**Learner example:**
The odd glass of wine is fine but every day is damaging and can ruin your liver.
living /ˈlɪv.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: living
Verbs: live
Adjectives: lively, living

ADJECTIVE

[B2] alive now

Dictionary examples:
living things/creatures/organisms
He is probably the best known living architect.

Learner example:
Environmental protection activists point out that living creatures shouldn't be deprived of their natural background and most endangered species could be saved from extinction by creating more national parks.

NOUN [NO PLURAL]

[B2] the money that you earn from your job

Dictionary examples:
What do you do for a living?
You can earn/make a good living in sales if you have the right attitude.

Learner example:
You should try to earn a living [from] painting.

load /ləʊd/

Word family:
Nouns: load, overload
Verbs: load, unload

NOUN [C]

AMOUNT CARRIED

[B2] something that is carried, often by a vehicle

Dictionary examples:
The maximum load for this elevator is eight persons.
One truck involved in the accident was carrying a heavy load of coal.

Learner example:
Quite honestly I think that you are pulling too big a load.
VERB [ˈər] OR [t]

VEHICLE
[B2] to put a lot of things into a vehicle or machine

Dictionary examples:
How long will it take to load this sand onto the lorry?
Let’s load up the car and then we can go.
to load the dishwasher/washing machine

Learner example:
Thus the situation was rather dramatic, the lorry had to be loaded before the sun rose.

MACHINE
[B2] to put information or a program onto a computer

Dictionary example:
You need to load this program onto your computer.

Learner example:
The shop keeper loaded 12 games onto it which I chose.

loaf /ˈloʊf/

NOUN [c] (plural loaves)
[B2] bread that has been baked in one large piece so that it can be cut into smaller pieces

Dictionary example:
a loaf of bread

Learner example:
I was often sent by my mother to the next shop to buy a loaf of bread, some milk and sometimes fruit and vegetables.

loan /ˈloʊn/

NOUN [c]

on loan
[C1] If something is on loan, someone is borrowing it.

Dictionary example:
Both paintings are on loan from the city museum.

Learner example:
For example, you can always take out on loan any video you like from our center.
loathe /ləʊð/

Word family:
Nouns: loathing
Verbs: loathe

VERB [T]
[C2] to hate someone or something

Dictionary example:
I absolutely loathe swimming.

Learner example:
Even those obscure and never-pay-attention subjects that we totally loathe might give us food for thought regardless of what we will end up studying.

loathing /ˈləʊ.ðɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: loathing
Verbs: loathe

NOUN [U]
[C2] a feeling of hating someone or something

Dictionary example:
All I feel for him is loathing.

Learner example:
Both characters are torn between their feelings of awe and loathing for India, although Olivia's relationship with this country is one of submission and devotion.

lobby /ˈlɒb.i/

NOUN [C]
[B2] an area inside the main entrance of a building

Dictionary examples:
the hotel lobby
I'll meet you in the lobby at 5.30.

Learner example:
He unpacked his things, took a shower and went to the lobby [to] wait for Hanna.

VERB [I or T]
[C2] to try to persuade the government or an official group to do something
Dictionary examples:
Small businesses have lobbied hard for/against changes in the tax laws.
Local residents lobbied to have the factory shut down.
They have been lobbying Congress to change the legislation concerning guns.

Learner example:
They have become so powerful through their vast sales and profits that they can effectively lobby for their points of view.

local /ˈləʊ.kəl/

NOUN
[C2] someone who lives in the area you are talking about

Dictionary example:
The locals are very upset about the new law.

Learner example:
However, it is inadvisable to confront the locals with prejudices or exaggerated expectations they cannot live up to.

locate /ləʊˈkeɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: location
Verbs: locate, relocate

VERB [T]

FIND
[B2] to find or discover the exact position of something

Dictionary example:
Police are still trying to locate the suspect.

Learner example:
He tried to locate the wall and took a calm step forward.

location /ləʊˈkeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: location
Verbs: locate, relocate
on location

[C1] If a film or television programme is made on location, it is made at a place suitable to the story.

Dictionary example:
The movie was shot on location in Kenya.

Learner example:
We can’t help mentioning the nice shots on location.

lock /lɒk/

Word family:
Nouns: lock
Verbs: lock, unlock

VERB

lock sth/sb away/in, etc.
[B2] to put something or someone in a place or container that is fastened with a key

Dictionary examples:
She locked herself in her bedroom.
Most of my jewellery is locked away in a safe.

Learner example:
When Mary asked her not to reveal the secret, Pat ran away, w[ent] home, [and] locked herself in her bedroom.

loft /lɒft/

NOUN [c]

[C2] the space under the roof of a house or other building

Dictionary example:
Our loft is full of junk.

Learner example:
Everything was thoroughly searched, from the cellar to the loft.
log /ˈlɒg/

NOUN [c]
[C1] a thick piece of tree trunk or branch, especially one cut for burning on a fire

Dictionary example:
Let's put another log on the fire.

Learner example:
People used to cook with fire logs [but] they don't do it any more.

VERB

log in/on PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to connect a computer to a system of computers by typing your name and often a password, usually so that you can start working

Dictionary example:
I tried to log in as normal but nothing happened.

Learner example:
Well you need a computer and you have to log on [to] the Internet.

log off/out PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to stop a computer being connected to a computer system, usually when you want to stop working

Dictionary example:
We were all asked to log off while some changes were made to the system.

Learner example:
I know that most students just log off the computers, but they [are] still switch[ed] on and [use] energy.

logic /ˈlɒdʒ.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: logic
Adjectives: logical
Adverbs: logically

NOUN [u]
[C1] the use of reason, or the science of using reason

Dictionary examples:
I fail to see the logic behind his argument.
If prices go up, wages will go up too – that's just logic.
There's no logic in the decision to reduce staff when orders are the highest for years.
Learner example:
It lacked any logic or interest for me.

logical  /ˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: logic
Adjectives: logical
Adverbs: logically

ADJECTIVE
[B2] using reason

Dictionary example:
a logical choice/conclusion

Learner example:
When someone is logical and smart and loves life, he is not in danger when he drives a car.

logically  /ˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: logic
Adjectives: logical
Adverbs: logically

ADVERB
[C2] in a way that is logical

Dictionary example:
Her ideas were clear and logically presented.

Learner example:
Her intuition failed her, [and] neither could she find the answer logically.

loneliness  /ˈləʊn.li.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: loneliness
Adjectives: lonely

NOUN [U]
[C1] the state of being lonely

Dictionary example:
I wasn't prepared for the loneliness of living in a small village.
Learner example:
Frankenstein is a book that explores the feelings of loneliness and solitude, and the consequences that this has on human relationships.

lonely /ˈləʊn.lɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: loneliness
Adjectives: lonely

PLACE
[B2] A lonely place is a long way from where people live.

Dictionary example:
a lonely stretch of Arizona highway

Learner example:
In this lonely place strange things happened.

long /lɒŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: longing
Verbs: longing

ADVERB

before (very/too) long
[B2] soon

Dictionary example:
They’ll be home before very long.

Learner example:
Before long they realized that most of the animals which lived there could be big bu[si]ness in Europe.

for long
[C1] for a long time

Dictionary example:
Have you been waiting for long?

Learner example:
There’re departures every half an hour to the city centre, so you won’t have to wait for long.
long ago
[C1] If something happened long ago, it happened a great amount of time ago.

Dictionary examples:
I think we met once, long ago.
It was not long ago that I last saw him.

Learner example:
Not so long ago, you could ring each Dutch doorbell of your choice at 6 pm and you’d find the whole family gathered around the kitchen table, having their supper.

long before
[C2] a long period of time before something

Dictionary example:
I was a vegetarian long before I met Sally.

Learner example:
The cups belonged to my family long before I was born and the fact they are part of my family tradition makes them valuable in my eyes.

VERB [i]
long for sth; long to do sth
[C2] to want something very much

Dictionary example:
She longed to see him again.

Learner example:
Of course I longed for my home and missed my relatives and friends, but I was so excited by everything the exchange could offer that I cannot recall any really sad day during my stay in Germany.

long-distance /ˌlɒŋˈdɪs.tənts/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] travelling or communicating between two places that are a long way apart

Dictionary examples:
a long-distance runner
long-distance lorry drivers
a long-distance phone call

Learner example:
I've also made some long-distance call[s] which I'd like to pay for.
longevity /lɒnˈdʒev.ə.ti/  

Word family:  
Nouns: longevity  
Adjectives: long  
Adverbs: long  

NOUN [U] FORMAL  
[C2] having a long life  

Dictionary example:  
To what do you attribute your longevity?  

Learner example:  
The problem does not end there, as the unemployed present a strain [on] the social welfare systems, which are already overtaxed due to sinking birth numbers and rising longevity.

longing /ˈlɒŋ.ɪŋ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: longing  
Verbs: long  

NOUN [U NO PLURAL]  
[C2] a feeling of wanting something or someone very much  

Dictionary examples:  
a longing for his homeland  
He gazed at her, his eyes full of longing.  

Learner example:  
These elements, together with the longing for independence, can help you reach your goal.

long–lasting /.lɒŋˈlɑː.stɪŋ/  

ADJECTIVE  
[C2] continuing for a long period of time  

Dictionary example:  
Their was a long–lasting friendship.  

Learner example:  
People with these qualities are most able to provide me with what I like: fun, attention, good conversations and long–lasting relationships.
long-running /ˌlɒŋˈrʌn.ɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] having continued for a long time

Dictionary examples:
a long-running musical
their long-running dispute

long-term /ˌlɒŋˈtɜːm/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] continuing a long time into the future

Dictionary examples:
long-term unemployment
long-term care for the seriously ill
the long-term effects of the drug

Learner example:
I was deeply impressed by the long-term cooperation between the zoo and the school.

long term /ˈlɒŋˌtɜːm/

NOUN
in the long term
[B2] over a period of time that continues a long way into the future

Dictionary example:
This decision may make financial sense now, but it will have serious consequences in the long term.

Learner example:
I understand this is a big investment but I can see the advantage [of] easier communication and a better environment. In the long term this [will be] more economical for us.

long-time /ˈlɒŋ.taɪm/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C1] describes someone who has been in a particular position for a long period
Dictionary example:
A long-time friend of the chairman said she had expected the resignation.

Learner example:
I have now known her for 13 years both as a student and on a familiar level, since I am a long-time friend [of] her husband’s.

look /lʊk/

Word family:
Nouns: look
Verbs: look, overlook

VERB

look as if/as though
[B2] used to describe the appearance of a person or thing

Dictionary examples:
Bradley looked as if he had seen a ghost.
She looked as though she was going to cry.

Learner example:
The dress is made of bright blue silk, it's long and looks as if it was [made] for [a] queen.

DIRECTION
[B2] [i] to face a particular direction

Dictionary examples:
The garden looks south.
This window looks out onto the lake.

Learner example:
I [would] like a room which looks out onto the garden.

look on the bright side
[C1] to find good things in a bad situation

Dictionary example:
Look on the bright side – no one was badly hurt.

Learner example:
I am quite self-confident and I usually look on the bright side, as I am not keen on pessimistic thoughts.

be looking to do sth
[C2] to plan to do something

Dictionary example:
I’m looking to start my own business.
NOUN

APPEARANCE

[B2] [c] an expression on someone's face

Dictionary examples:
She had a worried look about her.
She gave me a questioning look.

Learner example:
China was attacking France, everyone started screaming, and the look of panic on my history teacher's face was almost funny.

the look of sb/sth

[B2] the appearance of someone or something

Dictionary examples:
They liked the look of the hotel, but it was too expensive.
I don't like the look of that fence.

Learner example:
We have to make it more attractive to them by improving the look of our town.

FASHION

[C1] [no plural] a style or fashion

Dictionary example:
the new look for the summer

Learner example:
Shopping [...] gives you a feeling of being in another world, a world where dreams can come true – dreams of becoming more beautiful by buying new clothes and accessories for the new look you have always wanted.

sb's looks

[C2] a person's appearance, especially how attractive they are

Dictionary example:
I was attracted to him because of his looks.

Learner example:
At last, she arrived in time for the ball held that night, and everybody was charmed by her looks and manners.
loom  /luːm/

VERB [v]

APPEAR
[C2] to appear as a large, sometimes frightening shape

Dictionary example:
Dark storm clouds loomed on the horizon.

Learner example:
Situated in the heart of Salford's concrete slum, the old soap factory loomed before him.

WORRY
[C2] If an unpleasant event looms, it is likely to happen soon.

Dictionary example:
The threat of closure looms over the workforce.

Learner example:
Unless steps are taken soon, the future will continue to loom less assured.

loom large
[C2] If something looms large, it becomes very important and often causes worry.

Dictionary example:
The issue of pay will loom large at this year's conference.

Learner example:
It was, she dreaded to admit, a sense of regret. She shock her head as if doing so shooed the feeling away. On the contrary, however, it was looming large while she was stamping along the busy street.

loose  /luːs/

Word family:
Verbs: loosen
Adjectives: loose

ADJECTIVE

NOT FIXED
[B2] not firmly fixed in position

Dictionary examples:
Her hair was hanging loose about her shoulders.
The nails in the bridge had worked themselves loose.
There were some loose wires hanging out of the wall.
**Learner example:**
I now wear my long hair loose and I [have] dyed it black.

**NOT EXACT**

[C2] not tightly controlled or not exact

**Dictionary examples:**
It's a fairly loose adaptation of the novel.
It's only a loose translation of the poem.

---

**loosen** /ˈluː.sn/  

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** loosen
**Adjectives:** loose

**VERB** [I or T]

[C2] to become loose or make something loose

**Dictionary example:**
He loosened his tie.

**Learner example:**
Do we not want our children to be as happy as possible? By loosening their ropes, we enable them to choose the way most suitable for themselves.

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**lose** /luːz/ (lost, lost)

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** loss
**Verbs:** lose
**Adjectives:** lost

**VERB**

**lose your life**
[B2] to die

**Dictionary example:**
Millions of young men lost their lives in the war.

**Learner example:**
A man who has experience after a lot of years driving is less likely to lose his life in an accident than another new driver.

**lose interest/patience, etc.**
[B2] to stop feeling something good
Dictionary examples:
I’m rapidly losing interest in the whole subject.
He kept on crying and I lost my patience.

Learner example:
Moreover the microphone suddenly wouldn’t work anymore, and even though I desperately tried
to speak up, people began to lose interest in both my speech and me and simply started to talk to
each other instead.

lose your temper
[B2] to suddenly become angry

Dictionary example:
The children behaved so badly that I lost my temper.

Learner example:
Yesterday, I must confess, I lost my temper with my son.

TIME/OPTIMUNITY
[B2] [ɪ] to waste something such as time or an opportunity

Dictionary examples:
Four million hours were lost last year through stress–related illnesses.
We lost valuable time stuck in traffic.
Because of illness, she lost the chance of a place in the team.

Learner example:
You lose a lot of time when you have to find a place to park.

lose touch
[B2] to stop communicating with someone, usually because they do not live near
you now

Dictionary example:
We lost touch over the years.

Learner example:
When he went into the information centre, he saw Mary, wh[o] he used to go out with – [for] some
reason, they [had] lost touch with each other.

lose track
[B2] to not know what is happening to someone or something any more

Dictionary example:
I’ve lost track of how much we’ve spent.

Learner example:
Time passed like an arrow and they lost track of time until they realised it started to getting dark.

lose your voice
[B2] to become unable to speak, often because of an illness
Dictionary example:
She had a bad cold and was losing her voice.

Learner example:
I immediately became agitated and at the precise moment of my speech I lost my voice completely.

MONEY
[C1] to make less money than you spend

Dictionary examples:
He lost a lot of money on the house sale.
Her company lost over £2 million last year.

Learner example:
The reported information about the income was completely wrong; in fact, the target figure we had set has been fully reached and this obviously means that the hospital didn’t lose any money.

lose your head
[C1] to stop being calm in a difficult situation

Dictionary example:
I saw the fire and I lost my head.

Learner example:
She has never lost her head in dangerous situations and she always knows what to do.

lose your cool
[C2] to suddenly become very angry

Dictionary example:
She lost her cool and started shouting.

lose count
[C2] to forget how many of something there is

Dictionary example:
I’ve lost count of the number of times she’s arrived late.

Learner example:
I lost count of how often I heard this sentence when I used to work for a drug company.

lose face
[C2] to do something so that people stop respecting you

Dictionary example:
The party has lost face with the public by abandoning their original policy on education.

Learner example:
However, many popular people like Pierce Brosnan managed to keep their lives out of the press and yet be present to meet public demand without losing face.
lose heart
[C2] to stop believing that you can succeed

**Dictionary example:**
Don't lose heart, there'll be plenty more chances for promotion.

**Learner example:**
In that way, we learn to deal with our problems and not to lose heart.

lose sight of *sth*
[C2] to forget about an important idea or fact because you are thinking too much about other, less important things

**Dictionary example:**
We mustn't lose sight of the original aims of this project.

**Learner example:**
Little do we realize that in the process we lose sight of the fundamentals, which in this case is the protection of our environment.

lose sleep over something
[C2] to worry about something

**Dictionary example:**
I know she's angry with me, but I'm not losing any sleep over it.

**Learner example:**
[There] was just one house, a magnificent mansion behind a high fence, that bothered me a bit. No-one from there came to meet me. But in the hassle of the first few weeks I was simply too busy to lose any sleep over it.

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loss /lɒs/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** loss
**Verbs:** lose
**Adjectives:** lost

**NOUN**

NOT HAVING

[B2] [c or u] when you no longer have something or have less of something

**Dictionary examples:**
Many parents feel a sense of loss when their children leave home.
He suffered a gradual loss of memory.
There will be substantial job losses if the factory closes down.
blood/hair/weight loss
Learner example:
I had been working on this manuscript for an article in a computer magazine on the topic "How to prevent loss of data if the electric power is cut off[."

DEATH
[B2] [c or u] the death of a person

Dictionary example:
They never got over the loss of their son.

Learner example:
And so John remained alone, haunted by the terrible loss.

MONEY
[C1] [c] when a business spends more money than it earns

Dictionary example:
The company announced a pre-tax loss of three million pounds.

Learner example:
It suffered a major loss over a period of 15 years, roughly from 1978 to 1994.

DISADVANTAGE
[C2] [NO PLURAL] a disadvantage caused by someone leaving an organization

Dictionary example:
It would be a great loss to the department if you left.

Learner example:
It will be a great loss for Germany when he retires.

at a loss
[C2] not knowing what to do

Dictionary example:
I'm at a loss to explain his disappearance.

Learner example:
And now I am competely at a loss what to write next.

at a loss for words
[C2] not knowing what to say

Dictionary example:
The question was unexpected and she was temporarily at a loss for words.

Learner example:
If it was James I would be at a loss for words, I didn't know what to tell him.
**lost** /lɒst/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** loss
- **Verbs:** lose
- **Adjectives:** lost

**ADJECTIVE**

**be lost without sb/sth**

[C1] INFORMAL to be unable to live or work without someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
She's lost without her computer.

**Learner example:**
It showed us how we would be lost without this transportation system.

**NEW SITUATION**

[C1] not knowing what to do in a new situation

**Dictionary example:**
It was his first day in the office and he seemed a bit lost.

**Learner example:**
I would recommend a visit [to] a restaurant or the theatre the first evening. I can imagine that some of the guests felt a bit lost.

**be lost for words**

[C2] to be so surprised, angry or moved by something that you do not know what to say

**Dictionary example:**
This prize is such an honour and so unexpected – I am lost for words.

**Learner example:**
I was so enraged that I was lost for words for quite a long time.

**lounge** /laʊndʒ/

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] a room in a hotel, theatre, airport, etc. where people can relax or wait

**Dictionary example:**
Drinks were served in the lounge.

**Learner example:**
In the central lounge you’ll find an automatic bus ticket machine.
love  /lʌv/

Word family:
Nouns: love, lover
Verbs: love
Adjectives: lovely

NOUN

INTEREST
[B2] [c or u] something that interests you a lot

Dictionary examples:
I don’t share my boyfriend’s love of sport.
Music is one of her greatest loves.

Learner example:
Both of them symbolize courage, love of justice, fight for freedom, which makes them look like heroes.

a labour of love
[C2] an activity that is hard work but which you do because you enjoy it

Dictionary example:
He prefers to paint the house himself – it's a real labour of love.

Learner example:
[Being a] musician is a labour of love.

low  /ləʊ/

Word family:
Verbs: lower
Adjectives: low

ADJECTIVE

BAD QUALITY
[B2] of bad quality, especially when referring to something that is not as good as it should be

Dictionary examples:
low standards/quality
I have rather a low opinion of him.

Learner example:
However, it is necessary to add that few people could afford much food because of poverty and the low quality of life which they had.
SOUND
[B2] deep or quiet

**Dictionary examples:**
a low voice
a low note

**Learner example:**
Right after I had said that, I noticed that someone was pointing at me with a gun, [and] a low voice said: 'If I were you I wouldn't move, follow me'.

**NOT IMPORTANT**
[C1] not important or powerful

**Dictionary examples:**
He held a low rank in the army.
New furniture is a very low priority at the moment.

**Learner example:**
Luminaries claim that the team spirit and the sense of competition have vanished, and it has been proven that exercise has a low priority compared to other recreational activities.

**UNHAPPY**
[C1] unhappy and without energy

**Dictionary example:**
Illness of any sort can leave you feeling low.

**Learner example:**
She never feels low and I am in high spirits being with her because she has got a sense of humour.

**keep a low profile**
[C1] to try not to be noticed

**Dictionary example:**
She has kept a low profile since the divorce.

**Learner example:**
Finally, I believe that the best way to handle these issues is to try to keep a low profile at all times and to remain indifferent to gossip.

lower /ˈləʊər/  

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** lower
**Adjectives:** low
VERB [T]

MOVE
[B2] to move something into a low position

Dictionary examples:
They lowered the coffin into the grave.
Heavily pregnant by now, she lowered herself carefully into the chair.
He lowered his eyes in embarrassment when he saw me.

Learner example:
But when she asked who wanted to be a cleaner, nobody raised his hand and I felt so [a]shame[d] that I lowered my head.

REDUCE
[B2] to reduce the amount or level of something

Dictionary examples:
Interest rates have been lowered again.
Boil for 5 minutes, then lower the heat and simmer for half an hour.
Please lower your voice.
We will never lower our standards.

Learner example:
This should be done by lowering taxes and preparing other incentives for potential investors.

loyal /ˈlɔɪ.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: loyalty
Adjectives: loyal, disloyal

ADJECTIVE
[B2] always liking and supporting someone or something, sometimes when other people do not

Dictionary examples:
Jack has been a loyal worker in this company for almost 50 years.
When all her other friends deserted her, Steve remained loyal.
She’s very loyal to her friends.

Learner example:
One of the most beautiful things [i]n the world is true and loyal friendship.
loyalty  /ˈlɔɪ.əlti/

Word family:
Nouns: loyalty
Adjectives: loyal, disloyal

NOUN [u]
[B2] the quality of being loyal

Dictionary examples:
His loyalty was never in question.
Her loyalty to the cause is impressive.

Learner example:
What I can say is that [pets] [ar]e ideal when they obey and show loyalty to you.

luck  /lʌk/

Word family:
Nouns: luck
Adjectives: lucky, unlucky
Adverbs: luckily

NOUN [u]
SUCCESS
[B2] success

Dictionary examples:
Have you had any luck with booking your flight?
He tried to get into Harvard but with no luck.
Then I met this gorgeous woman and I couldn't believe my luck.

Learner example:
As you might suppose, I couldn't believe my luck when I found out that I'd won first prize in the competition.

be in luck INFORMAL
[C1] to be lucky or to be able to have or do what you want

Dictionary example:
"Do you have any tuna sandwiches?" "You're in luck – there's one left."

Learner example:
I was in luck, because my friend, who lived in the same area, had his private car and gave me a lift every day.

a stroke of luck
[C2] something good that happens to you by chance
**Dictionary example:**
He had exactly the part that I needed so that was a stroke of luck.

**Learner example:**
After a one-hour interview she was asked whether she could be starting work the very next day. A real stroke of luck.

**lucrative /ˈluː.krə.tɪv/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] If something is lucrative, it makes a lot of money.

**Dictionary example:**
a lucrative contract/job/offers

**Learner example:**
It is no secret that many youngsters want a lucrative job, which would allow them [to] mak[e] money hand over fist.

**lump /lʌmp/**

**NOUN [C]**

**PIECE**
[C2] a piece of a solid substance with no particular shape

**Dictionary examples:**
a lump of coal
You don't want lumps in the sauce.

**Learner example:**
He bent down to pick it up and saw it was a lump of concrete.

**bring a lump to your throat**
[C2] to make you feel such strong emotion that you want to cry

**Dictionary example:**
It was a very moving speech, and it brought a lump to my throat.

**Learner example:**
This devastating image brought a lump to John’s throat.
lung /lʌŋ/

NOUN [c]
[B2] one of the two organs inside your chest that are used for breathing

Dictionary example:
lung cancer

Learner example:
People suffering from lung diseases go there to be cured.

lure /lʊər/

VERB [r]
[C2] to persuade someone to go somewhere or do something by offering them something exciting

Dictionary examples:
It seems that he was lured into a trap.
They had been lured to the big city by the promise of high wages.

Learner example:
Some of the children are lured to the big cities, in expectation of work.

NOUN [u]
[C2] the power to attract people

Dictionary example:
the lure of fame/power/money

Learner example:
Some have offered the lure of losing weight within a very few days, by the means of miraculously easy techniques.

luxurious /lʌkˈʃʊər.i.əs/

Word family:
Nouns: luxury
Adjectives: luxurious

ADJECTIVE
[C1] very comfortable and expensive

Dictionary examples:
They have a very luxurious house.
luxurious fabrics
Learner example:
As far as the hotel is concerned, I feel that it wasn’t a luxurious one.

**luxury /ˈlʌk.r.i/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** luxury
**Adjectives:** luxurious

**NOUN**

THING THAT GIVES PLEASURE

[B2] [U NO PLURAL] something which gives you a lot of pleasure but which you cannot often do or have

**Dictionary example:**
A day off work is such a luxury.

**Learner example:**
I think that to have this museum is a luxury for our city and we must visit [it].

EXPENSIVE THING

[C1] [C] something expensive which is pleasant to have but is not necessary

**Dictionary examples:**
luxuries, such as champagne and chocolate
I like to buy myself little luxuries from time to time.

**Learner example:**
At the time, [the] majority [of] consumers had no money to spend on luxuries.

**lyrics /ˈlɪr.rɪks/**

**NOUN [PLURAL]**

[B2] the words of a song

**Dictionary example:**
I’ve downloaded the lyrics of that song you like.

**Learner example:**
One of the greatest [of] these musicians is Caetano Veloso, whose lyrics and melodies [touch] the hearts and souls of music lovers in Brazil and all around the world.
machinery /məˈʃiː.nəri/

Word family:
Nouns: machine, machinery

NOUN [u]
[C1] machines, often large machines

Dictionary example:
industrial/farm machinery

Learner example:
The use of heavy machinery is more and more frequent and consequently the amount of petrol used [is higher].

mad /mæd/ (madder, maddest)

ADJECTIVE
like mad
[B2] a lot

Dictionary example:
The band practised like mad before their first concert.

Learner example:
It was raining like mad, so we were wet to the skin.

madam /′mæd.əm/

NOUN

Dear Madam
[B2] a way of beginning a formal letter to a woman whose name you do not know

Dictionary example:
Dear Madam, I am writing to inform you...
Learner example:
Dear Sir or Madam, With reference to your newspaper report of 17th July, I am writing to correct some points in this report.

**magic** /ˈmædʒ.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: magic
Adjectives: magic, magical

**NOUN [U]**

*SPECIAL QUALITY*

[B2] a quality that makes something or someone seem special or exciting

**Dictionary example:**
No one could fail to enjoy the magic of this wonderful city.

**Learner example:**
But everyone [was] thinking of the elections and couldn't feel the "magic" of Christmas Day...

**magical** /ˈmædʒ.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: magic
Adjectives: magic, magical

**ADJECTIVE**

*WONDERFUL*

[B2] special, beautiful or exciting

**Dictionary examples:**
It was a magical night.
The setting for the concert was quite magical.

**Learner example:**
I think you should go to Cracow – [a] beautiful, old city with original, historical monuments, works of art and many cafes and jazz clubs with [a] magical atmosphere.

**MAGIC**

[B2] with special powers

**Dictionary example:**
magical powers

**Learner example:**
We cherish the belief in a magical force outside ourselves which sooner or later will deliver us these dreams.
**magistrate**  /ˈmædʒ.ɪ.strit/  

**NOUN [C]**  
[C1] a type of judge who deals with less serious crimes  

**Dictionary example:**  
The case will be heard by a magistrate.  

**Learner example:**  
In public life women have reached positions as magistrates, coun[cillo]rs and ministers.

---

**magnetic**  /mæɡˈnet.i.k/  

**ADJECTIVE**  

**METAL**  
[C1] with the power of a magnet  

**Dictionary example:**  
a magnetic field  

**Learner example:**  
The worst of all is that even little children of the age of nine or ten years old now have their own mobile phone which makes them totally irresponsible and especially affected [by] the magnetic energy the phone has, which is very harmful to children.

**PERSONALITY**  
[C1] having a character that attracts people to you  

**Dictionary example:**  
He has a magnetic personality.  

**Learner example:**  
Ivan has a magnetic personality, which draws people to him.

---

**magnificently**  /mægˈnɪf.ɪ.snt.lɪ/  

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:**  magnificent  
**Adverbs:**  magnificently  

**ADVERB**  
[C1] extremely well  

**Dictionary example:**  
I thought she coped magnificently.
Learner example:
This small drawback did not affect either the dance display or the horse show, which were both performed magnificently.

**main** /ˈmeɪn/

Word family:
Adjectives: main
Adverbs: mainly

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

the main thing
[B2] the most important fact in a situation

Dictionary example:
You’re happy and that’s the main thing.

Learner example:
The main thing is to be happy and to love yourself.

**mainstream** /ˈmeɪn.striːm/

ADJECTIVE

[C2] considered normal, and having or using ideas, beliefs, etc. which are accepted by most people

Dictionary example:
This is the director’s first mainstream Hollywood film.

Learner example:
The media source and its credibility play a major role in determining the objectivity and realistic portrayal although there have been cases where even mainstream publications have participated in manipulative alterations.

**maintain** /meɪnˈteɪn/

Word family:
Nouns: maintenance
Verbs: maintain

VERB [T]

CONTINUE TO HAVE
[B2] to make a situation or activity continue in the same way
**Dictionary examples:**
The army has been brought in to maintain order in the region.
We have standards to maintain.
The two countries have maintained close links over the years.

**Learner example:**
To sum up, I consider that although the role of footballers is less important than the need [for] doctors, they should not be paid less than doctors, in order to maintain the high quality of this game.

**KEEP IN GOOD CONDITION**

[B2] to keep a road, machine, building, etc. in good condition

**Dictionary examples:**
A large house costs a lot to maintain.
The roads generally are very poorly maintained.

**Learner example:**
Due to my education and my experience in maintaining machines, I am sure that I can do a good job in your club.

**SAY SOMETHING IS TRUE**

[C2] to say that you are certain something is true

**Dictionary examples:**
Throughout his prison sentence Dunn has always maintained his innocence.
He maintains that he has never seen the woman before.

**Learner example:**
Moreover, sceptics maintain that the lack of facilities and jobs leads to the countryside being "abandoned".

---

**maintenance /ˈmeɪn.tə.nənts/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** maintenance

**Verbs:** maintain

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] the work needed to keep a road, building, machine, etc. in good condition

**Dictionary examples:**
car maintenance classes
Old houses require too much maintenance.
I need a garden that's very low maintenance.

**Learner example:**
Many people can't afford to have a car as maintenance is very expensive.
major /ˈmeɪ.dʒər/  

Word family:  
Nouns: majority  
Adjectives: major  

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]  
[B2] more important, bigger or more serious than others of the same type  

Dictionary examples:  
This is a major problem for people in this region.  
Sugar is a major cause of tooth decay.  
America has played a major role in the peace process.  
Citrus fruits are a major source of vitamin C.  
There has been a major change in attitudes recently.  

Learner example:  
Some major changes are really necessary.

majority /məˈdʒər.i.ti/  

Word family:  
Nouns: majority  
Adjectives: major  

NOUN [NO PLURAL]  
[B2] more than half of a group of people or things  

Dictionary examples:  
The majority of our employees have university degrees.  
A large majority of people approve of the death sentence.  
The vast majority of smokers claim they would like to give up.  
In Britain women are in the majority.  
the majority decision  

Learner example:  
However the majority of the teachers found that buying movies was not a good idea.

make /meɪk/  

Word family:  
Nouns: maker  
Verbs: make
VERB [T] (made, made)

EARN
[B2] to earn

Dictionary examples:
She makes around £50 000 a year as a doctor.
How do you make a living as a painter?
Both companies have made huge profits/losses.

Learner example:
The truth is that our grandparents worked very hard to make a living.

make the/sb's bed
[B2] to put sheets and covers on a bed or to make the sheets and covers on a bed neat

Dictionary examples:
Have you made the bed?
The kids don't always have time to make their beds before school.

Learner example:
Driving through the mountains we didn't reach the cabin until late at night. So we just made the beds and went off to sleep.

make the most of sth
[B2] to take full advantage of something because it may not last long

Dictionary example:
We should make the most of this good weather.

Learner example:
Remember, always try to make the most of your life.

make the best of sth
[B2] to try to be positive about a situation you do not like but cannot change

Dictionary example:
Our hotel room is pretty small, but we'll just have to make the best of it.

Learner example:
Unfortunately I don't have very much spare time so we will have to arrange it carefully in order to make the best of your time in London.

make a (big) difference
[B2] to improve a situation (a lot)

Dictionary example:
Exercise can make a big difference to your health.

Learner example:
It wouldn't make a big difference in my life, but it would be good.
to make matters worse
[B2] to make a situation more difficult, unpleasant, etc.

Dictionary example:
To make matters worse, our car broke down!

Learner example:
To make matters worse, the newspaper said they only played for thirty-five minutes.

make a fool (out) of sb
[B2] to make someone look stupid intentionally

Dictionary example:
She was always trying to make a fool out of me in front of my friends.

Learner example:
He thought I had tried to make a fool of him but no, I was really desperate to get him as my boyfriend.

make a fool of yourself
[B2] to behave in a silly or embarrassing way

Dictionary example:
I got very excited and made a fool of myself.

Learner example:
I had to leave that shop in full embarrassment and I also made a fool of myself.

make fun of sb/sth
[B2] to make a joke about someone or something in an unkind way

Dictionary example:
The other children at school used to make fun of his hair.

Learner example:
I didn’t want to tell other people because I didn’t want them to make fun of me.

make sense
[B2] to have a meaning or reason that you can understand

Dictionary example:
He’s written me this note but it doesn’t make any sense.

Learner example:
Eighty kilometres in the mountains just to [look at] views doesn’t make any sense to me.

make sense
[B2] to be a good thing to do

Dictionary example:
It makes sense to buy now while prices are low.
Learner example:
Therefore it make[s] sense to use the innovation[s].

make time
[C1] to leave enough time to do something although you are busy

Dictionary examples:
You have to make time to do your homework.
He never made enough time for family life.

Learner example:
I'm terribly sorry for not being able to make time to pick you up when you arrive.

SUITABLE
[C1] to have the necessary qualities to become something

Dictionary examples:
He would make a really nice dad.
I wouldn't make a very good lawyer.
It’s a very exciting story – it would make a great film.

Learner example:
That is why I think I would make a good judge.

make it
[C1] to be successful

Dictionary example:
Very few actors actually make it.

Learner example:
People who belong to this social [group] are much more determined to "make it" in life.

make ends meet
[C1] to have just enough money to pay for the things that you need

Dictionary example:
I've taken a second job in the evenings just to make ends meet.

Learner example:
Most students support themselves and barely make ends meet every month.

make an exception
[C1] to not treat someone or something according to the usual rules

Dictionary example:
They don't usually take cheques, but they said they'd make an exception in my case.

Learner example:
Unfortunately, they were not flexible enough to make an exception, but on the other hand we know about the problem now and can avoid it in the future.
make yourself at home
[C1] to behave in a relaxed way in a place, as if it was your own home

Dictionary example:
Take off your coat and make yourself at home.

Learner example:
Please relax and make yourself at home and help yourself.

make a note of sth
[C1] to write down information about something

Dictionary example:
Let me make a note of your phone number.

Learner example:
After talking to other members, I have made a note of the main problems they considered the most urgent to be solved.

make a point of doing sth
[C1] to be certain that you always do a particular thing

Dictionary example:
He made a point of learning all the names of his staff.

Learner example:
I was not expecting to meet him that night, because I thought he would be busy and not have time to talk to anyone, but being so special as he is, he made a point of talking to everybody.

make yourself understood
[C1] to say something to someone in a way that they understand

Dictionary example:
I had a little difficulty making myself understood.

Learner example:
(Find enclosed a paper slip on which I have written a destination, number of tickets, etc., in the German language – use it just in case you can't make yourselves understood.)

make do (with)
[C2] to accept something that is less good than you would like

Dictionary example:
If we can't get a bigger room we'll have to make do with this.

Learner example:
Very calmly, he said "I am not going to put up with this. You might say that I am being too emotional, overreacting, whatever. But I will not come back until my piano has been returned. And let me make very clear that I will not make do with another instrument."

make light of sth
[C2] to talk or behave as if you do not think a problem is serious
**Dictionary example:**
I just laughed and tried to make light of it.

**Learner example:**
They project an optimistic image and make light of the troubles in life.

**make allowances for sb/sth**
[C2] to remember that someone has a disadvantage which is not their fault when you are judging their behaviour or work

**Dictionary example:**
They made allowances for the fact that he was ill.

**Learner example:**
I would say Mr Stevens is a victim of his sense of duty, which makes him think of marriage as a traitor's act, but I don't know to what extent we should make allowances for his strong convictions.

**make your blood run cold**
[C2] If something makes your blood run cold, it frightens you very much.

**Dictionary example:**
I heard a tapping on the window which made my blood run cold.

**Learner example:**
This thought scared me and made my blood run cold.

**make your blood boil**
[C2] to make you extremely angry

**Dictionary example:**
The way they have treated those people makes my blood boil.

**Learner example:**
Paul said something repulsive, with a cold light in his eyes, and it made her blood boil.

**make sb's day**
[C2] to make someone very happy

**Dictionary example:**
Go on, ask him to dance – it'll make his day!

**Learner example:**
Thank you for returning a lost diary; you have made my day!

**make a bad/good, etc. job of sth**
[C2] to do sth badly/well, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
Paul's made a good job of painting the hall.
Learner example:
It's time my mother stop[ped] worrying about me, after all, she's been preparing me all my life for this moment; it's finally time to see if she has made a good job of it.

**make a name for yourself**
[C2] to become famous or respected by a lot of people

**Dictionary example:**
He's been trying to make a name for himself in the music business.

**Learner example:**
Secondly, only [a] few sportsmen and sportswomen manage to make a name for themselves and get to the top.

**make a nonsense of sth**
[C2] to spoil something or make it seem stupid

**Dictionary example:**
Cuts to the text made a nonsense of the play.

**Learner example:**
It really makes a nonsense of our claim to be civilized when one thinks of all the poor, helpless people that live under deplorable condition[s].

**make waves**
[C2] to cause problems by asking difficult questions or criticizing

**Dictionary example:**
He has earned a reputation for making waves during political campaigns.

**Learner example:**
If we don't want to regret anything, it is time we started to make waves by s[c]rutinizing our history.

**make your way**
[C2] to be successful and make progress in your work

**Dictionary example:**
He managed to make his way in the film industry.

**Learner example:**
For each one of the famous sportsmen we re[cog]nise on television or in the newspapers, there are thousands of hopeful youngsters trying to make their way to the top.

**make way for sth**
[C2] to be replaced by someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
They knocked down the old houses to make way for a new hotel.

**Learner example:**
In the UK most high-streets already look very much the same and the local shops had to make way for big conglomerates.
**make a go of sth**
[C2] to try to make something succeed, usually by working hard

**Dictionary example:**
They’re determined to make a go of their business.

**make your presence felt**
[C2] to have a strong effect on other people

**Dictionary example:**
The new police chief has really made his presence felt.

**Learner example:**
Before long a local bicycle gang was formed which would ride all over the village, through fields and gardens, making our presence felt.

**make sth public**
[C2] to allow everyone to know about something

**Dictionary example:**
The government does not plan to make its findings public.

**Learner example:**
According to the scientific method of research, one should only make a discovery or conclusion public after deep testing and, even after th[at], this fact sh[ould] never be taken as the most complete and definitive truth about any given subject.

**make a run for it** INFORMAL
[C2] to suddenly run fast in order to escape from somewhere

**Dictionary example:**
When he saw the open door, he made a run for it.

**Learner example:**
Anna and Tom decided to make a run for it.

**make sense of sth**
[C2] to understand something that is difficult to understand

**Dictionary example:**
I’m trying to make sense of this document.

**Learner example:**
In fact, it’s during his journey that Stevens begins to make sense of his life, of all the years he spent as a butler, as the ‘perfect butler’ who had to be loyal, silent and discreet.

**make a splash** INFORMAL
[C2] to get a lot of public attention

**Dictionary example:**
The film made quite a splash in the US.
Moreover, it is no use splashing your money about [on] expensive gifts because this behaviour shows that you are not happy but your purpose is to make a splash.

**make a start**  
[C2] to begin doing something

*Dictionary example:*  
We need to make a start on (preparing) the brochure next week.

**maker** /ˈmeɪ.kə/  

*Word family:*  
**Nouns:** maker  
**Verbs:** make  

*NOUN [c]*  
[B2] the person or company that makes a product

*Dictionary examples:*  
They're the biggest maker of fast-food products in the UK.  
The makers of the film will want to see a decent return on their investment.

*Learner example:*  
NISSAN is a famous Japanese car maker as you know.

**male** /meɪl/  

*NOUN [c]*  
[B2] a male person or animal

*Dictionary example:*  
In 1987, 27 percent of adult males smoked.

*Learner example:*  
I am a 30-year old Swedish male with a diploma in gardening.

**malicious** /məˈlɪʃ.əs/  

*Adjective*  
[C2] intended to harm or upset someone

*Dictionary example:*  
malicious gossip
**Learner example:**
If malicious teasing is tolerated, the whole school will be affected in a negative way and nobody will feel safe and self-confident.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mammal</th>
<th>/ˈmæm.əl/</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN [C]</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>[C1]</strong> an animal that feeds its babies on milk from its body</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
<td>Dolphins and other sea mammals are being harmed by waste in the oceans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
<td>To admire some of the sea mammals, like the dol[ph]ins and the whales, the best possible spot would be a small, isolated Aegean isle.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>man</th>
<th>/mæn/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PEOPLE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>[B2]</strong> [U] used to refer to both men and women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
<td>Man is still more intelligent than the cleverest robot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
<td>Man must create the conditions so that [animals] can live, eat and procreate without strain.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>manage</th>
<th>/ˈmæn.idʒ/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> management, manager</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Verbs:</strong> manage</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VERB</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USE TIME/MONEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>[C1]</strong> [ɪ] to use or organize your time or money</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
<td>He’s no good at managing his money.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Learner example:**
London is the third most expensive city in the world after Tok[yo] and N.Y, so you will have to manage your money quite carefully.

**management** /ˈmæn.dʒ.mənt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** management, manager
**Verbs:** manage

**NOUN [U]**

[B2] the control and organization of something

**Dictionary examples:**
The company has suffered from several years of bad management.
a management training scheme

**Learner example:**
I also know the basic rules of good management.

**mankind** /mænˈkaɪnd/

**NOUN [U]**

[B2] all people, considered as a group

**Dictionary example:**
the history of mankind

**Learner example:**
Since the beginning of human civilization, mankind has never ceased to be mesmerized by folklore and stories of princes and princesses.

**manner** /ˈmæn.ər/

**NOUN**

**WAY**

[B2] [NO PLURAL] the way something happens or something is done

**Dictionary examples:**
She stared at me in an accusing manner.
They dealt with the problem in a very efficient manner.
Learner example:
I don’t know if you [will] follow my advice, but [in] whichever manner you spend the money, I [hope] you are glad.

manners
[B2] polite ways of behaving with other people

Dictionary examples:
It’s bad manners to eat with your mouth open.
It’s considered good manners in some societies to leave a little food on your plate.

Learner example:
Professional waiters are polite, tolerant and show good manners.

BEHAVIOUR
[B2] [NO PLURAL] the way in which a person talks and behaves with other people

Dictionary examples:
an aggressive/friendly/rude manner
As soon as he realized that we weren't going to buy anything, his whole manner changed.

Learner example:
I stared at him in anger, and the poor man, afraid of my rude manner, went out [of] the cafe.

mansion /ˈmæn.tʃən/

NOUN [C]
[C1] a very large expensive house

Dictionary example:
The street is lined with enormous mansions where the rich and famous live.

Learner example:
Do you want to live in a grand mansion, an expensive flat or even a castle?

manual /ˈmæn.ju.əl/

ADJECTIVE

PHYSICAL WORK
[B2] involving physical work rather than mental work

Dictionary examples:
unskilled manual labour
750 manual workers will lose their jobs as a result of company cutbacks.
Computer-controlled robots are taking over manual jobs in many industries.
Learner example:
But, on the other hand, I sometimes think that technology is the cause of the end of certain activities such as farming, or manual work.

**WITH HANDS**

[B2] done or operated with the hands

**Dictionary examples:**
the manual sorting of letters
She tried to cure the pain in my knee by putting manual pressure on the joint.

**Learner example:**
It has both manual and automatic functions so it has a lot of possibilities.

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a book that tells you how to use something or do something

**Dictionary example:**
You can download the manual for the computer if you need to.

**Learner example:**
Now I need to read some manuals at work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>manufacture</th>
<th>/ˌmæn.ʃəˈfækt.jəri/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong></td>
<td>manufacturer, manufacturing</td>
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<td><strong>Verbs:</strong></td>
<td>manufacture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VERB [T]</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] to produce goods in large numbers, usually in a factory using machines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary examples:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He works for a company that manufactures car parts.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The report notes a rapid decline in manufactured goods.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN [c]</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] a company that produces goods in large numbers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Dictionary example:**
a shoe manufacturer

**Learner example:**
Air pollution could be reduced if car manufacturers and companies made effective filters [for] car exhausts and factory chimneys.

---

**manufacturing** /ˌmæn.jʊˈfæk.tʃə.rɪŋ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** manufacturer, manufacturing
**Verbs:** manufacture

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] the business of producing goods in large numbers

**Dictionary examples:**
car/food manufacturing
the manufacturing of military equipment
the manufacturing industry

**Learner example:**
I am a translator for a manufacturing company.

---

**many** /ˈmen.i/

**DETERMINER; PRONOUN**

as many as
[C1] used before a number or amount to show that the number or amount is large

**Dictionary example:**
As many as 6,000 people may have been infected with the disease.

**Learner example:**
As many as 90% of them went to [the] cinema on a regular basis in 1990, with the peak of a 95% attendance rate taking place in 1996.

---

**marathon** /ˈmær.əθn/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a running race of slightly over 26 miles (42.195 kilometres)
Dictionary examples:
the London/New York marathon
She did/ran her first marathon in just under three hours.

Learner example:
How many hours of training per week are necessary if I want to run the marathon next year?

**march** /maːtʃ/

**noun [c]**
[C1] an organized walk by a group to show that they disagree with something

**dictionary example:**
She's going on a march on Saturday in protest over the closure of the hospital.

**Learner example:**
There were protest marches and doctors, nurses, and the population forced the government to find a solution to the problem.

**verb [i]**

**Show disagreement**
[C1] to walk through a public place as a group to show that you disagree with something

**dictionary example:**
Around twenty thousand people marched through the city today to protest against the proposed new law.

**Learner example:**
This was a time of rupture, a scream for freedom, for love, and for peace. Young boys and girls marched against war and at the same time killed themselves with drugs.

**Soldiers' walk**
[C1] When soldiers march, they walk together with regular steps.

**dictionary example:**
The soldiers marched 90 miles in three days.

**Learner example:**
Even when the Romans marched against Greece, the Greek people could[n't] unite against their new and powerful enemy and that's why they were conquered.

**March off/up/down, etc.**
[C2] to walk somewhere fast, often because you are angry

**dictionary example:**
She marched into my office demanding to know why I hadn't written my report.
**Learner example:**
She marched into the shop, got rid of the old lady and pestered the poor man until he agreed to give her the painting for £2982.

**margin /ˈmɑː.dʒɪn/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: margin
Adjectives: marginal

**NOUN [C]**

**DIFFERENCE**
[C2] the difference between two amounts of time, money, etc., usually between people in a competition

**Dictionary examples:**
The Senate approved the use of military force by a margin of 52 votes to 47. They won by a narrow/wide margin.

**Learner example:**
We chose the second one, and, incredible as it may seem, we managed to win by a rather comfortable margin.

**OUTER PART**
[C2] an empty space down the side of a page of writing

**Dictionary example:**
If I have any comments to make, I'll write them in the margin.

**Learner example:**
How could I describe the way she gently unfolded me, her care when drawing a margin on my left page, and how sorry she felt when her pen would ever scratch me?

**margin of error**
[C2] the amount by which a calculation can be wrong but still produce a good result

**Dictionary example:**
a margin of error of 5 percent

**Learner example:**
It might be true that what is considered to be healthy or unhealthy changes over time, however, as science progresses the margin of error becomes smaller, and experts are then able to have a more accurate and precise say on all matters, including health.

**PROFIT**
[C2] the amount of profit that is made by a business after costs have been taken off
Higher fuel prices have reduced our margins.

The first toys, he sold with a small profit margin.

**marginal** /ˈmɑː.dʒɪn.əl/  

**Word family:**
Nouns: margin  
Adjectives: marginal

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] small and not important

**Dictionary example:**  
a marginal effect/improvement

**Learner example:**  
[Over-grazing had] the biggest impact in America, while deforestation caused only [a] marginal effect.

**mark** /mɑːk/  

**NOUN [C]**

**DIFFERENT AREA**
[B2] a small area on the surface of something which is damaged, dirty or different in some way

**Dictionary examples:**
There were dirty marks on her trousers where she had wiped her hands.  
His fingers had left marks on the table's polished surface.  
She had a red mark on her arm where she'd burnt herself.

**Learner example:**  
But one day, [when] I was about ten years old, my father had hurt me on the face and I had a blue mark on [my] cheek.

**SYMBOL**
[C1] a symbol which is used for giving information

**Dictionary examples:**
I've put a mark on the map where I think we should go for a picnic.  
What do those marks in the middle of the road mean?
**Learner example:**
As you walk through the valley, always following the red marks on the path, you will run into many interesting views: from climbers climbing the walls of the valley to waterfalls coming from the top of it.

**a mark of sth**
[C2] a sign or proof that something exists

**Dictionary examples:**
a mark of genius
There was a minute's silence everywhere as a mark of respect.

**Learner example:**
To succeed in a task that one has envisioned is a mark of success.

**leave/make your mark**
[C2] to do something that makes you successful or makes people notice you

**Dictionary example:**
He really made his mark on the company.

**Learner example:**
It teaches you that you don't have to be an Arnold Schwarzenegger to fight for your friends and really make your mark.

**VERB**

**PIECE OF WORK**
[B2] [I or T] to check a piece of work or an exam, showing mistakes and giving a letter or number to say how good it is

**Dictionary examples:**
I was up half the night marking exam papers.
You'll be marked down for poor spelling and punctuation.

**Learner example:**
Computers even sell tickets on stations, mark exam papers and help us to talk with people all over the world via [the] internet.

**SHOW PLACE**
[B2] [I] to show where something is by drawing or putting something somewhere

**Dictionary examples:**
I've marked my street on the map for you.
X marks the spot where the treasure is buried.

**Learner example:**
On the map we have marked a black dot on the place where you will find the hotel.

**DAMAGE/MAKE DIRTY**
[C1] [T] to leave an area of dirt or damage on something
**Dictionary example:**
Make sure you don’t mark the paintwork while you're moving the furniture around.

**REPRESENT**
[C2] [r] to represent or show a characteristic of a person or thing or feeling

**Dictionary examples:**
The band’s songs have always been marked by controversial lyrics.
The signing of the treaty marked a major milestone on the road to European union.

**Learner example:**
These books, most of which are very scientific, marked the beginning of a new era of enlight[en]ment and technology.

---

**market**  /ˈmɑː.kɪt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** market, marketing

**NOUN [C]**

**BUYING GROUP**
[C1] all the people who want to buy a particular product, or the area where they live

**Dictionary examples:**
Is there a market for second-hand jewellery?
Spain is our largest market.
They've increased their share of the market by 10% over the past year.

**Learner example:**
We had been researching the market for a year.

**the labour market**
[C1] the number of people who are available and willing to work

**Dictionary example:**
More women have entered the labour market in recent years.

**Learner example:**
WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE best suits [the] situation of a young Pole entering the labour market.

**BUSINESS**
[C2] the buying and selling of something

**Dictionary example:**
the insurance/personal computer market

**Learner example:**
Usually the enumeration of problems includes facts such as the difficulties that are caused in countries which run state-administered pension schemes, distortions in the age structure of developed countries, problems [with] the housing market, and so on.
a gap in the market
[C2] an opportunity for a product or service that does not already exist

Dictionary example:
There's a gap in the market for a good fish shop.

Learner example:
I had nearly finished my study and had an idea to start a small software company, filling a gap in the market that was overlooked by the larger I.T. companies.

marketing /ˈmɑː.kɪ.tɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: market, marketing

NOUN [u]
[B2] work that involves encouraging people to buy a product or service

Dictionary example:
a career in marketing/sales and marketing

Learner example:
I am studying marketing now so I will be available at the end of April.

martial art /ˌmɑː.ʃəlˈɑːt/

NOUN [c]
[B2] one of the traditional Japanese or Chinese skills of fighting, done as sports in many countries, for example karate or kung fu

Dictionary example:
Kuk Sool Won is a martial art from Korea.

Learner example:
I often practise martial arts on one of its grass[y] areas.

masculine /ˈmæs.kjʊ.lɪn/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] having qualities that are typical of men

Dictionary example:
a masculine appearance/voice
Learner example:
Life, nowadays is so hard for women: they have to cope with so many things every day, from their children to their job, not to mention housework, and the result [of] that is that women are more and more stressed, "masculine" I dare to say, and less and less "feminine".

mask /mɑːsk/  
NOUN [c]  
[B2] a covering for the face which protects, hides or decorates the person wearing it  
Dictionary examples:  
a gas mask  
a surgical mask  
The bank robbers wore masks throughout the raid.  
Learner example:  
Suddenly five men with masks jump[ed] from nowhere into the bank and started to threat[en] us with their guns.

mass /mæs/  
Word family:  
Nouns: mass  
Adjectives: massive, mass  
NOUN  
a mass of sth  
[B2] a large number or amount of something  
Dictionary examples:  
He always has a mass of books and papers on his desk.  
The forest is a mass of colour in autumn.  
She had a mass of blond curls.  
Learner example:  
But people are bewildered because of [a] mass of information.  

masses  
[B2] INFORMAL a lot  
Dictionary example:  
I've got masses of work to do.  
Learner example:  
Modern society [is] replacing the eliminated problems by masses of new ones.
ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

[C1] having an effect on or involving a large number of people

Dictionary examples:
They hope the new movie will appeal to a mass audience.
weapons of mass destruction
Opposition groups plan to stage mass demonstrations all over the country.

Learner example:
Television was a major step forward in the media world which combined the best of all the major mechanisms of mass communication.

massacre /ˈmæs.ə.kər/  

NOUN [C]

[C2] the killing of a lot of people

Dictionary example:
He ordered the massacre of over 2,000 women and children.

Learner example:
It was mostly used for military purposes, thus provoking huge disasters and massacres.

massive /ˈmæs.iv/  

Word family:
Nouns: mass
Adjectives: massive, mass

ADJECTIVE

[B2] very large in size, amount or number

Dictionary examples:
They’ve got a massive house.
She died after taking a massive overdose of drugs.
If the drought continues, deaths will occur on a massive scale.

Learner example:
Sea pollution can be reduced if [people] take more care [with] oil tankers, to reduce massive oil spills.
**master** /ˈmaː.stər/  
**Noun [C]**  
**IN CHARGE**  
[B2] a man who is in charge of a servant or a dog  
**Dictionary example:**  
With careful training, a dog will obey its master completely.  
**Learner example:**  
We must [remember] that we are masters of the car not the servants of the car.  

**Master's (degree)**  
[C1] a higher university qualification  
**Dictionary example:**  
to study for a Master's degree  
**Learner example:**  
I have recently done [a] Master's Degree in International Business and of course used my laptop.  

**skilled person**  
[C2] someone who does something very well  
**Dictionary example:**  
He was a master of disguise.  
**Learner example:**  
Haydede had always been a master of the art of disguise and had a black belt in Tae Kwon Do; so the mission seemed quite easy.  

**masterpiece** /ˈmaː.stə.piːs/  
**Noun [C]**  
[C2] a painting, book, or film that is generally considered to be of excellent quality  
**Dictionary example:**  
'Mona Lisa' is widely regarded as Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece.  
**Learner example:**  
My choice was Chinua Achebe's masterpiece "Things fall apart".
mat /mæt/

NOUN [c]
[C1] a piece of thick material that you put on the floor, often in order to protect it

Dictionary example:
There's a mat by the door for you to wipe your feet on.

Learner example:
Last but not least, many Japanese style hotels and restaurants now have square holes in tatami (straw mat) rooms so that foreign visitors can comfortably stretch their legs under the low table without having to be seated on folded legs like Zen monks!

match /mætʃ/

NOUN

STICK
[B2] [c] a thin, wooden stick which produces a flame when you rub one end of it against a rough surface

Dictionary example:
a box of matches

Learner example:
Finally I took all my courage and lit a match.

SUITABLE
[C2] [no plural] something which is similar to or combines well with something else

Dictionary example:
The curtains look great – they're a perfect match for the sofa.

Learner example:
Marine science would be a perfect match for people keen on natural sciences.

be no match for sb/sth
[C2] to not be as good as someone or something else

Dictionary example:
Gibson ran well but was no match for the young Italian.

Learner example:
This exhibition was specially striking because almost all the prints were from the very first series [of] vintage prints, in addition [to] being rare [and] also highly valued by collectors, even though their prices are no match for the Picasso.
strike a match
[C2] to light a match in order to produce fire

Dictionary example:
I struck a match and lit the candle.

Learner example:
Their instant reaction was to park the car, put their raincoats on, get out and strike a few useless matches: they were their last light resour[c]e apart from the lightning in the sky and the weak [head]lights.

VERB

BE AS GOOD AS
[C1] [r] to be as good as someone or something else

Dictionary example:
It would be difficult to match the service this airline gives to its customers.

Learner example:
In all these ways that your establishment failed to match the claims made for it in your publicity, we feel entitled to a full refund and I therefore urge you to improve the facilities of your museum or withdraw the advertisement to avoid further complaints.

material /ˈmaːtrəri.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: material, materialism, materialist
Adjectives: materialist, materialistic

NOUN

PHYSICAL SUBSTANCE
[B2] [c or u] a physical substance that has a particular quality or is used for a particular purpose

Dictionary examples:
building materials, such as stone
Crude oil is used as the raw material for making plastics.

Learner example:
In addition, some waste materials are carried to the incinerator where they are burnt completely at very high temperatures.

INFORMATION
[C1] [u] the facts or ideas in a piece of writing

Dictionary example:
I'm collecting material for an article that I'm writing.
Learner example:
They are mainly interested in gathering material and data.

**materialism** /məˈtrɪ.əl.ɪ.zəm/

Word family:
**Nouns:** material, *materialism*, *materialist*
**Adjectives:** *materialist*, *materialistic*

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the belief that having money and possessions is the most important thing in life

**Dictionary example:**
She was saddened by the materialism of our society.

**Learner example:**
This phenomenon, called materialism, characterizes our society.

**materialist** /məˈtrɪ.ə.lɪ.st/

Word family:
**Nouns:** material, *materialism*, *materialist*
**Adjectives:** *materialist*, *materialistic*

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a person who thinks that having money and possessions is the most important thing in life

**Dictionary example:**
We are bringing up our children to be materialists.

**Learner example:**
Firstly, I would say that I am not a materialist but some things have a great value [in] my eyes and pictures are one of those things.

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] believing that having money and possessions is the most important thing in life

**Dictionary example:**
We live in a materialist society.

**Learner example:**
To be able to understand their labour we must separate ourselves from the materialist world we are living in.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>materialistic</strong></td>
<td>/məˌtrɪə.ri.əˈlɪs.trɪk/</td>
<td>ADJECTIVE [C2] believing that having money and possessions is the most important thing in life</td>
<td>a materialistic society&lt;br&gt;When parents put instead of their presence, presents, aren’t we replacing love with materialism, where the children in turn become materialistic rather than loving?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>mathematical</strong></td>
<td>/ˌmæθ.əˈmæt.ɪkəl/</td>
<td>ADJECTIVE [B2] relating to mathematics</td>
<td>Furthermore, he studied the human body and invented mathematical formulas to describe his findings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>matter</strong></td>
<td>/ˈmæt.ə/</td>
<td>NOUN [B2] [c] a subject or situation that you need to think about, discuss, or deal with</td>
<td>Could I talk to you about a personal matter?&lt;br&gt;Alois denied any knowledge of the matter.&lt;br&gt;Will you phone me back – it’s a matter of some importance.&lt;br&gt;Talking about the world's problems is one thing, but solving them is another matter altogether.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learner example:
On another matter, I'd like to tell your parents that they don't need to get me any present, but if they insist I'd like you to pick me a novel.

to make matters worse
[B2] to make a situation more difficult, unpleasant, etc.

Dictionary example:
To make matters worse, our car broke down!

Learner example:
To make matters worse, the newspaper said they only played for thirty-five minutes.

as a matter of fact
[B2] used to emphasize that something is true, especially when it is surprising

Dictionary example:
As a matter of fact, I used to live next door to him.

Learner example:
As a matter of fact I didn’t enjoy Nice much.

no matter how/what/when, etc.
[B2] used to emphasize that something cannot be changed

Dictionary example:
I never manage to lose any weight, no matter how hard I try.

Learner example:
No matter where you are [or] what you do, apparently you need electricity.

a matter of course
[C1] If something happens as a matter of course, it always happens as part of the normal process or system.

Dictionary example:
Babies were tested for the disease as a matter of course.

Learner example:
The transformation has succeeded so far and caused enormous changes in ordinary life as a matter of course, including eating habits.

it’s only a matter of time
[C1] If you say that it is only a matter of time before something happens, you are sure it will happen but you do not know when.

Dictionary example:
It’s only a matter of time before someone gets killed on this road.

Learner example:
In my opinion it is only a matter of time before it is decided to [put] an end to this country being a kingdom.
be no laughing matter
[C2] If a subject is no laughing matter, it is serious and not something that people should joke about.

Dictionary example:
This weather is no laughing matter.

Learner example:
Anna and Tom knew this was no laughing matter.

a matter of confidence/luck/waiting, etc.
[C2] If something is a matter of confidence/luck/waiting, etc., that is what you need for it to happen.

Dictionary example:
Learning languages is just a matter of hard work.

Learner example:
His success wasn't a matter of luck, it was a matter of knowing [his] aims in life and being very persist[ent], too.

TYPE OF THING
[C2] [u] a particular type of substance or thing

Dictionary examples:
vegetable matter
printed matter

Learner example:
As compared to audio-visual aids, books have the advantage of causing less strain to the eyes and mind as printed matter is easier to read than reading from a screen.

a matter of life and/or death
[C2] a serious situation where people could die

Dictionary example:
Getting water to these people is a matter of life and death.

Learner example:
I told him it was a matter of life and death.

a matter of days/weeks/feet etc.
[C2] used in expressions describing how small an amount or period of time is

Dictionary example:
The aircraft missed each other by a matter of feet.

Learner example:
I decided to relax – knowing a little bit about boats myself I was sure there was a radio [on board] so it would be only a matter of hours before someone would come to rescue us, wouldn't it?
**mature /məˈtjuər/**

Word family:
Adjectives: mature, immature

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] Mature people behave like adults in a way that shows they are well developed emotionally.

**Dictionary example:**
She seems very mature for thirteen.

**Learner example:**
Every time I thought of it before entering college, I expected to find intelligent, kind, [and] mature people, [though] of course, some rude, mean and stupid people as well.

**maximize /ˈmæk.sɪm.aɪz/**

Word family:
Nouns: maximum
Verbs: maximize
Adjectives: maximum

**VERB [T]** *(also UK maximise)*

[C2] to increase something as much as you can

**Dictionary example:**
to maximize profits

**Learner example:**
I can assure you that I would make every possible effort to maximize the outcome of this project.

**may /meɪ/**

**MODAL VERB**

**may have**

[B2] used to talk about things that possibly happened in the past or might possibly have happened by a certain time in the future

**Dictionary examples:**
The explosion may have been caused by a faulty electrical connection.
That may not have been Mike's brother you met – I think his cousin is staying with him at the moment.
Helen may have already left by the time you arrive.
Learner example:
Besides, your report is full of mistakes, so it seem[s] to me that you may not have been well informed.

**may as well**
[B2] used to suggest doing something, often when there is nothing better to do

**Dictionary examples:**
We may as well start the meeting – the others will be here soon.
If the shops are closed, we may as well go home.

**may as well do sth**
[C1] If you may as well do something, it will not spoil the situation if you do that thing.

**Dictionary example:**
If we're not waiting for Karen, we might as well go now.

**Learner example:**
She turned round quickly, and then paused, seemingly unable to find her words. A few minutes later, she began hesitantly: "After all, you may as well know.

**mayor** /meər/

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] the person who is elected to be the leader of the group that governs a town or city

**Dictionary example:**
the mayor of Coventry

**Learner example:**
As I am sure you know, my name is Jane Brown, and I am the mayor's secretary.

**me** /miː/

**PRONOUN**

**take it from me**
[C1] accept that what I say is true, because I know or have experienced it

**Dictionary example:**
You could be doing a much less interesting job, take it from me.

**Learner example:**
As you pro[b]ably already know, Greeks love sport so, take it from me, you won't have difficulty in finding sports facilities of any kind, wherever you decide to go.
**mean**  /miːn/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** meaning
**Verbs:** mean
**Adjectives:** meaningful

**VERB [T] (meant, meant)**

**be meant for sb/sth**
[C1] to be made or created for someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
These toys are really meant for babies.

**Learner example:**
Cities are meant for human activities and not for heavy traffic.

**be meant to do sth**
[C2] If you are meant to do something, that is what you should do in order to behave correctly.

**Dictionary examples:**
You’re meant to shake the bottle first.
He’s not meant to drive any more.

**Learner example:**
She knew he was meant to be home playing his guitar.

**be meant to do sth**
[C2] If something is meant to do something, that is its purpose.

**Dictionary example:**
The belt is meant to hold you in.

**Learner example:**
Although labels are meant to help the customer identify what the particular product contains, more often than not too many Latin expressions can be found on the label.

**mean well**
[C2] to intend to behave in a kind way

**Dictionary example:**
I know my parents mean well, but I wish they wouldn't interfere.

**Learner example:**
Although these fans might mean well, in many cases they do not appear to realise that their 'heroes' perhaps would like to be left alone.
ADJECTIVE

NOT GENEROUS
[B2] A mean person does not like spending money, especially on other people.

Dictionary examples:
He's too mean to buy her a ring.
My landlord's very mean with the heating – it's only on for two hours each day.

Learner example:
She was so mean that she got divorced because she didn't want to share her money with anybody else, although she loved her husband very much.

NOT KIND
[B2] unkind or unpleasant

Dictionary examples:
Stop being so mean to me!
She just said it to be mean.

Learner example:
On the other hand people, when driving a car, can be very mean and wicked, and they sure don't have a bit of respect for the next man.

AVERAGE
[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] In maths, a mean number is an average number.

Dictionary example:
Their mean age at death was 84.6.

Learner example:
Better living conditions and significant advances in medicine have greatly contributed to an increase in the mean age of death and a decrease in deaths at birth.

be no mean feat
[C2] used when you want to emphasize that an act or achievement is very difficult

Dictionary example:
Learning to ski at 60 is no mean feat!

Learner example:
There was an interesting discussion about whether it was harder or easier for them to enter the world of cinema, given their famous names. Both said that it was no mean feat because people were more demanding as [to] their abilities.
meaning /ˈmiː.nɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: meaning
Verbs: mean
Adjectives: meaningful

NOUN

PURPOSE
[B2] [U NO PLURAL] purpose or emotional importance

Dictionary examples:
She felt that her life had no meaning.
The birth of her first grandchild gave new meaning to her life.
the meaning of life

Learner example:
We can give meaning [to] our lives, with everyday little things.

meaningful /ˈmiː.nɪŋ.fʊl/

Word family:
Nouns: meaning
Verbs: mean
Adjectives: meaningful

ADJECTIVE

USEFUL
[B2] useful, serious, or important

Dictionary example:
a meaningful discussion

Learner example:
First of all, I think this camp could be very meaningful for children, to be close to nature and to understand Japan.

WITH MEANING
[B2] having a clear meaning which people can understand

Dictionary example:
The information needs to be presented in a meaningful way.

Learner example:
The music is really amazing and the lyrics are so meaningful.
means /miːnz/

NOUN [PLURAL]

METHOD
[B2] a method or way of doing something

Dictionary examples:
They had no means of communication.
We need to find some other means of transport.
The family had no means of support.

Learner example:
Main transport services 1. The buses This is the cheapest means of transport but I [would] not recommend it.

by no means; not by any means
[C1] used as a way of emphasizing something negative or difficult

Dictionary examples:
I'm not an expert by any means.
This is by no means the end of the matter.

Learner example:
For one thing, the fight against air pollution is by no means an easy mission.

by means of
[C1] using

Dictionary example:
She tried to explain by means of sign language.

Learner example:
Another plus of the Voiceover CD is [the] availability of teachers, who can be easily reached by means of a telephone, but this kind of service is expensive.

by all means
[C2] something that you say when you are agreeing to let someone do something

Dictionary example:
I have a copy of the report on my desk. By all means have a look at it.

Learner example:
The kitchen utensils stay next to the sink. You can make use of them by all means.

a means to an end
[C2] something that you do because it will help you to achieve something else

Dictionary example:
I didn't particularly like the job – it was just a means to an end.
Learner example:
Major international sports competitions can either be understood as a means to an end or an end in their own right.

**MONEY**

[C2] money

**Dictionary example:**
We don't have the means to buy the house.

Learner example:
She lived alone in a flat with a rent that she couldn't have afforded if she had not had private means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>meantime</th>
<th>ˈmiːn.taim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOUN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In the meantime**

[B2] in the time between two things happening, or while something else is happening

**Dictionary example:**
Your computer won't be arriving till Thursday. In the meantime, you can use Jude's.

Learner example:
In the meantime, I decided to buy a new bicycle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>measure</th>
<th>ˈmeʒ.ər</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VERB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIND SIZE**

[B2] [ɪ] to discover the exact size or amount of something, or to be of a particular size

**Dictionary examples:**
"Will the table fit in here?" "I don't know – let's measure it."
He measured the flour into the bowl.
This machine measures your heart rate.
The area, measuring 5 miles by 3 miles, has been purchased by the army.
Learner example:
I measured how long they played [for], because I was one of the group's fans.

**BE SIZE**

[C1] to be a certain size

**Dictionary example:**
a whale measuring around 60 feet in length.

**Learner example:**
Both [are] of navy-blue col[ou]r measuring about 32 cm high and 14 cm wide and both have a white ribbon attached to the handle.

**JUDGE**

[C2] [r] to judge the quality, effect, importance, or value of something

**Dictionary examples:**
We will soon be able to measure the results of these policy changes.
They measured the performance of three different engines.

**Learner example:**
The paramet[er]s for measuring success would be vastly different depending on which walk of life is being described, so in the following, the definition of success has been narrowed down to a specific domain: the international computer industry.

**NOUN**

**METHOD**

[B2] [c] a way of achieving something or dealing with a situation

**Dictionary examples:**
These measures were designed to improve car safety.
We must take preventative measures to stop the spread of the disease.
This arrangement is only a temporary measure.
security measures

**Learner example:**
There are a lot of measures that we have taken in [the] last three years.

**a measure of sth**

[C2] a way of judging something

**Dictionary example:**
Ticket sales are not necessarily a measure of the show's popularity.

**Learner example:**
So, these two experiences from my childhood taught me a lot of real truth about life and since that time they have been serving me as a measure of my affection or attachment, sorrow or disappointment.

**AMOUNT**

[C2] [c or u] FORMAL amount
Dictionary examples:
Bulletproof vests give some measure of protection.
His success was in some measure due to his being in the right place at the right time.

measurement  /ˈmeʒ.ə.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: measurement
Verbs: measure

NOUN

SIZE
[B2] [C OFTEN PLURAL] the exact size, shape, degree or strength of something which you discover by measuring it

Dictionary examples:
The measurements of both rooms were identical.
They've taken measurements of air quality around the bus station.

Learner example:
We sat day and night to document the results of our measurements of polluted ground all over Sweden.

PROCESS
[C2] [u] the process of measuring something, or a way of measuring something

Dictionary examples:
SI units are the standard units of measurement used all over the world.
The test is based on the measurement of blood levels.

Learner example:
The measurement of a child by academic achievement at school is in my opinion very important as the future of a society or even more of a country depends on the high [shared] knowledge of the people.

mechanical  /məˈkæn.ɪk/
Dictionary examples:
a mechanical device
a mechanical engineer
The plane appears to have crashed because of a mechanical problem.

Learner example:
First of all, the car had a mechanical defect and I needed to stay almost five hours in an old and dirty garage, waiting [for] the car to be fixed.

BEHAVIOUR

[C2] If you do something in a mechanical way, you do it without emotion or without thinking about it.

Dictionary example:
a mechanical performance

Learner example:
We end up doing our things in such a mechanical way that the actual spirit of doing dies in us.

mechanism /ˈmek.ə.nɪz.əm/

Word family:
Nouns: mechanic, mechanism
Adjectives: mechanical

NOUN [C]

PART OF EQUIPMENT

[C1] a part of a piece of equipment that does a particular job

Dictionary example:
The clock’s winding mechanism had broken.

Learner example:
Most chairs' adjusting mechanism failed to work properly and they are not comfortable to sit on.

SYSTEM

[C1] a system for achieving something, or the way that a system works

Dictionary example:
We need a mechanism for resolving this sort of dispute.

Learner example:
The definition of market here not only means a traditional marketplace for goods exchange and barter, but it extends further to a supply–sell mechanism which domina[te]s the normal liv[es] of all [in]habitants.
**medal** /ˈmed.əl/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a metal disc given as a prize in a competition or given to someone who has been very brave

**Dictionary examples:**
- an **Olympic** medal
- She **won** three gold medals.
- He was **awarded** a medal **for** bravery.

**Learner example:**
- [T]hey can also take part in sport[s] competitions and win a medal.

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**media** /ˈmiː.di.ə/

**NOUN [+] SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB**

**the media**

[B2] newspapers, magazines, radio and television considered as a group

**Dictionary examples:**
- the **local/national** media
- media **attention/coverage/hype/reports**
- The issue has been much discussed **in** the media.

**Learner example:**
- All things considered, I don’t want the media to reveal their private life.

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**medical** /ˈmed.ɪ.kəl/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** medicine, medication

**Adjectives:** medical

**Adverbs:** medically

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] relating to medicine and different ways of curing illness

**Dictionary examples:**
- medical **advice**
- medical **treatment**
- a medical **student**
- a medical team
- She has a medical **condition** that makes it hard for her to work.
Learner example:
With the help of medical technology doctors can cure more and more patients and do many kinds of operations.

**medically** /ˈmed.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: medicine, medication
Adjectives: medical
Adverbs: medically

ADVERB
[C2] in a way that is connected to medicine or to someone's health

Dictionary example:
The doctor declared her medically fit.

Learner example:
This does seem wise, as there is no 'medically proven' diet or nutrition program that might help everyone to achieve a state of health that they would be completely happy about.

**medication** /ˌmed.ɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: medicine, medication
Adjectives: medical
Adverbs: medically

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] medicine that is used to treat an illness

Dictionary example:
He's on medication to control his depression.

Learner example:
He had to put up with unbelievably painful treatments and was forced to take medication which prevented him from continuing his research.

**medieval (also mediaeval)** /ˌmed.iˈviːl/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to the period in Europe between about AD 500 and AD 1500
Dictionary examples:
a medieval building/painting/town
a medieval manuscript

Learner example:
On our way around the lake we would have [the opportunity] of visiting a huge medieval castle which is said to be haunted.

mediocre /ˌmiː.diˈəʊ.kər/  
Word family:  
Nouns: mediocrity  
Adjectives: mediocre

ADJECTIVE  
[C2] not good in quality  

Dictionary example:  
The acting was mediocre.

Learner example:  
In Hungary, the sports facilities provided are quite mediocre.

mediocrity /ˌmiː.diˈɒk.rə.ti/  
Word family:  
Nouns: mediocrity  
Adjectives: mediocre

NOUN [u]  
[C2] the state of being mediocre

Dictionary example:  
I was shocked by the mediocrity of these students.

Learner example:  
She is a model of mediocrity and shallowness, and in this sense, she epitomise[s] what authorities expect people to be: just ghosts.

medium /ˈmiː.di.əm/  
NOUN  
[C2] a way of communicating or expressing something

1443
Dictionary examples:
the medium of television/radio
the print medium
The Internet has become yet another medium for marketing.

Learner example:
As with any other medium of communication or entertainment, nothing is totally good or bad provided it is done in moderation.

meet /miːt/

Word family:
Nouns: meeting
Verbs: meet

VERB (met, met)

ENOUGH
[C1] [ɪ] to be a big enough amount or of a good enough quality for something

Dictionary examples:
We couldn't find a house that met our needs/requirements.
This old building will never meet the new fire regulations.

Learner example:
Finally, as regards the Internet centre only two computers were available, which did not meet the needs of a Museum like this.

make ends meet
[C1] to have just enough money to pay for the things that you need

Dictionary example:
I've taken a second job in the evenings just to make ends meet.

Learner example:
Most students support themselves and barely make ends meet every month.

ACHIEVE
[C2] [ʌ] to be able to achieve something

Dictionary examples:
He met every goal he set for himself.
I've got a deadline to meet.
Do you think we will be able to meet our target?

Learner example:
All the while under-resourcing of the school system has progressed in a way that social education has largely fallen by the wayside and schools are struggling to meet government targets that are aimed at instilling more “important” knowledge into our children like maths and chemistry.
melody /ˈmel.ə.di/

NOUN [C]
[C2] a song or tune

Dictionary example:
He played a beautiful melody.

Learner example:
From his harp, violin, flute, trumpet and many more instruments sprang such a wonderful, enchanting melody that the whole city flourished, thrilled and cheered under its influence.

melt /melt/

VERB [I or T]
[B2] If something melts, it changes from a solid into a liquid because of heat and if you melt something, you heat it until it becomes liquid.

Dictionary examples:
The snow usually melts by mid March.
Melt the chocolate slowly so that it doesn’t burn.
melted cheese

Learner example:
Walking out of the station he saw her! Tall, blond and with eyes that could melt ice.

membership /ˈmem.bə.ʃɪp/

Word family:
Nouns: member, membership

NOUN

PEOPLE
[C1] [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB OR U] the people who belong to a group or an organization

Dictionary example:
Union membership is now over three million and rising.

Learner example:
First of all, we found that our club’s membership is actually falling.
**memo /ˈmem.əʊ/**

**NOUN [C] (PLURAL memos)**

[C1] a written message sent from one member of an organization to another

**Dictionary example:**
Did you see the memo about expenses?

**Learner example:**
Dear College Principal, The student committee has received your memo about the proposed changes to the Sports Centre.

---

**memorable /ˈmem.ərə.bl/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** memory, memorial

**Adjectives:** memorable

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] If an occasion is memorable, you will remember it for a long time because it is so good.

**Dictionary examples:**
a memorable performance
a memorable evening

**Learner example:**
It was a memorable birthday party because they bought me a bass guitar that I couldn't buy because of its high price.

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**memorial /məˈmoː.ri.əl/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** memory, memorial

**Adjectives:** memorable

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] an object, often made of stone, that is built to help people remember an important person or event

**Dictionary examples:**
a war memorial
The statue was erected as a memorial to those who died in the war.
Learner example:
Every year almost all [the] inhabitants of our suburb gather at the memorial and celebrate this anniversary.

memory /ˈmem.r.i/

Word family:
Nouns: memory, memorial
Adjectives: memorable

NOUN

MIND
[C2] [c or u] the part of your mind that stores what you remember

Dictionary example:
He recited the poem from memory.

in memory of sb
[C2] If you do something in memory of a dead person, you do it to show your respect or love for them.

Dictionary example:
They built a statue in memory of those who died in the fire.

Learner example:
You see, every year our family performs a certain gathering in memory of my brother who was killed in a plane crash in 1991 known as the C130 disaster.

a stroll/trip/walk down memory lane
[C2] an occasion when you remember some of the good things you did in the past

Dictionary example:
We were just taking a walk down memory lane and recalling our youth.

Learner example:
I want to return there, without the kids, even without my husband, to have a long stroll down memory lane.

mental /ˈmen.təl/

Word family:
Nouns: mentality
Adjectives: mental
Adverbs: mentally

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] relating to the mind, or involving the process of thinking
Dictionary examples:
mental health/illness
She had a mental picture of how the house would look when they finished decorating it.

Learner example:
His theories have changed our attitude towards mental illness (and mental health) completely.

mentality /menˈtæl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: mentality
Adjectives: mental
Adverbs: mentally

NOUN [C]
[C1] a person’s opinions or way of thinking

Dictionary example:
I can’t understand the mentality of people who hunt animals for fun.

Learner example:
This is why the changing mentality of men plays an important role.

mentally /ˈmen.təli/

Word family:
Nouns: mentality
Adjectives: mental
Adverbs: mentally

ADVERB
[B2] connected with or related to the mind

Dictionary examples:
mentally ill
It’s going to be a tough competition but I’m mentally prepared for it.

Learner example:
Most people believe that team sport[s] help children to become healthier, both mentally and physically, but there are those who have objections to this statement.
mention /ˈmen.tʃən/

VERB [ŋ]
not to mention
[B2] used to emphasize the importance of something that you are adding to a list

Dictionary example:
The resort has great hotels and restaurants, not to mention some of the best skiing in the region.

Learner example:
It is crowded everywhere, the shop assistants are stressed, you get to wait for hours to pay for your goods, not to mention the time you must wait to get them wrapped.

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a brief remark

Dictionary examples:
When I ordered the catalogue, there was no mention of any payment.
The report made no mention of the problem.
The story didn't even get a mention in the newspaper.

Learner example:
In the advertisement there's no mention about getting any money back but I think it was such a disappointing evening that you should give it back to me.

merciful /ˈmɜː.sfəl/

Word family:
Nouns: mercy
Adjectives: merciful, merciless

ADJECTIVE
[C2] describes someone who shows kindness and forgiveness to people who are in their power

Dictionary example:
a merciful ruler

Learner example:
He would have seven children, all of them would be merciful and good rulers of rich countries.

merciless /ˈmɜː.ələs/

Word family:
Nouns: mercy
Adjectives: merciful, merciless
ADJECTIVE
[C2] cruel, or showing no kindness

Dictionary examples:
a merciless attack
She was merciless in her criticism of his work.

Learner example:
Sheila, being at least aware how deeply her merciless behaviour changed Eve's life, was the only person in the family who [was] taught [a] lesson.

mercy  /ˈmɜːsi/

Word family:
Nouns: mercy
Adjectives: merciful, merciless

NOUN

KINDNESS
[C2] [u] kindness that makes you forgive someone, usually someone that you have authority over

Dictionary examples:
The judge showed no mercy.
The prisoners begged/pleaded for mercy.

Learner example:
The doctor showed no mercy and neither would Douglas.

be at the mercy of sb/sth
[C2] to not be able to protect yourself from something or someone that you cannot control

Dictionary example:
Farmers are often at the mercy of the weather.

Learner example:
I couldn't believe I'd been careless enough to let them be at the mercy of Joanna's careless, boisterous friends, and I felt very lonely now, looking for them.

mere  /miə/
SMALL
[B2] used to emphasize that something is not large or important

**Dictionary examples:**
It cost a mere twenty dollars.
The mere thought of eating octopus makes me feel sick.

**Learner example:**
The fight was just a mere coincidence.

the merest
[C2] used to emphasize that something is small, often when it has an important effect

**Dictionary example:**
She’s upset by the merest hint of criticism.

merely /ˈmɪə.li/

Word family:
**Adjectives:** mere
**Adverbs:** merely

ADVERB

ONLY
[B2] used to emphasize that you mean exactly what you are saying and nothing more

**Dictionary examples:**
I wasn't complaining, I merely said that I was tired.
I didn't say that you had to go – I merely suggested that you might like to go.

**Learner example:**
Of course this is merely a suggestion, and if you have got anything else in mind please don't hesitate to let me know.

NOT LARGE
[C2] used to emphasize that something is not large, important, or effective when compared to something else

**Dictionary example:**
The medicine doesn't make you better, it merely stops the pain.
Learner example:
The modern way of travelling conducted by agencies [...] does not broaden the mind generally. It merely relieves the mind from the oppressions of a regular schedule at work and at home by producing a different environment.

**merge**  /mɜːdʒ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: merger  
Verbs: merge  

**VERB**  
[C2] If two or more things merge, they combine or join, and if you merge two or more things, you combine or join them.

Dictionary examples:  
The two companies merged.  
They're planning to merge the banks.  
The city's smaller libraries will be merged into a large, central one.

Learner example:  
What will happen if the biggest companies go on merging and reducing the number of their employees?

**merger**  /ˈmɜː.dʒə/  

Word family:  
Nouns: merger  
Verbs: merge  

**NOUN**  
[C2] when two or more companies or organizations join together

Dictionary example:  
The two companies announced their merger yesterday.

Learner example:  
For example, in Korea where conglomerates as well as small companies have announced their bankruptcy or are in the state of liquidation or merger, millions of people are on the verge of being laid off and unemployed.

**merit**  /ˈmer.i.t/  

**NOUN**  
[C or U] FORMAL  
[C1] good qualities which deserve praise
Dictionary examples:
His ideas have merit.
We debated the merits of using television in the classroom.
Every application has to be judged on its own merits (=judged by considering the qualities of each).

Learner example:
Nevertheless, everything has its own merits.

VERB [T] FORMAL
[C2] to be important enough to receive attention or punishment

Dictionary example:
Her crimes were serious enough to merit a prison sentence.

Learner example:
One thing which merits serious consideration is the consequences of this invasion in famous private li[ves].

mess /mes/

Word family:
Nouns: mess
Adjectives: messy

NOUN

PROBLEMS
[B2] [NO PLURAL] a situation that is full of problems

Dictionary examples:
She said that her life was a mess.
The company's finances are in a mess.
If he hadn't lied, he wouldn't be in this mess now.

Learner example:
How on earth did I get into this mess?

VERB

mess about/around PHRASAL VERB

PLAY
[C1] INFORMAL to spend time playing and doing things with no particular purpose

Dictionary examples:
I was just messing around on the computer.
She'd spent the day with friends, just messing about.
Learner example:
Well, you could do baby-sitting, but if you don't like kids messing around, don't worry, there are many other jobs.

WASTE TIME
[C1] to waste time, often by doing things that are not important

Dictionary example:
Stop messing around and do your homework!

Learner example:
Every day we are informed about young people "causing problems", "trouble" [or] "messing around".

mess up sth or mess sth up PHRASAL VERB
[B2] INFORMAL to spoil something, or to do something badly

Dictionary examples:
Don't try to cook lunch without me – you'll only mess it up.
I feel I've messed up my chances of getting the job.

Learner example:
I ignored the price and just paid because I didn't want to mess up the evening.

message /ˈmes.idʒ/

NOUN [C]
IDEA
[B2] the most important idea in a book, film or play

Dictionary examples:
The book conveys a complex message.
The film's message is that ultimately, rich and poor are alike.

Learner example:
It has a clear message: if you desire something, you can [achieve] whatever you want, but [only] with enormous effort and the danger of losing everything you possess[s].

metaphor /ˈmet.ə.for/
Learner example:
I shall use a metaphor to help me express my idea.

meticulous /məˈtrɪk.ə.ləs/ 

ADJECTIVE
[C2] very careful, and giving great attention to detail

Dictionary example:
This book is the result of meticulous research.

Learner example:
The historian members of the committee were very keen to preserve the facts as they were – and [were] therefore very meticulous – whereas the officers were rather reluctant to exhibit certain documents.

microphone /ˈmaɪ.krə.fəʊn/ 

NOUN [C]
[B2] a piece of equipment that you speak into to make your voice louder, or to record your voice or other sounds

Dictionary examples:
The interviewer asked her to speak into/use the microphone.
My laptop has a built-in microphone.

Learner example:
Then we had to plug [in] all [the] electric instruments, speakers, lights and microphones.

middle /ˈmɪd.əl/ 

NOUN

in the middle of nowhere
[B2] a long way from places where people live

Dictionary example:
His car broke down in the middle of nowhere.

Learner example:
You know I really don't want to [get] lost in the middle of nowhere.
ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

CENTRAL
[B2] in a central position

Dictionary examples:
The knives and forks are in the middle drawer.
Our company rents the middle warehouse.

Learner example:
After some minute[s] and as I was going [along] in the middle [a]ne, the car stopped.

NOT HIGH OR LOW
[C1] neither high nor low in importance, amount or size

Dictionary examples:
middle managers
middle income families

Learner example:
However, women are mostly found in the low and middle income jobs and they are often working part-time.

midnight /ˈmɪd.naɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: midnight, night

NOUN [U]

burn the midnight oil
[C2] to work late into the night

Dictionary example:
I had to burn the midnight oil to get the essay finished.

Learner example:
My examinations were nearing and I was always burning the midnight oil.

might /maɪt/

MODAL VERB

might have
[B2] used to talk about things that possibly happened in the past or could possibly have happened by some time in the future
Dictionary examples:
It might have been Alex who called.
The rain might have stopped by lunchtime.

Learner example:
First of all, you might have been thinking you have to go to a sports club or somewhere and exercise very hard to keep fit.

might as well
[B2] used to suggest doing something, often when there is nothing better to do

Dictionary examples:
We might as well walk there.
As you already know so much about the subject, you might as well skip this lecture.

Learner example:
In my opinion, you might as well ask your neighbours if they can look after your flat for one day.

you might like/want to...
[C1] used to politely suggest something

Dictionary example:
You might want to try a different approach next time.

Learner example:
You might want to consider requesting your staff to learn a second language such as German, French or Spanish.

might as well do sth
[C1] If you may/might as well do something, it will not spoil the situation if you do that thing.

Dictionary example:
If we're not waiting for Karen, we might as well go now.

Learner example:
I'm not happy to tell you this but I might as well be frank about it as we both want the visit to be a delightful as possible to our members.

mighty /ˈmaɪ.ti/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] very powerful or successful

Dictionary example:
In their next game they're playing the mighty Redskins.

Learner example:
Teotihuacan was the place that saw the rise and fall of the mighty "Nahvatlaca Tribe".
**migration** /məˈgreɪ.ʃən/

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C1] when people go to another place to live or find work, or when an animal or bird moves to another place, usually when the season changes

**Dictionary examples:**
There was a mass migration of poor farmers into the cities.
The butterflies come to Mexico during their annual migration.

**Learner example:**
There is also migration, people from little villages in the interior migrate to the coast.

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**mild** /mɑld/

**ADJECTIVE**

**FOOD**

[B2] describes food or a food flavour that is not very strong

**Dictionary example:**
a mild chilli sauce

**Learner example:**
Korean food is quite hot and usually served with rice, but Thai food is mild and sometimes a little bit sour.

**SLIGHT**

[C1] not violent, severe or extreme

**Dictionary examples:**
She can't accept even mild criticism of her work.
He has suffered a mild heart attack – nothing too serious.
a mild form of pneumonia

**Learner example:**
Music has either a strong or a mild impact (depending [on] the person) on our lives.

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**mile** /mɑl/

**NOUN [C]**

**miles**

[C1] a very long distance
Dictionary examples:
We drove for miles along dusty roads.
Her cottage is miles from the nearest village.

Learner example:
And then, when it seems as if you have walked for miles, you enter the magnificent Forum Romanum.

military /ˈmɪl.i.tri/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to the army, navy, or air force

Dictionary examples:
military action/service
military uniform
military targets/forces

Learner example:
During my military experience I worked in the kitchen, so kitchen work is quite normal for me as well.

NOUN
the military
[C1] a country's army, navy, and air force

Dictionary example:
The military has opposed any cuts in defense spending.

Learner example:
Until the 1970s, fencing was a sport restricted to the military.

millennium /ˈmɪl.ə.nɪəm/

NOUN [c (millennia)]
[C2] a period of 1000 years, often calculated from the date when Christ is thought to have been born

Dictionary example:
We had a party to celebrate the new millennium.

Learner example:
On the cusp of a new millennium, the importance of holidays in this modernized, stressful world [is] undeniable.
**million** /ˈmɪl.jən/

**millions** INFORMAL

[B2] a lot

*Dictionary example:*  
I've seen that film millions of times.

*Learner example:*  
There are millions of things you can do with a computer.

**mind** /maɪnd/

**noun** [C]

**bear/keep sb/sth in mind**  
[B2] to remember to consider someone or something that may be useful in the future

*Dictionary examples:*  
I'll keep you in mind if another job comes up.  
Bear in mind that there's a public holiday next week.

*Learner example:*  
But we should keep in mind that books improve our vocabulary and, what's more, our imagination.

**to my mind**  
[B2] used to emphasize that you are giving your own opinion

*Dictionary example:*  
To my mind, the play was rather disappointing.

*Learner example:*  
To my mind, The Picture of Dorian Gray is probably his best novel.

**cross your mind**  
[B2] If an idea crosses your mind, you think about it for a short time.

*Dictionary example:*  
It never crossed my mind that she might be married.

*Learner example:*  
The first thought that crossed his mind was to call the police immediately and that was what he actually did.
have/keep an open mind
[B2] to wait until you know all the facts before you form an opinion about something or judge someone

Dictionary example:
We're keeping an open mind about the causes of the fire.

Learner example:
To listen, to communicate, [and] to have an open mind are a way of life [nowadays].

put/set sb's mind at ease/at rest
[C1] to say something to someone to stop them worrying

Dictionary example:
I was really worried about the tests, but talking to the doctor put my mind at rest.

Learner example:
I hope my letter will put your mind at rest.

put your mind to sth
[C1] to give your full attention to something and try very hard to do it

Dictionary example:
You could win if you put your mind to it.

Learner example:
With all the technology available, the task is actually quite simple if you put your mind to it.

be in two minds
[C1] to have difficulty making a decision

Dictionary example:
I'm in two minds about accepting his offer.

Learner example:
If you are in two minds about having to share your room with someone else, there you can easily rent a studio apartment close to the college, which is situated in the centre of the city.

come to mind
[C1] If an idea comes to mind, you think of it.

Dictionary example:
I was thinking about who might be suitable for this job, and your name came to mind.

Learner example:
Positives did come from that crisis – more efficient engines, lighter vehicles and lead-free petrol are just some of the examples that come to mind.

blow your mind INFORMAL
[C2] If something blows your mind, you are very excited or surprised by it.

Dictionary example:
There was one scene in the film that really blew my mind.
Learner example:
'MOMO', written by Michael Ende, is a book that blew my mind as a child and as an adult, I have read it many times, but the last time has been a while now.

**have sth on your mind**
[C2] to think or worry about something

Dictionary example:
Jim has a lot on his mind at the moment.

**spring to mind**
[C2] If an idea springs to mind, it is the first thing you think of.

Dictionary example:
A musical event that clearly springs to mind is a Rolling Stones concert in Parken, Copenhagen, which I attended in June 1998.

**in your mind's eye**
[C2] in your imagination or memory

Dictionary example:
In my mind’s eye, she remains a little girl of six although she's actually a grown woman.

Learner example:
He sees her in his mind’s eye, running around barefoot, laughing and squealing, wading in the water and running back out, screaming, trying to get away from the breaking waves.

**speak your mind**
[C2] to say exactly what you think without worrying if it will upset anyone

Dictionary example:
She has very strong opinions and she's not afraid to speak her mind.

Learner example:
His father is even more eccentric, speaks his mind and has no manners at all.

**cast your mind back**
[C2] to try to remember

Dictionary example:
If you cast your mind back, you might recall that I never promised to go.

Learner example:
Thus, when I pick one of these stones, I cast my mind back to the specific place where I found it, the person I was, the particular moment.

**frame of mind**
[C2] the way someone feels at a particular time
Dictionary example:
She was in a much more positive frame of mind today.

Learner example:
Naturally, these are more difficult factors to cope with for older people, but it just happens to anyone if you’re not in the right frame of mind.

peace of mind  
[C2] a feeling that you do not need to worry about anything

Dictionary example:
We lock our doors and windows at night for peace of mind.

Learner example:
After all, successfully earning your living guarantees peace of mind.

presence of mind  
[C2] the ability to deal with a difficult situation quickly and effectively

Dictionary example:
She had the presence of mind to press the alarm.

Learner example:
Frank tried to hide a bag behind his back with great presence of mind.

slip your mind  
[C2] If something slips your mind, you forget about it.

Dictionary example:
I meant to tell her Nigel had phoned, but it completely slipped my mind.

Learner example:
There was something but it slipped my mind before I reached it.

VERB

mind you  
[C2] something you say before saying the opposite of what you have just said

Dictionary example:
We had a lovely holiday in France. Mind you, the weather was appalling.

Learner example:
Mind you, that can well be a reflection of someone's personality as it could be argued that it demonstrates insecurity!

mind your own business  
[C2] used to tell someone in a rude way that you do not want them to ask about something private

Dictionary example:
I wish you’d just mind your own business.
Learner example:
Despite knowing that he was only doing what he thought was best for me, I couldn't stand him, and I often told him to mind his own business.

**mine /main/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** mine, miner, mining

**NOUN [C]**

**UNDERGROUND**

[B2] an underground system of holes and passages where people dig out coal or other minerals

**Dictionary examples:**
a coal/salt/gold mine
My grandfather used to work **down the** mines.

Learner example:
It is a more or less industrial region with many co[al] mines.

**miner /ˈməɪ.nər/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** mine, miner, mining

**NOUN [C]**

[C1] someone who works in a mine

**Dictionary example:**
a coal miner

Learner example:
We are used to strikes in our country so when we heard that the miners had refused to work we did not despair.

**mingle /ˈmɪŋ.gəl/**

**VERB**

**TALK**

[C1] [I] to meet and talk to a lot of people at a party or similar event

**Dictionary example:**
The party will be a good opportunity to mingle **with** the other students.
Learner example:
If you have some time and money to spend go on holiday to an English–speaking country and try to mingle with the locals.

mix
[C2] [ɪ ʌr ɪ] to mix, or be mixed

Dictionary example:
The smell of fresh coffee mingled with cigarette smoke.

Learner example:
The chill current of approaching winter mingled with a lingering warmth of summer so that the air became fresh and alive.

miniature /ˈmɪn.ə.tʃə/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] extremely small

Dictionary example:
a miniature camera

Learner example:
Behind him [was] piled the most awkward assortment of stuff I had ever seen: a miniature Eiffel Tower, a monocycle, a letter-box, three netted cages, an accordion, and a bunch of other things whose name I couldn't even guess.

in miniature
[C2] If something is in miniature, it is a very small copy of something else.

Dictionary example:
a model of the ship in miniature

Learner example:
Thirdly a co-educational school is a society in miniature and it has many practical advantages.

minimal /ˈmɪn.ɪ.məl/

Word family:
Nouns: minimum
Verbs: minimize
Adjectives: minimum, minimal

ADJECTIVE
[C1] very small in amount
Dictionary example:
Damage to the building was minimal.

Learner example:
Bigger car parks would be built near the MRT station so that people may park their cars at the car park having to pay a minimal rate and use the train to bring them to their workplace.

**minimize** /ˈmɪn.i.mai/zed

Word family:
Nouns: minimum
Verbs: minimize
Adjectives: minimum, minimal

**VERB** [T] (ALSO UK minimise)
[C1] to make the amount of something that is unpleasant or not wanted as small as possible

Dictionary example:
Airport staff are trying to minimize the inconvenience caused to passengers.

Learner example:
Try to minimize your working time and spend more time with other people.

**mining** /ˈmaɪ.nɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: mine, miner, mining

**NOUN** [U]
[C1] the industry or activity of removing substances such as coal or metal from the ground by digging

Dictionary example:
coal/salt mining

Learner example:
My company deals mostly with the mining, processing and benefic[i]ation of magnesite ore. Most of our final products are sold abroad.

**minister** /ˈmɪn.i.stə/er

Word family:
Nouns: minister, ministry
NOUN [C]
[B2] a member of the government in Britain and many other countries who is in charge of a particular department or has an important position in it

Dictionary examples:
the foreign/health minister
the Minister of/for Education

Learner example:
He was elected minister of sports, creating some laws to help the players to be more independent.

ministry /ˈmɪn.ɪ.stri/

Word family:
Nouns: minister, ministry

NOUN [C]
[C1] a government department which is responsible for a particular subject

Dictionary examples:
the Ministry of Defence/Agriculture
a Foreign Ministry spokesman

Learner example:
According to a majority of students, it's quite economical for them to go to state schools since the Turkish Ministry of Education gives them scholarships.

minor /ˈmaɪ.nər/ 

Word family:
Nouns: minority
Adjectives: minor

ADJECTIVE
[B2] not important or serious

Dictionary examples:
a minor offence/operation
She suffered only minor injuries.
It requires a few minor adjustments.

Learner example:
Happily they were found by some hunters and escaped with minor injuries.
**minority** /ˈmɪnər.i.ti/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** minority
**Adjectives:** minor

**NOUN**

**LESS THAN HALF**

[B2] **[NO PLURAL]** less than half of a group of people or things

**Dictionary examples:**
- It's only a tiny minority of people who are causing the problem.
- Children with single parents at my school were very much in the minority.
- This section of the bookstore caters for minority interests.

**Learner example:**
- On the other hand, the minority of people who believe the opposite maybe want to see the animals and to watch their movements.

**RACE**

[C1] **[c]** a group of people whose race is different from the race of most of the people where they live

**Dictionary examples:**
- ethnic/religious minorities
- The plan was designed to help women and minorities overcome discrimination in the workplace.

**Learner example:**
- The novel reveals very clearly to the reader how minorities are exploited and scorned by society.

**mint** /ˈmɪnt/

**NOUN** **[u]**

[B2] a herb whose leaves have a strong fresh smell and taste and are used for giving flavour to food and drinks such as tea

**Dictionary example:**
- a bunch of mint

**Learner example:**
- I'd recommend his special lamb chop with mint sauce, it's just so delicious.
minute /ˈmɪn.ɪt/

NOUN [c]

(at) any minute; any minute now
[B2] very soon

Dictionary example:
Her train should be arriving any minute.

Learner example:
The evil creatures who were bound to come out of the dark would see Carla any minute now.

the last minute
[B2] the latest time possible

Dictionary example:
The concert was cancelled at the last minute.

Learner example:
Unfortunately, the next evening, one hour before the beginning of the show, we learnt that the main actors had been changed at the last minute.

the minute (that)
[C2] as soon as

Dictionary example:
I'll tell you the minute we hear any news.

Learner example:
Even when we are small babies, from the minute that we are able to understand what is happening around us, the first thing that we do is try to learn and touch everything that is close to us and get familiar with it.

ADJECTIVE /maɪˈnjuːt/

SMALL
[C2] extremely small

Dictionary example:
a minute amount/quantity

Learner example:
I see no sense in having a supermarket, an ugly and gigantic block, next to a village where the inhabitants only require a minute amount of food, since we are all self-sustaining because of our farms.

EXACT
[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] done in great detail
Dictionary example:
He explained everything in minute detail.

Learner example:
He is also a person who can pay meticulous attention to minute details.

**miracle** /ˈmɪr.ə.kl/  
**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] something that is very surprising or difficult to believe

**Dictionary examples:**
an economic miracle
Looking at the state of his car, it's a miracle (that) he wasn't killed.
I can't promise a miracle cure, but I think we can improve things.

**Learner example:**
Every single day we hear about new products, new methods, new technological miracles which have turned our daily lives [upside down].

**misbehave** /ˌmɪs.bɪˈheɪv/  
**Word family:**
**Nouns:** behaviour  
**Verbs:** behave, misbehave

**VERB [I]**  
[C1] to behave badly

**Dictionary example:**
If you misbehave, you will be punished – it's as simple as that.

**Learner example:**
Firstly, an apology is due to all nearby residents whose lives were disturbed by a few somewhat misbehaving students.

**miserable** /ˈmɪz.ər.ə.bl/  
**Word family:**
**Nouns:** misery  
**Adjectives:** miserable

**ADJECTIVE**
**UNPLEASANT**  
[B2] very unpleasant or bad, and causing someone to feel unhappy
Dictionary examples:
miserable weather
Families here are living in miserable conditions.

Learner example:
Heathcliff [always swears revenge because of] the miserable situation the other character[s] have put him in.

NOT ENOUGH
[C2] INFORMAL A miserable amount is too small to be acceptable.

Dictionary example:
She offered me a miserable £50 for my old computer.

Learner example:
We find ourselves running up and down stairs, making hundreds [of] phone calls [...] and then having a miserable 15 minutes lunch break to grab some food and re[store] our energy levels.

misery /ˈmɪz.ər.i/

Word family:
Nouns: misery
Adjectives: miserable

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] great suffering or unhappiness

Dictionary examples:
The war brought misery to millions of people.
We have witnessed the most appalling scenes of human misery.
Ten years of marriage to him have made her life a misery.

Learner example:
[A] few hours of amusement for us might mean a whole life of misery for the animals.

misfortune /ˈmɪs.foʊ.tʃu:n/

Word family:
Nouns: fortune, misfortune
Adjectives: fortunate, unfortunate
Adverbs: fortunately, unfortunately

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] bad luck, or an unlucky event

Dictionary example:
He had the misfortune to fall in love with a married woman.
Learner example:
But try not to wear black because they believe it brings bad luck and misfortune.

mishap /ˈmɪs.hæp/

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] an accident or unlucky event which usually is not serious

Dictionary examples:
They suffered a series of mishaps during the trip.
The accident was just a tragic mishap.

Learner example:
Personally speaking, I have always received courteous attention from my parents and this has helped me overcome all mishaps that may occur.

misinform /ˌmɪs.inˈfɔːm/

Word family:
Nouns: information
Verbs: inform, misinform
Adjectives: informative

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]
[C1] to give someone false information

Dictionary example:
I'm afraid you've been misinformed about your exam results.

Learner example:
From the article, I got the impression that your reporter was misinformed about certain facts which are crucial for a better [understanding] of the event.

misinterpret /ˌmɪs.inˈtɜː.prɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: interpretation, misinterpretation
Verbs: interpret, misinterpret

VERB [T]
[C2] to understand something in the wrong way

Dictionary example:
He claims his speech was deliberately misinterpreted by journalists.
Learner example:
A direct consequence of this is that adults misinterpret their intentions and object to youth's lack of respect.

**misinterpretation** /ˌmɪs.ɪnˌtɜː.prɪˈtɛr.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: interpretation, misinterpretation
Verbs: interpret, misinterpret

**NOUN [U NO PLURAL]**
[C2] when something is understood in the wrong way

*Dictionary example:*
What he said was a complete misinterpretation of my views.

*Learner example:*
In conclusion, all the advantages that TV brings must not make us believe that it is only a positive object. Its power can lead us to bad mistakes, or misinterpretation.

**mislead** /mɪsˈliːd/  

Word family:
Nouns: lead, leader, leadership
Verbs: lead, mislead
Adjectives: lead, leading, misleading

**VERB [T] (misled)**
[C1] to make someone believe something that is untrue by giving them information that is wrong or not complete

*Dictionary example:*
She claims the public was misled by the government.

*Learner example:*
As a member of the charity organisation, I was very much upset by the report, as it was totally against the fact[s], which would certainly mislead the readers.

**misleading** /mɪsˈliːd.ɪŋ/  

Word family:
Nouns: lead, leader, leadership
Verbs: lead, mislead
Adjectives: lead, leading, misleading
ADJECTIVE
[B2] making someone believe something that is untrue

Dictionary example:
misleading information/statements

Learner example:
I found it rather misleading and I would like to provide true information about the festival.

misplace /mɪsˈpleɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: place, replacement, displacement
Verbs: place, replace, displace, misplace

VERB [ɪ]
[C2] to lose something temporarily by forgetting where you have put it

Dictionary example:
I seem to have misplaced my keys.

Learner example:
It is only when these possessions are lost or stolen or simply misplaced that they are greatly missed.

miss /mɪs/

Word family:
Verbs: miss
Adjectives: missing

VERB

FAIL TO DO
[B2] [ɪ] to fail to do something at the correct time or to be too late to do something or see something or someone

Dictionary examples:
I must finish this letter or I'll miss the post.
Helen? I'm sorry, you've just missed her.

Learner example:
I have to finish or I'll miss the last post.

NOT HIT
[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] to not hit or catch something as you intended
Dictionary examples:
It should have been such an easy goal and he missed.
He threw a book at me, but it missed.
The bullet missed his heart by a couple of centimetres.

Learner example:
He aimed for the heart, and, when he was about to fire, an innocent pigeon landed on his rifle.
Paul wasn't expecting this, and his shot missed the judge.

**miss the boat**
[C2] to be too late to get what you want

Dictionary example:
I'm afraid you've missed the boat. All the concert tickets have been sold.

Learner example:
What if she never had another chance? What if she missed the boat? Overcome by the anxiety and the lack of sleep, the first thing she did in the morning was to pick up two of her best poems [and] put them in an envelope.

**NOUN**

**give sth a miss**
[C1] to not do an activity

Dictionary example:
I think I'll give aerobics a miss this evening.

Learner example:
For this reason, I don't encourage you to buy the Spanish version of these CDs. I think you should give it a miss. Kind regards

**missile** /ˈmɪs.əl/

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] an explosive weapon which can travel long distances through the air

Dictionary examples:
nuclear missiles
a missile attack

Learner example:
In the meantime dissident elements of the terrorist organization had tried to make contact with the United States intelligence organizations to warn them of possible bomb or missile attacks on their Kenyan and Tanzanian missions.
mission /ˈmɪʃ.ən/  

NOUN [c]  

PURPOSE  
[B2] someone's duty or purpose in life  

Dictionary example:  
Her mission in life was to help the poor.

Learner example:  
You think that you are "great", since you can cope with both the job and lots of other "missions" in life, education, sports and so on.

JOB  
[C2] an important job, usually travelling somewhere  

Dictionary examples:  
Our mission was to isolate the enemy by destroying all the bridges across the river.  
I'll be going on a fact-finding mission to Paris next week.

Learner example:  
Apparently somebody had tried to sabotage the mission and given them both different code words.

mist /mɪst/  

Word family:  
Nouns: mist  
Adjectives: misty  

NOUN [c or u]  
[B2] small drops of water in the air which make it difficult to see objects which are not near  

Dictionary examples:  
The early-morning mist soon lifted/cleared.  
The mountain villages seem to be permanently covered in mist.

Learner example:  
The mist was getting thicker all the time and the rain was coming down harder.

mistaken /ˈmɪstre.ken/  

Word family:  
Nouns: mistake  
Adjectives: mistaken
**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] If you are mistaken, or you have a mistaken belief, you are wrong about something.

*Dictionary example:*  
If you think you can behave like that, you are mistaken.

*Learner example:*  
First of all, you mentioned in the article that we promised 45 stalls for that day, but you are completely mistaken as we announced only 35.

---

**misty** /ˈmɪs.ti/

*Word family:*
*Nouns:* mist  
*Adjectives:* misty

---

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] If the weather is misty, there is a cloud of small drops of water in the air, which makes it difficult to see objects which are not near.

*Dictionary example:*  
a cold and misty morning

*Learner example:*  
But the evenings were a bit cold and misty.

---

**misunderstand** /mɪsˌʌn.dəˈstænd/

*Word family:*
*Nouns:* misunderstanding, understanding  
*Verbs:* misunderstand, understand  
*Adjectives:* understandable, understanding  
*Adverbs:* understandably

---

**VERB [T]**

[NOT UNDERSTAND]  
[B2] to not understand someone or something correctly

*Dictionary example:*  
He misunderstood the question completely.

*Learner example:*  
He meant that he had misunderstood the situation.
**be misunderstood**

[C2] If someone is misunderstood, other people do not understand that they have good qualities.

**Dictionary example:**
He was a genius, but misunderstood by society at the time.

**Learner example:**
He was misunderstood by the adult world, he only wanted to be away from everybody, he wanted to be all by himself.

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**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] when someone does not understand something correctly

**Dictionary example:**
There must have been a misunderstanding.

**Learner example:**
I think that there is a misunderstanding about the day that I [should] pick up the keys [from] your neighbours.

**misuse**

**Word family:**

| **Nouns:** use, user, misuse, usefulness |
| **Verbs:** use, misuse |
| **Adjectives:** useful, useless |

**VERB [T] /ˌmɪsˈjuːz/**

[C1] to use something in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose

**Dictionary example:**
He misused his position to obtain money dishonestly.

**Learner example:**
By doing this the money won’t be misused because we won’t have to build a new indoor court that will not be used at all times.
NOUN [C or U] /ˌmɪsˈjuːs/
[C1] the use of something in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose

Dictionary example:
They accused him of the misuse of power.

Learner example:
Can we disregard the consequences there may be of the misuse of the above innovations of technology?

mix /mɪks/

Word family:
Nouns: mix, mixture
Verbs: mix

VERB

MEET
[B2] [i] to meet and talk to people

Dictionary example:
She enjoys going to parties and mixing with people.

Learner example:
I like mixing with people.

mixture /ˈmɪks.tʃər/ 

Word family:
Nouns: mix, mixture
Verbs: mix

NOUN

SUBSTANCE
[B2] [C or U] a substance made of other substances that have been combined

Dictionary examples:
The mixture of flour, water and yeast is then left in a warm place for four hours.
Add milk to the mixture and stir until smooth.

STYLES/IDEAS
[B2] [NO PLURAL] when there is a combination of two or more ideas, qualities, styles, etc.
Dictionary examples:
Their house is decorated in a mixture of styles.
Their latest CD is a mixture of new and old songs.

Learner example:
The result is a very strange mixture of different styles.

moan /məʊn/

VERB [i]

COMPLAIN
[C2] to complain or speak in a way that shows you are unhappy

Dictionary example:
She's always moaning about something.

Learner example:
She had been moaning all week about her job and her difficulties with this and that, but she couldn't remember having asked even once how Simon was getting on.

SOUND
[C2] to make a low sound, especially because you are in pain

Dictionary example:
He lay on the floor moaning.

Learner example:
He moaned and groaned but he did not have any obvious signs of injuries.

mode /məʊd/

NOUN [c]
[C1] a way of doing something

Dictionary example:
a mode of transport

Learner example:
In conclusion, I think that both modes of education play a great role in educating children to be good members of society.
model /ˈmɒd.əl/

NOUN [c]

EXAMPLE

[C2] someone or something that is an example for others to copy

Dictionary examples:
Their educational system was a model for other countries.
She was a model student.

Learner example:
She is a 'model' citizen of the Fahrenheit 451 society: she doesn't ask questions, she doesn't think by herself, either.

moderate

Word family:
Nouns: moderation
Verbs: moderate
Adjectives: moderate
Adverbs: moderately

ADJECTIVE /ˈmɒd.ər.eɪt/

[C1] average in size or amount and not too much

Dictionary examples:
a moderate increase in salaries
moderate growth
Eating a moderate amount of fat is healthy.

Learner example:
A moderate increase in cinema attendance was noted until the year 1996.

VERB [T] /ˈmɒd.ər.eɪt/

LESS EXTREME

[C2] to make something less extreme

Dictionary example:
He's trying to moderate his drinking.
moderately /ˈmɒd.ər.ət.li/

Word family:
Nouns: moderation
Verbs: moderate
Adjectives: moderate
Adverbs: moderately

ADVERB
[C2] to a degree that is average but not very great

Dictionary examples:
There's very little moderately priced housing in this area.
The company remains moderately profitable, but it is not making as much money as it should.

Learner example:
Very often a moderately well–off person would take his chance and try to change his life, hopefully for [the] better.

moderation /ˌmɒd.əˈreɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: moderation
Verbs: moderate
Adjectives: moderate
Adverbs: moderately

NOUN
in moderation
[C1] If you do something in moderation, you do not do it too much.

Dictionary example:
I only drink alcohol in moderation.

Learner example:
While shopping can make one feel good and even has its positive impact on the retail economy, I think it should be done in moderation.

modest /ˈmɒd.i.st/
ADJECTIVE

NOT LARGE
[B2] not large in size or amount, or not expensive or important

Dictionary examples:
a modest amount of money
They live in a fairly modest house, considering their wealth.
There has been a modest improvement in housing conditions for the poor.
The party made modest gains in the elections, but nothing like the huge gains that were predicted.

Learner example:
Finally, I hope that my modest report will help the management of our college to achieve their aim.

NOT PROUD
[C1] If you are modest, you do not talk in a proud way about your skills or successes.

Dictionary example:
He's very modest about his achievements.

Learner example:
Earning a lot she is still very modest and does not show any signs of vanity at all.

modestly /ˈmɒd.ɪst.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: modest
Adverbs: modestly

ADVERB

BY SMALL AMOUNT
[C1] by a modest amount

Dictionary example:
At just £9, the DVD is very modestly priced.

NOT PROUDLY
[C2] in a modest way

Dictionary example:
She smiled modestly.
Learner example:
He had always been the star of their partnership, with her supporting him, reassuring him, serving him silently and modestly but in penetrating their shared curriculum he also felt his gratitude [re-emerging] towards this once loved person who had been his heart, his inspiration, the basis on which he built his life.

**modification** /ˌmod.ɪˌfrɛˈker.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: modification
Verbs: modify

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C1] a small change to something

**Dictionary example:**
We've **made** a few modifications **to** the system.

**Learner example:**
Although I am very happy with the current design of my house I may make some modifications in the future.

**modify** /ˈmɒd.ɪˌfai/

Word family:
Nouns: modification
Verbs: modify

**VERB [T]**
[C1] to change something in order to improve it

**Dictionary example:**
The plans will have to be modified to reduce costs.

**Learner example:**
To sum up, the Work Experience in Britain Programme should be modified as it was a far cry from what we had been led to expect.

**moment** /ˈməʊ.mənt/

**NOUN**

**for the moment**
[B2] If you do something for the moment, you are doing it now, but might do something different in the future.
Dictionary example:
Let’s carry on with what we agreed for the moment.

Learner example:
For the moment I am unemployed so I have plenty of time to give [you] a hand.

the moment (that)
[C2] as soon as

Dictionary example:
I'll call you the moment I hear anything.

Learner example:
I think th[ese] differences become relevant from the moment that they decide they are go[i]ng to make a fire.

on the spur of the moment
[C2] If you do something on the spur of the moment, you do it suddenly, without planning it.

Dictionary example:
On the spur of the moment we decided to go to London for the day.

Learner example:
In reality, many people buy things on the spur of the moment only to discover later that they, in fact, do not [meet] their expect[at]ions.

momentum /məˈmen.təm/

NOUN [u]
[C2] when something continues to move, increase, or develop

Dictionary examples:
The players seemed to lose momentum halfway through the game.
to gain/gather momentum

Learner example:
Mr Emerson strongly believes in social equality, and his views can be regarded as the reflection of the democratic movements gaining momentum at the beginning of our century.

monetary /ˈmʌn.ə.tri/

Word family:
Nouns: money
Adjectives: monetary

ADJECTIVE
[C2] relating to money
Dictionary examples:
monetary policy
The monetary unit of the UK is the pound.
European monetary union

Learner example:
Indeed such a country, [by] accepting tourists, [can] exchange its probably weak currency with potentially hard currencies of strong monetary value, and help its economy.

monitor /ˈmɒn.i.tər/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a screen that shows information or pictures, usually connected to a computer

Dictionary example:
I've bought a bigger monitor for my computer.

Learner example:
We know our world from TV screens and computer monitors.

VERB [T]
[C1] to watch something carefully and record your results

Dictionary examples:
to monitor progress
The new findings suggest that women ought to monitor their cholesterol levels.

Learner example:
Their life is being monitored and broadcast throughout the country, and every week the audience decide who has to leave.

monopoly /ˈmɒn.əp.əl.i/

NOUN
[C2] [c or u] when a company or organization is the only one in an area of business or activity and has complete control of it

Dictionary example:
They have a monopoly on the postal service.

Learner example:
In fact, it is quite obvious that the reason why a second supermarket is planned in our area is related to the current monopoly of the first supermarket.
### monotonous /ˈmən.ən.əs/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] If something is monotonous, it is boring because it stays the same.

**Dictionary examples:**
- a monotonous voice
- monotonous work

**Learner example:**
The voice of the speaker is monotonous and lacks any rhythm or modulation, intrinsic parts of any language without which proper acquisition of it is impossible.

### monster /ˈmont.stə/

**NOUN [C]**

**PERSON**

[C2] a cruel and frightening person

**Dictionary example:**
You’d have to be a monster to hit a child like that.

**Learner example:**
In her opinion he was a monster without any human feelings.

### monument /ˈmɒn.ju.mənt/

**NOUN [C]**

**STRUCTURE**

[B2] a structure that is built to make people remember an event in history or a famous person

**Dictionary example:**
In the square in front of the hotel stands a monument to all the people killed in the war.

**Learner example:**
First I went to see the Larienki Park and admired the beautiful monument to the greatest Polish composer – Chopin.
**mood /muːd/**

**NOUN [C or u]**

**be in a mood**

[B2] to not be friendly to other people because you are feeling angry

**Dictionary example:**
Ignore him – he's in a mood.

**Learner example:**
I didn't mind the rain, actually I prefer rain when I am in a mood like that.

**be in the mood for sth/to do sth**

[C2] to want to do or have something

**Dictionary example:**
I'm not really in the mood for shopping at the moment.

**Learner example:**
Should you be in the mood for a walk around the lake then go for it.

**moon /muːn/**

**NOUN**

**be over the moon** INFORMAL

[B2] to be very pleased about something

**Dictionary example:**
She was over the moon about her results.

**Learner example:**
It's very kind of you to let me use things in your flat. I'm over the moon!

**moonlight /ˈmuːn.laɪt/**

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] light that comes from the moon

**Dictionary example:**
In the moonlight, she looked even more beautiful.

**Learner example:**
The floor was dark, [and] the moonlight which came through the window gave the only light.
moral  /ˈmɒr.əl/

Word family:
Adjectives: immoral, moral
Adverbs: morally

ADJECTIVE

BELIEFS
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] relating to beliefs about what is right or wrong

Dictionary examples:
moral standards/values
a moral issue
She condemned the proposed law on moral grounds.

Learner example:
Ad[d]itionally team sport gives children a strong chara[c]ter and it contributes to the [develop]ment of ethical values and moral principles that makes them fair athletes and pe[ople].

GOOD BEHAVIOUR
[C1] behaving in ways considered by most people to be correct and honest

Dictionary example:
She's a very moral woman.

Learner example:
He couldn't tolerate anybody disturbing childrens' lives for the sake of money, because he was a very moral man.

NOUN

morals
[C2] standards for good behaviour

Dictionary example:
He has no morals.

Learner example:
Without limits, without morals, a child cannot build his own personality.

morale  /məˈrɑːl/

NOUN [u]
[C2] the amount of confidence or hope for the future that people feel

Dictionary example:
The pay increase should help to improve staff morale.
**Learner example:**
Recent events have caused the morale of the troops to disintegrate completely.

### morally /ˈmɒr.l.i/

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** immoral, moral
- **Adverbs:** morally

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a moral way

**Dictionary example:**
morally wrong/unacceptable

**Learner example:**
Doesn't it seem morally wrong? Animals need their space and natural surroundings to survive.

### more /mɔːr/  

**DETERMINER; PRONOUN**

**more and more**

[B2] an increasing number

**Dictionary example:**
More and more people are choosing not to buy a car.

**Learner example:**
More and more youngsters have problems with reading and writing.

**ADVERB**

**more or less**

[B2] almost or approximately

**Dictionary examples:**
We've more or less finished work on the house.
He more or less admitted he'd done it.
The new window will cost £500 more or less.

**Learner example:**
I will [now] give you some information, so that you know more or less what you can expect.

**more and more**

[B2] more as time passes
**Dictionary example:**
It's becoming more and more expensive to buy property in the city.

**Learner example:**
Cycling is getting more and more popular in Poland.

**moreover /ˌmɔːˈrəʊ.və/**

**ADVERB** **FORMAL**
[B2] also and more importantly

**Dictionary examples:**
The whole report is badly written. Moreover, it's inaccurate. It is a cheap and, moreover, effective way of dealing with the problem.

**Learner example:**
Because it is a well-known hotel it should be easy to find it. Moreover, it is really well-located, so it will allow you to move around the city without any problem.

**mortality /moːˈtæl.ə.ti/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: mortality
Adjectives: immortal

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] the number of deaths at a particular time or in a particular place

**Dictionary examples:**
infant mortality
the mortality rate

**Learner example:**
In addition, these countries often have a high birth-rate in combination with a high mortality rate.

**most /məʊst/**

**Word family:**
Adverbs: most, mostly

**ADVERB**
for the most part
[C1] mostly or usually
Dictionary example:
I enjoyed it for the most part.

Learner example:
First of all, for the most part, people have to use computers in their jobs.

**PRONOUN**

**MORE**

[B2] more than anyone or anything else

Dictionary examples:
Everyone was generous but Lizzie gave the most.
This one costs the most.

**make the most of sth**

[B2] to take full advantage of something because it may not last long

Dictionary example:
We should make the most of this good weather.

Learner example:
Remember, always try to make the most of your life.

**mother /ˈmʌð.ə/**

**NOUN [C]**

mother tongue

[B2] the first language that you learn when you are a child

Dictionary example:
Italian is my mother tongue but I started to learn English when I was six.

Learner example:
I can speak English and French fluently, added to my mother tongue, Japanese.

**mother–in–law /ˈmʌð.ər.ɪn.lɔː/**

**NOUN [C]** (PLURAL mothers–in–law)

[B2] the mother of your husband or wife

Dictionary example:
I get on well with my mother–in–law.

Learner example:
I was a little afraid of getting into contact with my mother–in–law.
motion /ˈməʊ.ʃən/  

NOUN

MOVEMENT
[C2] [u] when or how something moves

Dictionary example:
The motion of the boat made him feel sick.

Learner example:
The motion of the air caused by the jet engines makes all the windows tremble and some of them break.

SUGGESTION
[C2] [c] a suggestion that you make in a formal meeting or court of law

Dictionary examples:
Someone proposed a motion to increase the membership fee to £500 a year.
The motion was accepted/rejected.

Learner example:
Nevertheless Mark and Paul maintained their ground and submit[ted] motion after motion to the parliament in order to be allowed to continue their work and use their technique commercially.

go through the motions
[C2] to do something because you are expected to do it and not because you want to

Dictionary example:
These days when we go out, I feel as though he's just going through the motions.

Learner example:
She went through the motions of every-day-life without enthusiasm.

motivate /ˈməʊ.tɪ.vət/  

Word family:
Nouns: motivation, motive
Verbs: motivate
Adjectives: motivated

VERB [T]

ENTHUSIASTIC
[C1] to make someone enthusiastic about doing something

Dictionary example:
Teaching is all about motivating people to learn.
Learner example:
There are a lot of tools that can be used to motivate people and it is the Human Resources department who should take care of using them properly.

CAUSE
[C1] to cause someone to behave in a particular way

Dictionary example:
Some people are motivated by greed.

Learner example:
Most of us are motivated by fear.

motivated /ˈməʊ.tɪˌveɪ.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: motivation, motive
Verbs: motivate
Adjectives: motivated

ADJECTIVE
[B2] enthusiastic and determined to succeed

Dictionary example:
a very motivated student

Learner example:
Furthermore, after a break people are often very motivated to go on with their education.

motivation /ˌməʊ.tɪˈveɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: motivation, motive
Verbs: motivate
Adjectives: motivated

NOUN
[B2] [U] enthusiasm for doing something

Dictionary example:
There is a lack of motivation among the staff.

Learner example:
I hope my motivation and my capacity [for hard work] [will] help me cope with the work successfully.

REASON
[C1] [c] the need or reason for doing something
Dictionary example:
What was the motivation *for* the attack?

Learner example:
Although money is the main motivation, for many people, to work I have come across many people who ha[ve] worked volunt[ari]ly or [for] less money to gain relev[a]nt experience.

---

**motive** /ˈməʊ.tɪv/

Word family:
- **Nouns**: motivation, motive
- **Verbs**: motivate
- **Adjectives**: motivated

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a reason for doing something

**Dictionary examples:**
The police don't yet know the motive *for* the killing.
What was the motive *behind* the bombing?

**Learner example:**
It was not likely that he had done the murder – because there was no motive.

---

**motor** /ˈməʊ.tər/

Word family:
- **Nouns**: motor, motorist

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] the part of a machine or vehicle that changes electricity or fuel into movement and makes it work

**Dictionary example:**
The pump is powered by a small electric motor.

**Learner example:**
The boat is 26 feet long; it is a sailboat with an inbo[a]rd motor.

---

**motorist** /ˈməʊ.tə.rɪst/

Word family:
- **Nouns**: motor, motorist

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a person who drives a car
Dictionary example:  
Motorists will be hit hard by the rise in fuel prices.

Learner example:  
According to motorists, cars are better than bikes, as you feel more comfortable and relax[ed] inside them.

mount  /maʊnt/

VERB

mount a campaign/challenge/protest, etc.  
[C2] to arrange a series of organized activities that will achieve a particular result

Dictionary example:  
Students mounted a huge protest against fee increases.

Learner example:  
In Orson Welles' story, aliens mount an offensive to take over the world, whereas in Wyndham's book, the world is quietly and slowly conquered by plants.

INCREASE  
[C2] [i] to increase in amount or level

Dictionary example:  
Tension in the room was mounting.

Learner example:  
One day, I was sitting in a dentist's waiting [room], and as tension mounted and the old "dentist fear" was eating away at me, I availed myself [of] the opportunity to browse through a couple of magazines lying on the table.

mount sth on/to, etc.  
[C2] to fix an object onto something

Dictionary example:  
They've mounted a camera on the wall by the door.

Learner example:  
He or any other guest will be happy to explain any of the items mounted on the wall and to reminisce about old times.

RIDE  
[C2] [r] to get on a horse or bicycle

Dictionary example:  
I helped him mount the horse.

Learner example:  
After only a short walk, he had to help two of them to mount the mules.
mountain  /ˈmaʊn.tɪn/

NOUN [C]

PILE

[C2] informal a large pile of something

Dictionary example:
There's a mountain of papers on my desk.

Learner example:
But I had to get up to deal with a mountain of documents on my desk.

mouth  /maʊθ/

NOUN [C]

mouth of a river

[C1] where a river goes into the sea

Dictionary example:
It is a small village, by the mouth of a river.

Learner example:
The mouth of the river with a [narrow] exit to the sea, provided an extra excitement because of the pressure of the water when joining the sea.

move  /muːv/

Word family:
Nouns: movement
Verbs: move, remove
Adjectives: moving

VERB

TIME

[B2] [T] to change the time or order of something

Dictionary example:
We need to move the meeting back a few days.

Learner example:
Unfortunately, we have to move the time of our departure because of technical problems.

FEELING

[B2] [T often passive] to make someone have strong feelings of sadness or sympathy
Dictionary examples:
I was deeply moved by his speech.
Many people were moved to tears.

Learner example:
I was very moved: it was so beautiful!

get moving INFORMAL
[C2] to hurry

Dictionary example:
We're leaving in five minutes, so get moving!

Learner example:
"Oh, look at the time, we must get moving!"

NOUN [C]

ACTION
[C1] an action taken to achieve something

Dictionary examples:
Buying those shares was a good move.
It was a good career move.
The latest policies are clearly a move towards democracy.

Learner example:
I have also come to [the] conclusion that showing [the] canteen [in the film] would not be a good move because it is very noisy.

CHANGE OF PLACE
[C1] when you go to live or work in a different place

Dictionary example:
We've had four moves in three years.

CHANGE OF POSITION
[C2] the act of moving

Dictionary example:
She held the gun to his head and said, "One move and you're dead!"

Learner example:
Some minutes later the dj played a song I loved to dance [to] at the time, called "Satisfaction" by Benny Bennusi, so I indulged in some rather wild dance moves.

get a move on INFORMAL
[C2] to hurry

Dictionary example:
Come on, get a move on!
Learner example:
'All the lights will be switched off in 28 minu[t]s, so I have to get a move on' I said to myself, as I started to write on a new piece of paper.

movement  /ˈmuː.ənt/

Word family:
Nouns: movement
Verbs: move, remove
Adjectives: moving

NOUN

CHANGE OF POSITION
[B2] [ɔr u] a change of position or place

Dictionary examples:
He made a sudden movement and frightened the bird away.
For a long time after the accident, he had no movement in his legs.
Her movements were rather clumsy.

Learner example:
She must sit for two hours without any movement.

GROUP
[C1] [ɔ] a group of people with the same beliefs who work together to achieve something

Dictionary examples:
the women's movement
the labour movement

Learner example:
Obviously what started some time ago as a feminist movement has now grown to the level of independence, economically and most important, socially.

moving  /ˈmuː.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: movement
Verbs: move, remove
Adjectives: moving

ADJECTIVE
[B2] causing strong feelings of sadness or sympathy
Dictionary example:
She read a moving speech at the funeral.

Learner example:
It was [a] really moving story.

much /mʌtʃ/

DETERMINER; PRONOUN (more, most)

A LOT OF
[C1] FORMAL a lot of

Dictionary examples:
Much of the evidence was unreliable.
Much work remains to be done.

Learner example:
Much of the influence that people [come under] to change [their] eating habits comes from TV, [e]specially advertisements.

not much of a sth
[C1] used when you want to say that a person or thing is not a very good example of something

Dictionary examples:
I'm not much of a cook.
It's not much of a job, but it pays the bills.

Learner example:
I'm not much of a royalist but I think she's the symbol of everything that's Danish.

not be up to much
[C2] to be of bad quality

Dictionary example:
Her latest novel isn't up to much.

Learner example:
But above all, she had this extraordinary dining table, w[h]ich didn't look up to much when you first walked in the room, but as you lifted the three layers of tablecloths protecting a huge piece of glass, you discovered an amazing display of objects from Alabama.

mud /mʌd/

Word family:
Nouns: mud
Adjectives: muddy
NOUN [U]
[B2] a thick liquid mixture of soil and water, or this mixture after it has dried

Dictionary examples:
You've got mud on your shoes.
He'd been playing football and was covered in mud.

Learner example:
It may sound funny, but mud, gravel and snow lying on the school's floors is not a nice sight, so we change our shoes without questioning that rule.

muddle /ˈmʌd.əl/  
Word family:  
Nouns: muddle  
Adjectives: muddled

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] a situation of confusion or bad organization

Dictionary examples:
There was a big muddle over who was buying the tickets.
I'm in such a muddle with these bills.
Dad got into a muddle over the plans for Christmas.

Learner example:
She couldn't make out how to get out of the muddle she was in.

VERB

get sb/sth muddled up
[C2] to think that a person or thing is someone or something else

Dictionary example:
I often get Jonathan and his brother muddled up.

muddled /ˈmʌd.əld/  
Word family:  
Nouns: muddle  
Adjectives: muddled

ADJECTIVE
[C2] confusing and disorganized

Dictionary examples:
muddled thinking
The book's message is hopelessly muddled.
**Learner example:**
Lucy is all muddled and confused.

---

**muddy** /ˈmʌd.i/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** mud
**Adjectives:** muddy

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] covered by or containing mud

**Dictionary examples:**
a muddy stream  
muddy boots  
You've made the kitchen floor all muddy.

**Learner example:**
I went out into the kitchen. I looked around to see if I could see him, but he was gone, only the wet, muddy footprints were left.

---

**multiple** /ˈmʌl.tɪ.pl/  

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] with several things or parts

**Dictionary examples:**
multiple injuries  
We made multiple copies of the report.

**Learner example:**
The report contains multiple errors and gives the reader a totally incorrect view of the event.

---

**mumble** /ˈmʌm.bl/  

**VERB** [I or T]
[B2] to speak too quietly and not clearly enough for someone to understand you

**Dictionary example:**
He mumbled something about it being a waste of time.

**Learner example:**
I started mumbling something and I could feel I was red because my cheeks were hot.
mundane  /man′deɪn/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] ordinary, or not interesting

Dictionary example:
a mundane task/life

Learner example:
Lastly, it would be a good idea to travel to an island and to escape just a while from your mundane routine.

municipal  /mjuːˈnɪs.ɪ.pəl/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] relating or belonging to the government of a town or city

Dictionary examples:
municipal tennis courts
a municipal council/election

Learner example:
Another problem is that the municipal authority in the location proposed has a very negative attitude towards companies of [our] kind, imposing very high taxes.

murmur  /ˈmɜː.mər/

VERB [I or T]
[C2] to speak quietly so that you can only be heard by someone near you

Dictionary examples:
"Go to sleep now," she murmured.
He murmured a few words of sympathy.

Learner example:
"They're so unprofessional," he murmured to himself.

NOUN [C]
[C2] the sound of something being said quietly

Dictionary example:
I could hear the low murmur of voices from behind the door.

Learner example:
All Sandra could do was to nod every now and again to his murmurs.
### muscle /ˌmʌs.əl/

**NOUN [C or U]**

**IN BODY**

[B2] one of many pieces of tissue in the body that are connected to bones and which produce movement by becoming longer or shorter

**Dictionary examples:**
neck/back/leg/stomach muscles
facial muscles
These exercises build muscle and increase stamina.

**Learner example:**
It tones the muscles in this area and provides us with stamina and good health.

**pull a muscle**

[C2] to injure a muscle by stretching it too much

**Dictionary example:**
I've pulled a muscle in my leg.

---

### music /ˈmjuː.zɪk/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** music, musical, musician

**Adjectives:** musical

**Adverbs:** musically

**NOUN [U]**

**face the music**

[C1] to accept punishment or criticism for something bad that you have done

**Dictionary example:**
At the end of the day I had to go home and face the music.

**Learner example:**
Teenagers who live with their parents have to face the music about the long bills their parents receive monthly!

---

### musical /ˈmjuː.zɪ.kəl/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** music, musical, musician

**Adjectives:** musical

**Adverbs:** musically
ADJECTIVE

ABILITY
[C1] good at playing music

Dictionary example:
She comes from a very musical family.

Learner example:
[These] people are very musical and, therefore, you will find folk songs and even unique dances.

NOUN [C]
[B2] a play or film in which singing and dancing tell part of the story

Dictionary examples:
a Broadway musical
A Little Night Music is one of Sondheim's greatest musicals.

Learner example:
It is always a great opportunity to enjoy a musical when you go on holiday to London.

musically /ˈmjuː.zɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: music, musical, musician
Adjectives: musical
Adverbs: musically

ADVERB
[C2] in a way that relates to music

Dictionary examples:
It's a school for musically gifted children.
Musically speaking, this band has a lot of talent.

Learner example:
Not that I was musically gifted or wanted to become a pianist, it was just the fact that I loved music that led my step there.

must /mʌst/

MODAL VERB

LIKELY
[B2] used to show that you think something is very likely or certain to be true
**Dictionary examples:**
Harry’s been driving all day – he must be tired.
It must have been very upsetting for her.
There’s no food left – they must have eaten it all.
She must be very wealthy.

**Learner example:**
I must have been seven years old at that time.

---

**mustard /ˈmʌstəd/**

**NOUN [U]**
[C1] a thick, spicy yellow or brown sauce often eaten in small amounts with meat

**Dictionary example:**
a teaspoon of mustard

**Learner example:**
You just ask for what you want put in it – ham, eggs, salad, chicken, mustard, etc.

---

**mutter /ˈmʌt.ə/**

**VERB [I or T]**
[B2] to speak quietly so that your voice is difficult to hear, often when complaining about something

**Dictionary examples:**
He was muttering (away) to himself.
He muttered something about the restaurant being too expensive.

**Learner example:**
"Emile Zola is the best writer", he muttered.

---

**mutual /ˈmjuː.tʃu.əl/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**OPINION**
[C1] When two or more people have a mutual feeling, they have the same opinion about each other.

**Dictionary examples:**
mutual admiration/respect
He doesn’t like her, and I suspect the feeling’s mutual.
Learner example:
It will hugely contribute to better understanding between the parties as well as add to a mutual respect and trust.

FRIEND/INTEREST
[C1] When two or more people have a mutual friend or interest, they have the same one.

Dictionary example:
Andrew and Jean were introduced to each other by a mutual friend.

Learner example:
They need someone who would help their dead, but still living, bodies look good and they find a victim – their mutual lover (Bruce Willis).

myself /ˈmaɪˈsɛlf/

PRONOUN

EMPHASIS
[B2] used to emphasize 'I' as the subject of a sentence

Dictionary examples:
I myself don't like a heavy meal at lunchtime.
I'll tell her myself.

Learner example:
Dear editor of 'The Student Tourist Guidebook' [I am writing] regarding your latest student tourist guidebook, which I myself found very useful on my latest trip to Lampton.

(all) to myself
[C1] for my use only

Dictionary examples:
I'll have the flat all to myself this weekend.
I need a couple of hours to myself.

Learner example:
This is because if I live[d] in a triple-storey [house], I would get a room all to myself.

mysterious /ˈmɪstrəri.əs/

Word family:
Nouns: mystery
Adjectives: mysterious
Adverbs: mysteriously
ADJECTIVE
[B2] strange or unknown, and not explained or understood

Dictionary examples:
a mysterious stranger
the mysterious death of her son
He died in mysterious circumstances, and there is still a possibility that it was murder.

Learner example:
He went to the Hotel because he wanted to find out who was the person that had sent him a mysterious letter a few days ago.

mysteriously /ˈmɪstrəri.əsli/

Word family:
Nouns: mystery
Adjectives: mysterious
Adverbs: mysteriously

ADVERB
[C1] in a way that is mysterious

Dictionary examples:
"Perhaps, and perhaps not," she said mysteriously.
Mysteriously, the light came on, although no one was near the switch.

Learner example:
Mysteriously, their character always dies tragically or goes abroad and is never seen again.

myth /mɪθ/

NOUN

STORY
[B2] [c or u] an ancient story about gods and brave people, often one that explains an event in history or the natural world

Dictionary examples:
ancient myths
the gods and goddesses of Greek and Roman myth

Learner example:
I spent three days there thinking about myths and legends and having a lot of fun.

FALSE IDEA
[C1] [c] an idea that is not true but is believed by many people
Dictionary example:
It's a myth that men are better drivers than women.

Learner example:
There is this myth that when you are on [holiday] you should spend your whole time at the beach, practically doing nothing.
N

nail /neɪl/

NOUN [C]

METAL

[B2] a thin piece of metal with a sharp end, used to join pieces of wood together

Dictionary examples:
  a three-inch nail
  I stepped on a nail sticking out of the floorboards.
  Hammer a nail into the wall and we'll hang the mirror from it.

Learner example:
Sometimes in food given to animals by visitors you can find pieces of glass, nails or even poison.

BODY PART

[B2] the hard surface at the end of your fingers and toes

Dictionary examples:
Stop biting your nails!
  nail clippers
  a nail file

Learner example:
She went to the hairdresser to have her hair cut, to the nails shop to have her nails done and finally she made her face up.

naive /naɪˈiːv/

ADJECTIVE

[C1] If someone is naive, they believe things too easily and do not have enough experience of the world.

Dictionary example:
I was much younger then, and very naive.

Learner example:
It might sound a bit idealistic and naive, but I think this concept of communication will make the world a better place.
naked /ˈneɪ.kɪd/

**ADJECTIVE**

**NO CLOTHES**

[B2] not wearing clothes

*Dictionary examples:*
- a naked man
- naked bodies
- He was naked to the waist.
- The children were **half** naked.

*Learner example:*
I cried out in anger and that was a mistake, because the girls turned around and looked at me, standing there naked.

**NOT HIDDEN**

[C1] [**ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN**] A naked feeling or quality is not hidden, although it is bad.

*Dictionary example:*
- naked **aggression**

*Learner example:*
This programme presents the naked truth about Brazil, this so called "Tropical Paradise".

the naked eye

[C2] If something can be seen by the naked eye, it is big enough to be seen without special equipment.

*Dictionary example:*
These bugs are so tiny you cannot see them with the naked eye.

---

name /nɛm/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** name
- **Verbs:** name
- **Adverbs:** namely

**NOUN**

**REPUTATION**

[B2] [**C USUALLY NO PLURAL**] the reputation that someone or something has
Dictionary examples:
She went to court to clear her name.
Their actions gave British football a bad name in Europe at that time.
They’re trying to restore the good name of the manufacturer.

Learner example:
He’s the only one concerned about the good name of the family.

**in the name of sth**
[C2] If bad things are done in the name of something, they are done in order to help that thing succeed.

Dictionary example:
So much blood has been spilt in the name of religion.

Learner example:
Recently, a Swedish priest compared homosexuality to cancer, and he did it in the name of religion.

**make a name for yourself**
[C2] to become famous or respected by a lot of people

Dictionary example:
He's been trying to make a name for himself in the music business.

Learner example:
Secondly, only [a] few sportsmen and sportswomen manage to make a name for themselves and get to the top.

**call sb names**
[C2] to use impolite or unpleasant words to describe someone

Dictionary example:
He said the other children were calling him names.

Learner example:
He had never called me names or told me off.

**as the/its name implies**
[C2] used to show that the name of something tells you something about it

Dictionary example:
The Long Room, as its name implies, runs the entire length of the house.

Learner example:
Sour Sweet, as the name implies, is originally a Chinese restaurant.

**VERB [T]**

**CHOOSE**
[B2] to choose someone or something
Dictionary examples:
Just name the time and the place and I'll be there.
Name your **conditions/terms/price**.
Ms Martinez has been named *(as)* the new Democratic candidate.

**Learner example:**
He has [been] named as the best Latin singer and he has [won] two Grammys.

**you name it**
*[C2]* something that you say which means anything you say or choose

**Dictionary example:**
I've never seen such a wide selection. You name it, they've got it.

**Learner example:**
Courses vary from languages, management, computer–related fields to fitness, yoga, karate classes *[and]* all *[the]* different hobbies you might be interested in such as painting on silk or on wood, pottery, carving and the like. You name it, they have it at ECM.

---

**namely** /ˈneɪm.lɪ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** name
**Verbs:** name
**Adverbs:** namely

**ADVERB**
*[C1]* used when you are going to give more detail about something you have just said

**Dictionary example:**
She learned an important lesson from failing that exam, namely that nothing is ever certain.

**Learner example:**
This network is used by the four most used means of transport in our city *(namely, bus, car, bicycle and motorcycle)* and has been plagued by problems such as potholes, poor drainage and poor use *(or lack!)* of traffic signs.

---

**nap** /næp/

**NOUN [C]**
*[C1]* a short sleep

**Dictionary example:**
He likes to **have/take** a nap after lunch.
Learner example:
He usually takes a nap after lunch and at night goes to bed about 10.00 p.m.

**narrative** /ˈnær.əˌtɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: narrative, narrator

**NOUN [C] formal**
[C2] a story or description of a series of events

**Dictionary example:**
It's a moving narrative of wartime adventure.

**Learner example:**
It is a happy ending, however, only because the narrative stops at this point.

**narrator** /nəˈrɛ.ə.tər/

Word family:
Nouns: narrative, narrator

**NOUN [C]**
[C2] the person who tells the story in a book, film, play, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
The narrator is a fisherman.

**Learner example:**
Leo Colston is the narrator and chief character through whose eyes we dive into the story.

**narrow** /ˈnær.əʊ/

Word family:
Verbs: narrow
Adjectives: narrow
Adverbs: narrowly

**ADJECTIVE**

**LIMITED**
[C2] limited to a small area of interest, activity or thought

**Dictionary examples:**
He has narrow interests.
It was regarded as a very narrow interpretation of the law.
Learner example:
People leave home with a narrow outlook and it doesn't seem to broaden.

**a narrow escape**
[C2] If you have a narrow escape, you only just avoid danger.

**Dictionary example:**
He had a narrow escape when a falling tree crushed his car.

**Learner example:**
Ralph will have a narrow escape: he is saved by the arrival of a ship which has at last come to rescue them all.

**VERB**

**MAKE SMALLER**
[C1] to become less wide or to make something less wide

**Dictionary examples:**
The road has been narrowed to one lane.
His eyes narrowed angrily.

**Learner example:**
Driving as well as parking has become a difficult task in Copenhagen City as the City Council [has] over the last [few] years deliberately cut down the numbers of parking places, raised the fees and narrowed the roads and streets.

**BECOME LESS**
[C2] to become less or to make something become less

**Dictionary example:**
to narrow the gap between rich and poor

**Learner example:**
I tend to believe that every country should join together, as only by discussing and sorting out some measures will [we] be able to narrow the gap that nowadays exists among countries all over the world.

**narrowly** /ˈnær.əʊ.li/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** narrow
**Adjectives:** narrow
**Adverbs:** narrowly

**ADVERB**
[B2] only by a small amount
Dictionary examples:
He narrowly escaped death in the accident.
She narrowly missed winning an Oscar.

Learner example:
They narrowly escaped crash[ing] with the car in [the]opposite lane.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>narrow-minded</th>
<th>/ˌnær.əʊˈmɑːn.dɪd/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADJECTIVE</td>
<td>[C1] not willing to accept new ideas or opinions different from your own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary example:</td>
<td>My family are very narrow–minded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learner example:</td>
<td>He is a bit narrow–minded and at first he'll drive you crazy but once you get to know him, he'll be good company.</td>
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<tr>
<th>nasty</th>
<th>/ˈnɑː.sti/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADJECTIVE</td>
<td>ANGRY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] very angry or violent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary example:</td>
<td>When I asked for the money, he turned really nasty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learner example:</td>
<td>He can sometimes be very nasty and say and do horrible things on and [off] the pitch.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nation</th>
<th>/ˈneɪ.ʃn/</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Word family:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nouns:</td>
<td>nation, nationality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives:</td>
<td>national</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOUN [c]</td>
<td>[B2] a country or the people living in a country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary examples:</td>
<td>the industrial nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All the nations of the world will be represented at the conference.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practically the whole nation watched the ceremony on television.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learner example:
At that time, everyone should have devoted their life to the nation.

**nationwide  /ˌneɪ.ʃənˈwaɪd/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] existing or happening in all parts of a particular country

**Dictionary examples:**
a nationwide network/chain of shops
a nationwide survey

**Learner example:**
The nationwide blackout was the first in the past decade.

**ADVERB**
[B2] in all parts of a country

**Dictionary example:**
Schools nationwide are experiencing a shortage of teachers.

**Learner example:**
On Thursday, Friday or Saturday you could visit the annual festival, which is well-known nationwide for the music, costumes and dance of the local people.

**native  /ˈneɪ.tɪv/**

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

**PLACE BORN**
[B2] Your native town or country is the place where you were born.

**Dictionary examples:**
She returned to live and work in her native Japan.
She’s a native Californian.

**Learner example:**
I am good, because in my native country, Austria, I worked in a cinema.

**your native language/tongue**
[B2] the first language that you learn

**Dictionary example:**
French is his native tongue.
Learner example:
My native language is Russian but I speak English fluently and I have been learning Latin for two years.

FIRST PEOPLE
[B2] relating to the first people to live in an area

Dictionary examples:
The Aborigines are the native inhabitants of Australia.
the native population
native customs and traditions

Learner example:
I am very happy to tell you about my trip to the Amazon forest native inhabitants museum.

ANIMALS AND PLANTS
[C2] Native animals or plants live or grow naturally in a place, and have not been brought from somewhere else.

Dictionary example:
a large bird native to Europe

| native speaker | /ˈneɪ.tɪvˈspiː.kə/ |

NOUN [C]
[B2] someone who has spoken a particular language since they were a baby, rather than having learnt it as a child or adult

Dictionary examples:
All our teachers are native speakers of English.
a native-speaker dictionary

Learner example:
My knowledge in foreign languages has to get better and the best way to do [that] is to get in contact with native speakers.

| natural | /ˈnætʃ.ər.əl/ |

Word family:
Nouns: nature
Adjectives: natural, unnatural
Adverbs: naturally
ADJECTIVE

EXPECTED

[B2] normal or expected

Dictionary examples:
Of course you're upset – it's only natural.
It's natural that you should feel anxious when you first leave home.
It's quite natural to experience a few doubts just before you get married.

Learner example:
So, of course, it was quite a natural thing for me to learn [to driv[e] a car as early as possible, and that was at the age of 18 when one could apply for a driving licence.

FROM BIRTH

[C1] If you have a natural characteristic, it is something you have been born with.

Dictionary examples:
a natural talent
She's a natural athlete/blonde.

Learner example:
Also my natural talent for entertaining people together with my past experience should be very useful working at [the] new theme park.

naturally /ˈnatʃərəli/

Word family:
Nouns: nature
Adjectives: natural, unnatural
Adverbs: naturally

ADVERB

AS EXPECTED

[B2] as you would expect

Dictionary example:
Naturally, he was very disappointed.

Learner example:
Naturally we had to take his word for it.

NORMALLY

[B2] in a normal way

Dictionary example:
Relax and try to behave naturally.
Learner example:
As a result they can't behave naturally at all and become sick.

**LIFE**

[C1] happening or existing as part of nature and not made or done by people

**Dictionary examples:**
A healthy body will be able to fight off the illness naturally without the use of medicine.
He has naturally blonde hair.

Learner example:
Sometimes people say women are naturally stronger than men.

**FROM BIRTH**

[C2] having been born with a characteristic

**Dictionary example:**
naturally aggressive/funny/slim

Learner example:
Clarisse McClellan is a spontaneous and naturally curious teenager who even enjoys simple things.

---

**nature /ˈneɪ.tʃə/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** nature
**Adjectives:** natural, unnatural
**Adverbs:** naturally

---

**NOUN**

**CHARACTER**

[B2] [C or U] someone's character

**Dictionary examples:**
As a child Juliana had a lovely nature – everyone liked her.
It's not really in her nature to be aggressive.
He is by nature inclined to be rather lazy.

Learner example:
Jane wasn't very suspicious by nature, but there was something weird in that.

---

**TYPE**

[C1] [NO PLURAL] FORMAL type

**Dictionary examples:**
What exactly is the nature of your business?
I don't like hunting and things of that nature.
Learner example:
He claims that he did not improve his English because of the nature of the job.

naughty /ˈnɔː.ti/  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] When children are naughty, or their behaviour is naughty, they behave badly.  

Dictionary examples:  
You naughty boy!  
Now that's naughty - you mustn't throw food on the floor!  
Our boss treats us all like naughty schoolchildren.  

Learner example:  
But some naughty students in my class were throwing paper aeroplanes when the teacher was writing something on the board.

naval /ˈneɪ.vəl/  

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]  
[C2] relating to the navy  

Dictionary example:  
a naval base/officer  

Learner example:  
It is irrefutable that naval areas are in most cases abandoned by their governments.

navy /ˈneɪ.vi/  

NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]  
[B2] I the part of a country's armed forces which is trained to operate at sea  

Dictionary examples:  
My brother is an officer in the Navy.  
Gabriel joined the navy in 1997.  
a navy ship/vessel  

Learner example:  
Best of all, not only am I familiar [with the] life-style on a ship but I also know a lot of things about ship[s] because I was in the navy.
near /nɪə/  

PREPOSITION

TIME
[B2] close in time

Dictionary examples:
He arrived near the end of the lesson.
It was nearer four when we finally arrived.
We can decide which route to take nearer the time.

nowhere near
[C1] not close in distance, time, amount or quality

Dictionary examples:
The house was nowhere near the sea.
It's nowhere near time for us to leave yet.
I'm nowhere near finishing the book – I'm only half-way through it.
He's nowhere near as tall as his sister.

Learner example:
Although people are well aware of the current situation in Switzerland, they prefer looking at other countries and comparing us to them (we are nowhere near as fat as them).

anywhere near sth
[C1] used in questions and negatives to mean 'close to being or doing something'

Dictionary example:
The house isn't anywhere near ready.

Learner example:
We could not have gone anywhere near 5000 miles because all our minibuses were broken down – we even stayed in one place for 8 days.

CONDITION
[C2] almost in a particular state or condition

Dictionary examples:
The runners looked near exhaustion.
I was near (to) tears at one point during the film.
This is the nearest I've ever got to winning anything.
He came near to punching him.

Learner example:
It is strictly related to the fact that the old possess a vast amount of experience and are nearer to death.
ADVERB

TIME

[B2] close in time

Dictionary examples:
Her birthday was getting nearer and I still hadn’t bought her a present. As the date of his operation drew near, he became more and more anxious.

Learner example:
I would appreciate very much if you could reply as soon as possible, as the school holiday is drawing near.

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

in the near future

[B2] at a time that is not far away

Dictionary example:
Space travel may become very common in the near future.

Learner example:
I look forward to receiving your reply in the near future.

CHARACTERISTIC

[C2] similar in characteristics or quality

Dictionary examples:
My pocket knife is the nearest to a weapon that I have. I couldn’t get any cream cheese so I bought the nearest equivalent that I could find.

nearly /ˈnɪə.li/

ADVERB

not nearly (as/so)

[C1] a lot less

Dictionary examples:
It’s not nearly as expensive as I thought. There are not nearly enough jobs to go round.

Learner example:
However this is not nearly enough, since we are restricted when it comes to us[ing] nuclear power [and] there is always a constant search for other energy sources.
**neatly** /ˈniːt.lɪ/

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** neat
- **Adverbs:** neatly

**ADVERB**
- [C1] in a tidy way

**Dictionary examples:**
- neatly dressed
- a neatly folded pile of clothes

**Learner example:**
The performers are all neatly dressed.

---

**necessarily** /ˈnes.əˈser.l.i/ 

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** necessity
- **Adjectives:** necessary, unnecessary
- **Adverbs:** necessarily, unnecessarily

**ADVERB**
- [B2] used in negatives to mean 'in every case' or 'therefore'

**Dictionary examples:**
- That's not necessarily true.
- The fact that something is cheap doesn't necessarily mean it's of low quality.
- You may love someone without necessarily wanting to marry them.

**Learner example:**
The most important point in a job interview is to give a good impression, which does not necessarily mean how you look.

---

**necessity** /nəˈses.ə.ti/ 

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** necessity
- **Adjectives:** necessary, unnecessary
- **Adverbs:** necessarily, unnecessarily

**NOUN**
- [C1] [u] the need for something
Dictionary examples:
There's no financial necessity for her to work.
Sewing is something I do out of necessity, not for pleasure.

Learner example:
Therefore, the most important lesson to learn is to acknowledge the necessity of education and the struggle to make it happen.

SOMETHING NEEDED
[C1] [c] something you need

Dictionary example:
Most people seem to consider a car a necessity, not a luxury.

Learner example:
Mobile phones first appeared as a necessity in worldwide communications because, as the different business domains began to expand, the need for information and detailed facts about numerous aspects have emerged.

neck /nek/

NOUN [c]

be a pain in the neck INFORMAL
[C1] to be annoying

Dictionary example:
My brother can be a real pain in the neck sometimes.

Learner example:
He's adorable although sometimes he can really be a pain in the neck (don't tell him I wrote this.)

PART OF CLOTHING
[C2] the part of a piece of clothing that goes around your neck

Dictionary example:
a polo-neck/V-neck jumper

Learner example:
When she was walking down the street feeling elated by the success of the business meeting, a gorgeous thirtyish man wearing a beige polo neck swiftly approached and turned towards her and smiled, revealing strong white teeth.

neck and neck
[C2] If two people who are competing are neck and neck, they are very close and either of them could win.

Dictionary example:
The two runners were neck and neck coming into the last lap.
Learner example:
It was a really neck and neck match that took my breath away every second.

need /niːd/

Word family:
Nouns: need
Verbs: need
Adjectives: needless

VERB [T]

There needs to be sth
[C2] used to say that something is necessary

Dictionary example:
There needs to be more funding for education in this country.

Learner example:
Secondly, there needs to be a proper choice of subjects taught, because what we should get in the end is a versatile person, not just some maths or literature freak who is not interested in anything else.

NOUN

NECESSARY THING
[B2] [NO PLURAL] something that is necessary to have or do

Dictionary examples:
There's a growing need for cheap housing in the larger cities.
Is there any need to change the current system?

Learner example:
In conclusion, I believe that human beings will always have the need for knowledge and entertainment at the same time.

no need
[B2] If there is no need to do something or no need for something, it is not necessary or it is wrong.

Dictionary examples:
There's no need to go to the shops – there's plenty of food in the fridge.
I understand why she was angry but there was no need for that kind of language.
There's no need to shout, for goodness' sake! Just calm down.

Learner example:
He told me that I could trust him with the ticket and that there was no need for me to take it home.
be in need of sth
[B2] to need something

Dictionary example:
My car's in desperate need of repair.

Learner example:
He is also constantly in need of money.

needs
[B2] the things you need in order to have a good life

Dictionary examples:
her emotional needs
The city is struggling to meet the needs of its homeless people.

Learner example:
I love swimming and cycling and that is why I want to ask if there are any facilities that could suit my needs?

---

**needle** /ˈniːdəl/

**noun** [C]

**sewing**
[B2] a thin, pointed metal object with a small hole at one end for thread, used in sewing

Dictionary example:
a needle and thread

Learner example:
It was impossible for me to open the door, it was like threading a needle with gloves on.

**medical**
[C2] the thin, sharp, metal part of a piece of medical equipment used to take blood out of the body or to put a liquid or medicine in

Dictionary example:
He fainted at the sight of the needle.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, for all the side effects they may have, for all the unpleasantness of having a needle stuck in your arm or a spoonful of foul-tasting liquid stuck in your mouth, antibiotics and vaccines remain the greatest discovery in the history of the world.

**thread a needle**
[C2] to push thread through the hole in a needle

---

1527
Dictionary example:
Could you thread this needle for me, please?

**needless** /ˈniːd.əls/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** need
- **Verbs:** need
- **Adjectives:** needless

**ADJECTIVE**

**needless to say**

[C1] as you would expect

**Dictionary example:**
Needless to say, it rained the whole time we were there.

**Learner example:**
Needless to say, bribes are a frequent occurrence.

[C2] not necessary

**Dictionary examples:**
- a needless expense
- needless worrying

**Learner example:**
They not only go out and buy totally needless things but they even forget to save up for emergencies or the proverbial "rainy days".

**negative** /ˈneg.ə.tɪv/

Word family:
- **Adjectives:** negative
- **Adverbs:** negatively

**ADJECTIVE**

**BAD**

[B2] A negative effect is bad and causes damage to something.

**Dictionary example:**
Terrorist threats have had a very negative effect/impact on tourism.

**Learner example:**
Even if it provides a lot of advantages, this revolution in the world of communication [also] has a negative impact on our society.
NO
[B2] expressing the answer no

Dictionary example:
We received a negative answer to our request.

Learner example:
Museums are the best example to show how life was in the past but when you ask teenagers [whether] they have been in a museum you will get a negative answer.

negatively  /ˈneg.ə.triv.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: negative
Adverbs: negatively

ADVERB
[B2] with a bad effect

Dictionary example:
They were very negatively affected by the changes.

Learner example:
Despite the huge facilities, technology has affected our lives negatively.

neglect  /nɪˈglekt/

Word family:
Nouns: negligence
Verbs: neglect
Adjectives: negligent

VERB [T]
NOT GIVE ATTENTION
[C1] to not give enough care or attention to something or someone

Dictionary examples:
to neglect your appearance
Some of these kids have been badly neglected in the past.

Learner example:
Is sport neglected by young people nowadays?

neglect to do sth
[C2] to not do something, often intentionally
Dictionary example:
He neglected to mention the fact that we could lose money on the deal.

Learner example:
Our colleagues at the museum apparently neglected to notify us.

NOUN [u]
[C1] when you do not give enough care or attention to something or someone

Dictionary example:
to suffer years of neglect

Learner example:
First of all, concerning the coaches, all I can say is that they were in a complete state of neglect.

negligence /ˈneg.lɪdʒəns/

Word family:
Nouns: negligence
Verbs: neglect
Adjectives: negligent

NOUN [u]
[C2] when you are not careful enough in something you do, especially in a job where your actions affect other people

Dictionary example:
Her parents plan to sue the surgeon for medical negligence.

Learner example:
Despite this situation of state negligence, bad laws and scarce funding, sports have managed to survive the harsh years of transition and most importantly people have not lost their interest in sports.

negligent /ˈneg.lɪdʒənt/

Word family:
Nouns: negligence
Verbs: neglect
Adjectives: negligent

ADJECTIVE
[C2] not giving enough care or attention to a job or activity, especially where your actions affect someone else

Dictionary example:
The report found him negligent in his duties.

1530
Learner example:
According to the research, a lot of people find it more difficult to go back to work after [the] holidays and tend to be more lax and negligent at work for the first few days.

**negligible** /ˈneg.ɪl.dʒə.bl/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] small and not important

Dictionary example:
a negligible effect/result

Learner example:
The damage that the developing world is causing to the environment is almost negligible compared to the damage caused by the industrialised world.

**negotiate** /nɪˈɡəʊ.ʃi.eɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: negotiation
Verbs: negotiate

VERB
[C1] [I or T] to try to make or change an agreement by discussion

Dictionary example:
to negotiate with employers about working conditions

Learner example:
You should also negotiate the best terms for our client.

**negotiation** /nɪˌɡəʊ.ʃiˈeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: negotiation
Verbs: negotiate

NOUN [C]
[C1] when people try to make or change an agreement by discussion

Dictionary example:
Peace negotiations are due to start.

Learner example:
The classes on different subjects connected with the practice of our work equipped us with essential techniques in business negotiations.
neighbour  /ˈneɪ.bə/  

Word family:
Nouns: neighbour, neighbourhood
Adjectives: neighbouring

NOUN [c]

BEING NEAR

[B2] someone or something that is near or next to someone or something else

Dictionary examples:
The French make more films than some of their European neighbours.
Take 5 minutes to discuss this with your neighbour.

Learner example:
As a neighbour of Lithuania and Ukraine we had to learn [the] Russian language.

neighbouring  /ˈneɪ.bər.ɪŋ/  

Word family:
Nouns: neighbour, neighbourhood
Adjectives: neighbouring

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

[B2] near or next to somewhere

Dictionary examples:
neighbouring countries/states
She married a man from the neighbouring village.

Learner example:
We have to do concerts in the neighbouring towns.

neither  /ˈnɛə.ðə/  

ADVERB

[B2] used to say that a negative fact is also true of someone or something else

Dictionary examples:
Jerry doesn’t like it, and neither do I.
Her family wouldn’t help her and neither would anyone else.
She’s not very tall and neither is her husband.

Learner example:
Of course, she never thought those would be the lucky numbers and neither did her husband, so he forgot to ask her about the ticket later.
PRONOUN; DETERMINER

[B2] not either of two people or things

Dictionary examples:
Luckily, neither child was hurt in the accident.
Neither of us had ever been to London before.
They gave us two keys, but neither worked.
"Which one would you choose?" "Neither."

Learner example:
Three years ago, when I was in Japan, my parents were both working and neither of them were at home by the time I got back from school.

CONJUNCTION

neither ... nor

[B2] used when a negative fact is true of two people or things or when someone or something does not have either of two qualities

Dictionary examples:
Neither he nor his mother would talk to the police.
Their performance was neither entertaining nor educational.

Learner example:
I was just having a bath when the lights went out. [...] No lights at all, neither the cooker nor the fridge were working in my flat, so what had happened?

nerve  /nɜːv/

Word family:
Nouns: nerves, nerve, nervousness
Adjectives: nervous
Adverbs: nervously

NOUN

nerves

[C1] worry or anxiety about something that is going to happen

Dictionary examples:
I sometimes suffer from nerves when I'm speaking in public.
I need something to calm my nerves.

Learner example:
You might feel you need it to calm your nerves, but for obvious reasons (the law) it is better not to.

get on sb's nerves

[C1] to annoy someone, especially by doing something again and again
Dictionary example:
Please stop making that noise! It really gets on my nerves.

Learner example:
My neighbour is always quarrelling with his wife. It’s getting on my nerves!

PART OF THE BODY

[C2] [c] one of the threads in your body which carry messages between your brain and other parts of the body

Dictionary examples:
the optic nerve
nerve cells/endings

Learner example:
At the end, give him 3 pills, one for the high blood pressure, [an]other for the heart and the last one for nerve problems.

RUDENESS

[C2] [NO PLURAL] the rudeness necessary to do something you know will upset someone

Dictionary examples:
You’ve got a nerve, coming here!
I can’t believe she had the nerve to talk to me after what happened.

Learner example:
When I advised him not to drive so fast because I didn’t want to get myself killed, he had the nerve to say "Don’t get your knickers in a twist, mam."

BEING BRAVE

[C2] [NO PLURAL] the quality of being brave

Dictionary examples:
I haven’t got the nerve to tell him I’m leaving.
He lost his nerve and couldn’t go through with it.

Learner example:
She just never had the nerve to leave everything behind.

hit/strike/touch a (raw) nerve

[C2] to upset someone by talking about a particular subject

Dictionary example:
By the look on her face, he really hit a nerve with that last remark.

Learner example:
Some of your articles strike a very sensitive nerve in my opinion.
nerves /nɜːvz/

Word family:
Nouns: nerves, nerve, nervousness
Adjectives: nervous
Adverbs: nervously

NOUN [PLURAL]

NERVOUS
[B2] the state of being nervous

Dictionary examples:
I always suffer from nerves before a match.
I need something to calm my nerves.

Learner example:
I had to calm my nerves.

steady/strong nerves
[B2] the ability to be calm in difficult situations

Dictionary example:
You need a cool head and steady nerves for this job.

Learner example:
I know very well you have steady nerves but what is strong can become weak as well.

get on sb's nerves
[B2] to annoy someone, especially by doing something again and again

Dictionary example:
If we spend too much time together, we end up getting on each other's nerves.

Learner example:
Sometimes, receiving a phone call can disturb very important events in [a person's] life, but [it] also get[s] on people's nerves when you use it in a public place like a train...

nervously /ˈnɜː.ves.li/

Word family:
Nouns: nerves, nerve, nervousness
Adjectives: nervous
Adverbs: nervously

ADVERB
[B2] in a worried and anxious way

Dictionary example:
to giggle/lough nervously
Learner example:
As always the girls sat down in the fifth row and waited nervously for the event to begin.

nervousness /ˈnɜː.vəs.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: nerves, nerve, nervousness
Adjectives: nervous
Adverbs: nervously

NOUN [u]
[C1] the state of being nervous

Dictionary example:
Her nervousness was obvious when she spoke.

Learner example:
Remember, by and large, failures are sparked off by nervousness.

nest /nest/

NOUN [c]

BIRDS
[C2] a home built by birds for their eggs and by some other creatures to live in

Dictionary example:
a birds'/wasps' nest

Learner example:
The very rare 'Cove Owl' has chosen one of the empty tree trunks by the pond to build his nest.

a nest egg
[C2] a sum of money that has been saved or kept for a specific purpose

Dictionary example:
She used her nest egg to buy a really good piano.

Learner example:
She was the only heir of a rich family and her husband, who died ten years ago, left her a sizeable nest egg.

VERB [i]
[C2] to live in a nest or build a nest

Dictionary example:
There are birds nesting under the roof.
Learner example:
If you stroll along the path on a Sunday morning, you can see robins nesting in the old honeysuckle bush.

**network /ˈnet.ɜːk/**

**NOUN [C]**

**CONNECTED PARTS**

[B2] a system or group of connected parts

**Dictionary examples:**
- a road/rail network
- Massive investment is needed to modernise the country's telephone network.
- We could reduce our costs by developing a more efficient distribution network.
- a network of spies/a spy network

**Learner example:**
Switzerland is a safe, small and beautiful country [that is] perfect to travel [in], because of the best public transport network in the world.

**COMPUTERS**

[B2] a set of computers that are connected to each other

**Dictionary example:**
All our offices are on the same network.

**Learner example:**
[In the future,] the fridge, the television, the stove and the Hi-Fi equipment will be attached to a computer network.

**PEOPLE**

[C1] a group of people who know each other or who work together

**Dictionary example:**
a large network of friends

**Learner example:**
It is quite easy to build a network of friends worldwide when travelling abroad.

**COMPANY**

[C1] a large television or radio company that broadcasts programs in many areas

**Dictionary example:**
She worked for the network for more than 10 years.

**Learner example:**
So the Swiss television network decided to produce a Swiss soap opera.
PEOPLE
[C1] a group of people who know each other or who work together

Dictionary example:
a large network of friends

Learner example:
It is quite easy to build a network of friends worldwide when traveling abroad.

networking /ˈnet.wɜː.kɪŋ/

NOUN [u]
[C1] the activity of meeting and contacting people who might be useful to know, especially for your job

Dictionary example:
I often go to networking events.

Learner example:
I am sure there are many other benefits working can bring to us, apart from the enjoyment, networking, etc. that I have mentioned above, and of course the money it makes.

neutral /ˈnjuː.trəl/

ADJECTIVE
INDEPENDENT
[C1] independent and not supporting any side in an argument, fight, or competition

Dictionary examples:
neutral ground/territory
He decided to remain/stay neutral on the issue.

Learner example:
Thus, its main advantage is that the information you get is not provided by a company or something like that but by a neutral person.

COLOUR
[C1] Neutral colours are not strong or bright.

Dictionary example:
Try neutral creams and greys.

Learner example:
Throughout the house the carpets are brand new and lovely neutral colours.
never /ˈnev.ər/

**ADVERB**

NOT

[B2] used to emphasize something negative

**Dictionary example:**
I never knew you lived around here.

**Learner example:**
I never knew what happened after I left.

never-ending /ˌnev.əˈrɛnd.ɪŋ/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] If something is never-ending, it continues for ever.

**Dictionary example:**
The housework in this place is just never-ending.

**Learner example:**
We are often forced to study till about thirty years of age, and it really appears to be [a] never-ending story.

nevertheless /ˌnev.əˈðəˈles/

**ADVERB**

[B2] despite that

**Dictionary example:**
I knew a lot about the subject already, but her talk was interesting nevertheless.

**Learner example:**
Both the options you gave seem very interesting. Nevertheless, I get the impression that working with animals is much more fun, don't you think?

new /njuː/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** news

**Adjectives:** new

**Adverbs:** newly
**ADJECTIVE**

**new blood**
[C1] new people in an organization who will provide new ideas and energy

**Dictionary example:**
We need some new blood in the organization.

**Learner example:**
It will give new opportunities to new generations and thus will [provide] new blood in the different organisations.

**turn over a new leaf**
[C2] to start to behave in a better way

**Dictionary example:**
I'm not drinking any more – I've turned over a new leaf.

**Learner example:**
She promised to turn over a new leaf.

**break new ground**
[C2] to do something that is different to anything that has been done before

**Dictionary example:**
Their research is really breaking new ground.

**Learner example:**
Paul decided to break new ground in music no matter how long it took.

**newly /ˈnjuː.li/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: news
Adjectives: new
Adverbs: newly

**ADVERB**

[B2] recently

**Dictionary examples:**
the newly formed residents' association
Newly-discovered documents cast doubt on the guilt of the two men.

**Learner example:**
The book is about a newly qualified doctor, Andrew Manson, who starts his career [in] a small town.
**news /njuːz/**

Word family:

Nouns: news

Adjectives: new

Adverbs: newly

**NOUN [u]**

**be bad/good news for sb**

[C1] to affect someone badly/well

Dictionary example:
This weather is bad news for farmers.

Learner example:
Focusing now on Kavanagh Catering Services, it could be said that for them price is [the] main variable – obviously this [is] good news for students.

**be news to sb INFORMAL**

[C2] to be a surprise to someone

Dictionary example:
He's leaving? Well that's certainly news to me.

**break the news to sb**

[C2] to tell someone about something unpleasant that has happened

Dictionary example:
Who's going to break the news to his wife?

Learner example:
She broke the news to his wife Helen.

**newsletter /ˈnjuːzˌlet.a/**

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] a regular report with information for people who belong to an organization or who are interested in a particular subject

Dictionary example:
a monthly newsletter about business and the environment

Learner example:
And if you decide to use our newsletter service, you'll always be up-to-date.
ADJECTIVE

the next best thing
[C1] the thing that is best, if you cannot have or do the thing you really want

Dictionary example:
Coaching football is the next best thing to playing.

Learner example:
For many working people, there is hardly time to cook and prepare your dinner, so the next best thing is to rush into a Macdonalds' or Burger King.

the next thing I knew
[C2] used to talk about part of a story that happens in a sudden and surprising way

Dictionary example:
A car came speeding round the corner, and the next thing I knew I was lying on the ground.

Learner example:
And the next thing I knew was that I was playing cards with 3 men.

PRONOUN

THING FOLLOWING
[B2] the person or thing that follows the present person or thing

Dictionary examples:
Who's next to see the nurse?
Blue roses? Whatever next?

the weekend/week/Thursday, etc. after next
[B2] the weekend/week/Thursday, etc. that follows the next one

Dictionary example:
We're seeing Paul the Saturday after next.

nicely /ˈnaɪ.sli/

Word family:
Adjectives: nice
Adverbs: nicely

ADVERB

WELL
[B2] well
Dictionary examples:
That table would fit nicely in the bedroom.
His business is doing very nicely.

Learner example:
It is a pleasant, easy book with useful, active vocabulary and short, nicely constructed sentences.

PELENTLY
[B2] in a pleasant way

Dictionary examples:
She’s always very nicely dressed.
If you ask your dad nicely, he might drive you there.

Learner example:
All the rooms are big, clean and nicely decorated.

nickname /ˈnɪk.nɪm/

NOUN [C]
[C1] a name used informally instead of your real name

Dictionary example:
His behaviour has earned him the nickname ‘Mad Dog’.

Learner example:
In school I had the nickname the Joker, because I had the ability to make other people laugh.

night /naɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: midnight, night

NOUN [C or U]

a sleepless night
[C1] a night when you are not able to sleep

Dictionary example:
He’d spent a sleepless night worrying about his exam.

Learner example:
Most of the rooms we stayed in did not have air-conditioning, which caused many sleepless nights to the majority of us due to the intense heat.
**nine** /nain/  

**NUMBER**

**be on cloud nine** INFORMAL  
[C2] to be extremely happy and excited

*Dictionary example:*  
After I heard I'd got the job, I was on cloud nine!

*Learner example:*  
But now, after the promise in which both said "yes", she was on cloud nine.

**ninety** /ˈnain.ti/  

**NUMBER**

**(be) in your nineties**  
[B2] to be aged between 90 and 99

*Dictionary example:*  
He is in his nineties now.

**the nineties**  
[B2] the years from 1990–1999

*Dictionary example:*  
I spent most of the nineties travelling around the world.

*Learner example:*  
Another aspect which shows us the danger that the car represents to human life in the nineties [is] pollution.

**no** /nəʊ/  

**DETERMINER**

**no wonder**  
[B2] it is not surprising

*Dictionary examples:*  
No wonder the children are excited – this is the first time they've been abroad.  
"If brutal killers like these two are at work, it is no wonder that so many people have fled," he said.
**Learner example:**
No wonder that people are more tired and are not interested in reading books as much as in the past.

**no need**

[B2] If there is no need to do something or no need for something, it is not necessary or it is wrong.

**Dictionary examples:**
There's no need to go to the shops – there's plenty of food in the fridge.
I understand why she was angry but there was no need for that kind of language.
There's no need to shout, for goodness' sake! Just calm down.

**Learner example:**
He told me that I could trust him with the ticket and that there was no need for me to take it home.

**be no good or be not any/much good**

[B2] to not be useful, helpful or valuable

**Dictionary examples:**
Boots are no good if they aren't waterproof.
Food aid isn't much good until the fighting stops.

**Learner example:**
When [it] is raining, you get wet and that's no good to anyone.

**no such thing**

[B2] used to emphasize that something does not exist

**Dictionary example:**
There's no such thing as ghosts!

**Learner example:**
But when I asked for these, I was told that no such thing existed and so the advertisement was once again proved wrong.

**no matter how/what/when, etc.**

[B2] used to emphasize that something cannot be changed

**Dictionary example:**
I never manage to lose any weight, no matter how hard I try.

**Learner example:**
No matter where you are [or] what you do, apparen[el]tly you need electricity.

**no doubt**

[C1] used to say that something is very likely

**Dictionary example:**
No doubt she'll spend the money on new clothes.
Learner example:
No doubt I will find the skills acquired [on] the course, especially speaking skills, most useful in my future contacts with clients from English–speaking countries.

no ... whatsoever
[C1] none at all

Dictionary example:
There's no evidence whatsoever that she was involved.

Learner example:
Moreover, the hotel we were finally dumped in was situated miles from Edinburgh city centre and there was no entertainment whatsoever arranged for the evening, even though all the travellers were more or less stuck there.

be no mean feat
[C2] used when you want to emphasize that an act or achievement is very difficult

Dictionary example:
Learning to ski at 60 is no mean feat!

Learner example:
There was an interesting discussion about whether it was harder or easier for them to enter the world of cinema, given their famous names. Both said that it was no mean feat because people were more demanding as [to] their abilities.

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**noble** /ˈnəʊ.bl/

**ADJECTIVE**

**GOOD**
[C1] honest, brave, and kind

Dictionary examples:
a noble gesture
He was a generous, noble man.

Learner example:
Charity is a very noble way of spending your money and it is defin[i]tely a way in which you would want to be remembered.

**SOCIAL GROUP**
[C1] belonging to the highest social group of a society

Dictionary example:
She was born into an ancient, noble family.
Learner example:
Capodistrias, coming from a noble family of the Ionian islands played, as a diplomat and mainly as Russia's Foreign Minister, an important role to the new European structure after the destruction of Napoleon's Empire (1814).

nod /nɒd/ (-dd-)

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to move your head up and down as a way of agreeing, to give someone a sign, or to point to something

Dictionary examples:
Many people in the audience nodded in agreement.
When I suggested a walk, Elena nodded enthusiastically.
She looked up and nodded for me to come in.

Learner example:
She approached him calmly, showing no signs of nervousness or uncertainty. "Do you have it?"
He nodded and shoved his hand into the left pocket of his jacket.

nominate /ˈnɒm.ɪ.net/

Word family:
Nouns: nomination
Verbs: nominate

VERB [T]
[C1] to officially suggest a person for a job or a position in an organization, or to suggest a person or their work for a prize

Dictionary examples:
Judges are nominated by the governor.
The film was nominated for an Academy Award.
He was nominated as best actor.

Learner example:
Being an Ambassador for Youth bears a lot of responsibility, not only because the person must be of outstanding character and well-known, but also because they must behave accordingly and be able to convey a positive message. After deep consideration, I have decided to nominate Jovanotti, alias Lorenzo Cherubini.
nomination /ˌnɒm.ɪˈneɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: nomination
Verbs: nominate

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] the act of officially suggesting a person for a job or their work for a prize

Dictionary examples:
to seek/win a nomination
He won the Democratic nomination for mayor of Chicago.
She has just received her fourth Oscar nomination.

Learner example:
Please allow me to support this nomination by pointing out some facts.

none /nʌn/

PRONOUN

be none of sb's business
[B2] If something is none of someone's business, they do not need to know about it, although they want to, because it does not affect them.

Dictionary example:
I'm certainly not going to tell Lara how much money I've spent – it's none of her business!

Learner example:
You might think it's none of my business, but I simply have to say this.

none too clean/clever/pleased, etc.
[C2] not at all clean/clever/pleased, etc.

Dictionary example:
His clothes were none too clean.

Learner example:
So, without further ado I accepted, although I was none too sure of what was going to happen there.

none the happier/poorer/wiser, etc.
[C2] not any happier/poorer/wiser, etc. than before

Dictionary example:
She must have explained the theory three times, but I'm still none the wiser.
**nonetheless** /ˌnʌn.ðəˈles/  

**ADVERB**  
[C1] **despite what has just been said**

*Dictionary example:*  
He was extremely rude in meetings. Nonetheless, his arguments found some support.

*Learner example:*  
Nonetheless, all the people from whom I have received letters are satisfied, as well as their children, who enjoyed the stories and the pony rides very much.

**non-existent** /ˌnɒn.ɪɡˈzɪs.tənt/  

**Word family:**

*Nouns:* existence  
*Verbs:* exist  
*Adjectives:* existing, non-existent  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] **not existing**

*Dictionary example:*  
We knew our chances of success were non-existent.

*Learner example:*  
The rooms weren't very tidy and room service is non-existent.

**nonsense** /ˈnɒn.sənts/  

**Word family:**

*Nouns:* nonsense, sense, sensibility  
*Verbs:* sense  
*Adjectives:* sensible, senseless  
*Adverbs:* sensibly  

**NOUN [U NO PLURAL]**  

**SILLY**  
[B2] If something someone has said or written is nonsense, it is silly and not true.

*Dictionary examples:*  
She talks such nonsense sometimes.  
He dismissed the accusations as complete/utter nonsense.  
What a load of nonsense!  
It's nonsense to suggest that they could have cheated.
**Learner example:**
I feel totally disappointed and I would like my money back, because everything in the advertisement was nonsense.

**make a nonsense of sth**
[C2] to spoil something or make it seem stupid

**Dictionary example:**
Cuts to the text made a nonsense of the play.

**Learner example:**
It really makes a nonsense of our claim to be civilized when one thinks of all the poor, helpless people that live under deplorable condition[s].

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**non-smoking** /ˌnɒnˈsməʊ.kɪŋ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** smoke, smoker, smoking
**Adjectives:** non-smoking, smoky

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] describes a place where people are not allowed to smoke

**Dictionary example:**
Let's get a table in the non-smoking area.

**Learner example:**
You can also choose between a smoking and a non-smoking area.

---

**nor** /nɔːr/  

**CONJUNCTION**

**neither ... nor**
[B2] used when a negative fact is true of two people or things or when someone or something does not have either of two qualities

**Dictionary examples:**
Neither he nor his mother would talk to the police.
Their performance was neither entertaining nor educational.

**Learner example:**
I was just having a bath when the lights went out. [...] No lights at all, neither the cooker nor the fridge were working in my flat, so what had happened?

**ADVERB**
[B2] used to say that a negative fact is also true of someone else
Dictionary examples:
"I don't like cats." "Nor do I."
I've never been to Iceland." "Nor have I."
I can't be at the meeting and nor can Andrew.

Learner example:
In fact when Mrs. McGillicuddy told the train assistant about that, he did not believe her. Nor did the Police, [to] whom Mrs. McGillicuddy wrote about what she had seen.

norm /nɔːm/

Word family:
Nouns: norm, normality
Adjectives: normal, abnormal
Adverbs: normally

NOUN

the norm
[C1] the usual way that something happens

Dictionary example:
Short-term job contracts are the norm nowadays.

Learner example:
The graph indicates the norm for children per family in three different countries.

SOCIETY
[C1] [c] an accepted way of behaving in a particular society

Dictionary example:
cultural/social norms

Learner example:
Social norms and values, as well as the national regulations, differ from country to country, resulting in the different view upon such [an] issue [as] child labour.

normal /ˈnɔːrəm/  

Word family:
Nouns: norm, normality
Adjectives: normal, abnormal
Adverbs: normally

ADJECTIVE

return to normal
[C1] to go back to a previous condition
Dictionary example:
Life has begun to return to normal now that the war is over.

Learner example:
After exactly ten minutes the electricity was switched on again and our life returned to normal – what a relief!

normality /nɔːˈmæl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: norm, normality
Adjectives: normal, abnormal
Adverbs: normally

NOUN [u]
[C2] a situation in which everything is happening normally

Dictionary example:
a return to normality

Learner example:
Looking forward to an escape from normality and the narrowness of Switzerland, I had travelled to Australia, where my expectations had been smashed as my travel group had not consisted of five other young backpackers, but a group of thirty tourists, all squeezed into a coach.

normally /ˈnɔː.mə.li/

Word family:
Nouns: norm, normality
Adjectives: normal, abnormal
Adverbs: normally

ADVERB

ORDINARY
[B2] in the ordinary way that you would expect

Dictionary examples:
Both lungs are now functioning normally.
She’s behaving perfectly normally for a two-year-old.

Learner example:
But the truth is that those animals are not behaving normally.
nose /nəʊz/

Word family:
Nouns: nose
Adjectives: nosy

NOUN [c]

poke/stick your nose into sth INFORMAL
[C2] to show too much interest in a situation that does not involve you

Dictionary example:
You shouldn't go sticking your nose into other people's business!

Learner example:
John started poking his nose into her life.

turn your nose up at sth INFORMAL
[C2] to not accept something because you do not think it is good enough for you

Dictionary example:
He turned his nose up at my offer of soup, saying he wanted a proper meal.

Learner example:
Moreover, she will not turn her nose up at anybody who might be considered less worthy than her.

under your nose
[C2] If something bad happens under your nose, it happens close to you but you do not notice it.

Dictionary example:
They were stealing money from under my nose.

Learner example:
You will be surprised that there was something right under your nose that you could not live without.

nostalgia /nɒsˈtæl.dʒə/

Word family:
Nouns: nostalgia
Adjectives: nostalgic

NOUN [u]
[C2] a feeling of happiness mixed with sadness when you think about things that happened in the past

Dictionary example:
his nostalgia for his college days
Learner example:
Finally the feeling of nostalgia remains and a certain pride that Eastern Germany was not entirely imprisoned but had its own "Spreewald" pickles.

nostic /nɔsˈtæl.daɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: nostalgia
Adjectives: nostalgic

ADJECTIVE
[C2] feeling both happy and sad when you think about things that happened in the past

Dictionary example:
Talking about those holidays has made me feel quite nostalgic.

Learner example:
While listening to what people interviewed were saying, I couldn’t help feeling a bit sad in a nostalgic way.

nostril /ˈnɒstrəl/

NOUN [C]
[C2] one of the two holes at the end of your nose

Dictionary example:
Breathe in through one nostril.

Learner example:
When he finally reached the house and managed to open the door, a musty stench assaulted his nostrils.

nosy /ˈnɔzi/ (nosey)

Word family:
Nouns: nose
Adjectives: nosy

ADJECTIVE
[C2] always trying to find out private things about other people

Dictionary examples:
nosy neighbours
Don't be so nosy!
Learner example:
He is a wonderful neighbour who, without being nosy, has given us a sense of security, that somebody is there if we ever need anything without the feeling of being watched or spied upon.

not /nɒt/

ADVERB

not at all
[B2] used to say 'no' or 'not' strongly

Dictionary examples:
"Was he a nuisance?" "No, not at all."
I'm not at all happy about it.

Learner example:
I sen[s]ed that invisible hand was touching my shoulder, but it didn't scare me, not at all.

not only
[B2] used to say that more than one thing is true

Dictionary examples:
Not only was the hotel expensive, it was dirty too.
You have let down not only yourself, but the entire team.

Learner example:
In this show, not only can we see [the] latest fashions, sportswear, make-up and hairstyles, but we can [also] enter for free.

not half as good/bad/exciting, etc.
[B2] informal to be much less good/bad/exciting, etc. than something else

Dictionary example:
Her new book's not half as good as the last one.

Learner example:
Probably they wouldn't be half as famous as they are without press photographers, journalist[s], etc.

not to mention
[B2] used to emphasize the importance of something that you are adding to a list

Dictionary example:
The resort has great hotels and restaurants, not to mention some of the best skiing in the region.

Learner example:
It is crowded everywhere, the shop assist[a]nts are stressed, you get to wait for hours to pay for your goods, not to mention the time you must wait to get them wrapped.
not quite
[B2] almost but not completely

Dictionary examples:
I'm not quite sure that I understand this.
The colours almost match but not quite.
He didn't get quite enough votes to win.

Learner example:
The student cafe has a welcoming atmosphere and most people said it was nice to sit and to drink coffee [there]. [T]he only problem is that there are not quite enough tables and chairs for everyone at busy times.

not a/one
[C1] used to emphasize that there is nothing of what you are talking about

Dictionary examples:
Not one person came to hear him talk.
"You haven't heard from Nick, have you?" "Not a word."

Learner example:
Nowadays, I can only see buildings and roads. Not one single tree to refresh yourself from the hot and tropical sun at midday.

certainly/definitely/hopefully not
[C1] used after an adverb in short, negative replies

Dictionary examples:
"She's not exactly poor, is she?" "Certainly not."
"We won't need much money, will we?" "Hopefully not."

Learner example:
That's nice, but do you think that money is all that matters? Definitely not!

not least [FORMAL]
[C2] especially

Dictionary example:
The whole trip was fascinating, not least because of the people I met.

Learner example:
We are all human beings but we are all different, not least because of a different cultural background.

not in the least
[C2] not at all

Dictionary example:
I don't mind staying at home, not in the least.

Learner example:
Educating two children was not so easy a task, not in the least!
notable /ˈnəʊ.tə.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: note  
Verbs: note  
Adjectives: notable  
Adverbs: notably  

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] important or interesting  

Dictionary example:  
With one notable exception, everyone replied to my letter.  

Learner example:  
A notable exception is the advertising of so-called "slow-food" restaurants, which promote [a] healthy lifestyle.

notably /ˈnəʊtə.blɪ/  

Word family:
Nouns: note  
Verbs: note  
Adjectives: notable  
Adverbs: notably  

ADVERB  
[C1] especially or most importantly  

Dictionary example:  
They have begun attracting investors, most notably big Japanese financial houses.  

Learner example:  
As I have already indicated, the content (what they teach you) [is] very good, notably the training of speaking skills and a number of special courses, for example: How to Negotiate.

note /nəʊt/  

Word family:
Nouns: note  
Verbs: note  
Adjectives: notable  
Adverbs: notably
**NOUN**

**EXPLANATION**

[B2] [c] a short explanation or an extra piece of information that is given at the bottom of a page or at the back of a book

**Dictionary example:**
See note 3, page 37.

**make a note of sth**

[C1] to write down information about something

**Dictionary example:**
Let me make a note of your phone number.

**Learner example:**
After talking to other members, I have made a note of the main problems they considered the most urgent to be solved.

**compare notes**

[C1] If two people compare notes, they tell each other what they think about something that they have both done.

**Dictionary example:**
We compared notes about our experiences in China.

**Learner example:**
In conclusion, regular meetings between parents and school teachers [...] help both parties to compare notes, acting in the best interest[s] of the children.

**take note (of sth)**

[C1] to pay careful attention to something

**Dictionary examples:**
Make sure you take note of what she says.
Safety standards are being tightened. Employers, take note.

**Learner example:**
I thank you for taking note of my view.

**FEELING**

[C1] [no plural] a particular feeling or mood

**Dictionary examples:**
a sad/serious/positive note
His speech had just the right note of sympathy.

**Learner example:**
On a more practical note: I found the information pack I received beforehand insufficient.
MUSIC

[C2] [c] a single musical sound or the symbol that represents it

Dictionary example:
I'll just play the notes on the piano.

Learner example:
It was as if an external force was stopping him from playing the notes.

sb/sth of note FORMAL

[C2] someone or something famous or important

Dictionary example:
A medieval church is the only monument of note in the town.

VERB [T] FORMAL SLIGHTLY

note down sth or note sth down PHRASAL VERB

[B2] to write something so that you do not forget it

Dictionary example:
I noted down their web address.

Learner example:
There were [a] couple of things I noted down during the show.

nothing /ˈnʌθ.ɪŋ/

PRONOUN

nothing but

[B2] no other thing than

Dictionary example:
She did nothing but criticize.

Learner example:
You can read books in the open air while nothing but sea surrounds you.

have nothing to do with sb/sth

[B2] to have no connection or influence with someone or something

Dictionary example:
He made his own decision – I had nothing to do with it.

Learner example:
Of course, I tried to explain [to] him that I had nothing to do with the vanishing of the cake but he didn't trust me.
be/have nothing to do with sb
[B2] If something is or has nothing to do with you, you have no good reason to know about it or be involved with it.

Dictionary example:
I wish he wouldn’t offer advice on my marriage – it’s nothing to do with him.

Learner example:
The party was horrible: the guests were all talking about things that had nothing to do with me.

for nothing
[B2] without a successful result

Dictionary example:
I've come all this way for nothing.

Learner example:
Unfortun[ately], I waited for nothing. The TV repair man didn't come!

stop at nothing
[C1] to be willing to do anything in order to achieve something

Dictionary example:
He will stop at nothing to get what he wants.

Learner example:
They stopped at nothing to get the higher scores, to make themselves noticed, even if that meant telling some lies to a teacher about a schoolmate.

nothing of the sort/kind
[C1] used to emphasize that something is not true

Dictionary examples:
He said that he was a legitimate businessman – in fact, he was nothing of the sort.
It was supposed to be a gourmet meal, but it was nothing of the kind.

Learner example:
Let me reassure you, nothing of the sort is happening at the moment.

be nothing if not sth
[C2] used to emphasize a quality

Dictionary example:
The senator was nothing if not honest.

Learner example:
Well, I might be a bit bias[ed] but really, he is nothing if not extr[a]ordinary.

to say nothing of sth
[C2] used to emphasize other problems you have not talked about

Dictionary example:
Most wild otters have disappeared from populated areas, to say nothing of wilderness areas.
Learner example:
Indeed would not it be an oversimplification to make one’s judgement of the country’s national
caracter on the grounds of the amount and the quality of food people eat, to say nothing of the
fact that this judgement is usually highly subjective?

**nothing ventured, nothing gained**
[C2] used to say that it is worth trying something, even if you may not succeed

Dictionary example:
It will be quite expensive ... still, nothing ventured nothing gained!

Learner example:
It was a demanding task to prepare it but nothing ventured nothing gained.

---

**notice /ˈnəʊ.tɪs/**

Word family:
Nouns: notice
Verbs: notice
Adjectives: noticeable, unnoticed

**NOUN**

at short notice **UK**
[C1] only a short time before something happens

Dictionary example:
I had to give a speech at very short notice.

Learner example:
The fact that the speech by the famous actor was cancelled at short notice was disappointing.

**hand/give in your notice**
[C2] to tell your employer that you are going to stop working for them

Dictionary example:
I’m planning to hand in my notice tomorrow.

---

**noticeable /ˈnəʊ.tɪs.ə.bl/**

Word family:
Nouns: notice
Verbs: notice
Adjectives: noticeable, unnoticed

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] easy to see or be aware of
Dictionary example:
There was a noticeable difference in his behaviour after the injury.

Learner example:
What was noticeable all over Warsaw were the overfilled garbage cans and litter in the streets that nobody cleaned up.

noticeably /ˈnəʊ.tɪ.sə.bli/

ADVERB
[C1] in a way that is noticeable

Dictionary examples:
He was noticeably reluctant to meet her.
The new results were noticeably better than the last ones.

Learner example:
The teachers' salaries are noticeably the largest part in the charts.

notify /ˈnəʊ.tɪ.faɪ/

VERB [T] FORMAL
[C1] to officially tell someone about something

Dictionary examples:
You should notify the police if you are involved in a road accident.
The court notified her that her trial date had been postponed.

Learner example:
You must notify the director if you are not going to sleep in your room.

notion /ˈnəʊ.ʃən/

NOUN [C]
[C1] an idea or belief

Dictionary example:
The notion of sharing is unknown to most two-year-olds.

Learner example:
Unfortunately, in ancient Greece, although the notion of the republic and democracy were invented and quite successfully developed there, not being a noble citizen could be cruelly disappointing and painful.
notorious /nəʊˈtɔːriəs/  
**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] famous for something bad  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a notorious criminal  
She was notorious for her bad temper.  

**Learner example:**  
Apart from this, Bristol is notorious for its poor social policy for the people who are on the poverty line.  

notwithstanding /ˌnɒt.wɪθˈstændɪŋ/  
**ADVERB; PREPOSITION**  
[C1] despite  

**Dictionary example:**  
Injuries notwithstanding, he won the semi-final match.  

**Learner example:**  
Notwithstanding this zealous kind of complaint, it would appear to me that they had great fun during the third day when after the English lesson they went to the swimming pool.  

novelist /ˈnɒvlɪst/  
**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** novel, novelist  

**NOUN [c]**  
[B2] a person who writes novels  

**Dictionary example:**  
His father was a novelist.  

**Learner example:**  
My teacher has told me that you are a British novelist who writes crime stories, and you have come to live in our area.
novelty /ˈnov.əl.ti/

NOUN

QUALITY

[C2] [u] the quality of being new or unusual

Dictionary example:
The fashion industry relies on novelty, and photographers are always looking for new faces.

Learner example:
Olivia’s story takes place in a romantic atmosphere, which may allow the reader to look upon the colonial period as a dream; it sounds like a legend, a fairy tale, which fulfills an important purpose of novels: the appeal of novelty.

NEW THING

[C2] [c] an object, event, or experience that is new or unusual

Dictionary example:
Tourists are still a novelty on this remote island.

Learner example:
Our city needed a novelty like this and fortunately the dream came true!

now /naʊ/

ADVERB

LENGTH OF TIME

[B2] used to show the length of time that something has been happening, from the time it began until the present

Dictionary examples:
I've lived in Cambridge for two years now.
She's been a vegetarian for ten years now.

now and then

[B2] If something happens now and then, it happens sometimes but not very often.

Dictionary example:
I love chocolate, but I only eat it now and then.

Learner example:
If you really love to have a snack now and then, try to eat fruit and vegetables, instead of sweets.

any day/minute/time, etc. now

[B2] used to say that something will happen very soon
Dictionary example:
We're expecting our second child any day now.

Learner example:
The evil creatures who were bound to come out of the dark [w]ould see Carla any minute now.

every now and then
[Cl] sometimes, but not often

Dictionary example:
We still meet up every now and then.

Learner example:
Each day choose 10 new words and learn them by heart. In a week you will have learned 70 new words, and in a year 3640, a lot of words. Please, do not forget to repeat them every now and then.

CONJUNCTION (also now that)
[B2] as a result of a new situation

Dictionary examples:
Now that I've got a car I can visit her more often.
You should help in the house more, now you're older.
She's enjoying the job now that she's got more responsibility.

Learner example:
Now I am in England for further studies, I would be very grateful to you if you will give me the opportunity to join your club.

nowhere /ˈnəʊ.weər/

ADVERB

in the middle of nowhere
[B2] a long way from places where people live

Dictionary example:
His car broke down in the middle of nowhere.

Learner example:
You know I really don't want to get lost in the middle of nowhere.

from/out of nowhere
[B2] If someone or something appears out of nowhere, it appears suddenly or unexpectedly.

Dictionary example:
The car came out of nowhere and we had to swerve to miss it.
Learner example:
I was lying all alone on the beach, then suddenly, out of nowhere, right behind me those strange creatures appeared.

nowhere near
[C1] not close in distance, time, amount or quality

Dictionary examples:
The house was nowhere near the sea.
It's nowhere near time for us to leave yet.
I'm nowhere near finishing the book – I'm only half-way through it.
He's nowhere near as tall as his sister.

Learner example:
Although people are well aware of the current situation in Switzerland, they prefer looking at other countries and comparing us to them (we are nowhere near as fat as them).

get you nowhere
[C2] If something gets you nowhere, it does not help you to succeed.

Dictionary example:
Bad manners will get you nowhere.

Learner example:
As this is a loophole in [the] law system, it's creating a conflict between house-owners and squatters and getting them nowhere.

nuclear /ˈnjuː.klɪər/

ADJECTIVE

POWER
[B2] relating to the energy that is released when the nucleus of an atom is divided

Dictionary examples:
nuclear energy/power
a nuclear power plant
the nuclear industry

Learner example:
Anyway, the manager of that centre called me in order to inform me that I would [be doing] research on nuclear power and atoms.

WEAPONS
[B2] relating to weapons that use nuclear power

Dictionary examples:
a nuclear war/attack
nuclear disarmament
Learner example:
I think that the car isn't the greatest danger to human life today, because I believe the greatest danger is the nuclear bomb.

nuisance /ˈnjuːsəntʃ/  

NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL]
[B2] a person, thing, or situation that annoys you or causes problems for you

Dictionary examples:
I've forgotten my umbrella - what a nuisance!
It's such a nuisance having to rewrite those letters.
I hate to be a nuisance, but could you help me?
Local residents claimed that the noise was causing a public nuisance.

Learner example:
It's co[m]fortable, fast and it [avoid]s the nuisance of having to take public transport in the rush hour.

number /ˈnʌm.bə/  

Word family:
Nouns: number
Verbs: number, outnumber
Adjectives: innumerable, numerous

noun

a number of sth
[B2] several

Dictionary examples:
There were a number of journalists present at the public meeting.
We've had quite a number of complaints about the programme.

Learner example:
There are a number of errors in your article.

 VERB [T]

GIVE A NUMBER

[C1] to give something a number

Dictionary example:
Each volume was numbered and indexed.
**Learner example:**
The bus to Finspang is numbered 410 and there is at least one bus departing for Finspang every hour.

**BE AN AMOUNT**

[C2] If people or things number a particular amount, there are that many of them.

**Dictionary example:**
Our company’s sales force numbered over 5,000.

**Learner example:**
They marched against Barovia with armies that numbered hundreds of thousands.

---

**numeros /ˈnjuː.mə.ros/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** number
**Verbs:** number, outnumber
**Adjectives:** innumerable, numerous

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] many

**Dictionary examples:**
We have discussed these plans on numerous occasions.
Shops of this type, once rare, are now numerous.

**Learner example:**
The fact that my country produces numerous talented skaters is also a factor that helps me enjoy skating.

---

**nurse /nɜːs/**

**VERB**

[C2] to care for a person or animal that is ill

**Dictionary example:**
We nursed the injured sparrow back to health.

**Learner example:**
Second, there are more and more old people who need to be looked after or nursed.
nursery /ˈnɜː.r.i/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a place where young children and babies are taken care of while their parents are at work

Dictionary example:
Does Jake go to a nursery or a childminder?

Learner example:
I enjoy working with children because I was working in a nursery.

nut /nʌt/

NOUN [c]
[B2] the dry fruit of some trees which grows in a hard shell, and can often be eaten

Dictionary examples:
a Brazil/cashew nut
Sprinkle some roasted chopped nuts on top.

Learner example:
Finally I would like to inform you that one of our students has [an] allergy to all sorts of nuts.

nutrition /njuːˈtrɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: nutrition
Adjectives: nutritional, nutritious

NOUN [u]
[C1] the food that you eat and the way that it affects your health

Dictionary example:
Good nutrition is essential for growing children.

Learner example:
So, good exercise combined with the right nutrition (low fat, vegetables etc.) [will] alter our lives and help us feel and appear more relaxed.
nutritional /ˈnjuːtrɪʃ.ən/ 
Word family:
Nouns: nutrition
Adjectives: nutritional, nutritious

ADJECTIVE
[C1] relating to the food that you eat and the way it affects your health

Dictionary example:
These snacks have very little nutritional value.

Learner example:
Today, individuals have less time to prepare homemade food with high nutritional value.

nutritious /ˈnjuːtrɪʃ.əs/ 
Word family:
Nouns: nutrition
Adjectives: nutritional, nutritious

ADJECTIVE
[C1] Nutritious food contains substances that your body needs to stay healthy.

Dictionary example:
a nutritious meal

Learner example:
They seem to have discovered that salads and pasta can be as tasty and nutritious as red meat.

nutshell /ˈnʌtʃel/ 
NOUN

In a nutshell
[C1] something that you say when you are describing something using as few words as possible

Dictionary example:
The answer, in a nutshell, is yes.

Learner example:
To put it in a nutshell, they all provide good food at reasonable prices.


**oak /əʊk/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] a large tree found in northern countries, or the wood of this tree

**Dictionary example:**
an oak table/cupboard

**Learner example:**
There is a very old oak [in the] middle of the garden.

**obese /əʊˈbiːs/**

**Word family:**

Nouns: obesity
Adjectives: obese

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] extremely fat

**Dictionary example:**
Currently, 15% of the population are classified as obese.

**Learner example:**
Less physical activity and [a] poor diet can lead to being overweight or even obese.

**obesity /əʊˈbiːs.ə.ti/**

**Word family:**

Nouns: obesity
Adjectives: obese

**NOUN [U]**

[C1] the state of being extremely fat

**Dictionary example:**
The government is concerned about childhood obesity.
Learner example:
Many researchers say that obesity and other adult diseases are getting common as we eat more western food.

**obey** /əʊˈbeɪ/

**VERB** [I or T]

[B2] to do what you are told to do by a person, rule, or instruction

**Dictionary examples:**
The soldiers refused to obey (orders).
They must obey the rules of international law.
People failing to obey the law will be fined.

**Learner example:**
I have strict parents who tell me what to do and what not to do every day. If I don’t obey them, I'll be punished for sure.

**object**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** objection
**Verbs:** object

**NOUN [C]** /ˈɒb.dʒɪkt/

the object of **sth**

[C1] the purpose of something

**Dictionary examples:**
The object of the game is to score more points than the opposing team.
The object of the exercise is to complete the task within the time limit.

**Learner example:**
First of all, the object of the programme is to provide students [with] opportunities to develop useful skills through [a] 6-week work experience in Britain.

**VERB [I]** /əbˈdʒekt/

[B2] to feel or say that you do not like or do not approve of something or someone

**Dictionary examples:**
He objects to the label 'magician' which he is often given.
Would anyone object if we started the meeting now?
No-one objected when the boss said it was time to go home.

**Learner example:**
I would like to object to what the reporter said in his conclusion.
objection  /əbˈdʒek.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: objection
Verbs: object

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] when someone says that they do not like or approve of something or someone

Dictionary examples:
Our main objection to the factory is that it will be noisy.
I have no objections if you want to stay an extra day.

Learner example:
As far as the film programme [is concerned], I have no objections and feel fairly satisfied.

objective  /əbˈdʒek.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: object, objective
Adjectives: objective
Adverbs: objectively

NOUN [c]
[B2] something that you are trying to achieve

Dictionary examples:
Her main/prime objective now is simply to stay in power.
Can the sales force achieve/meet its financial objectives?

Learner example:
Do you think I [will] have [the right] conditions to do the [diving] course and achieve my objectives?

ADJECTIVE
[B2] only influenced by facts and not by feelings

Dictionary example:
I try to be objective when I criticize someone's work.

Learner example:
Friends can be more objective concerning your faults and can give you [a] different point of view.
**objectively** /əˈbɪdʒek.tɪv.lɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: object, objective
Adjectives: objective
Adverbs: objectively

ADVERB

[C1] in a way that is only influenced by facts and not by feelings

**Dictionary example:**
This test assesses all candidates objectively.

**Learner example:**
The articles are objectively written and what is more they are comprehensible to the majority of people.

**obligation** /ˌɒb.lɪˈgeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: obligation
Verbs: oblige
Adjectives: obligatory

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] something that you do because it is your duty or because you feel you have to

**Dictionary examples:**
If you have not signed a contract, you are **under no obligation to** pay them any money.
You have a **legal** obligation **to** ensure your child receives a proper education.

**Learner example:**
I think it would be preferable to do [the trip] **in** July, which is a holiday period and so I won’t have any special obligations.

**obligatory** /əˈblɪg.ə.tər.i/
Dictionary example: obligatory military service

Learner example: I think this is a very good way of encouraging people to learn to like exercise without them having to do it because it is obligatory.

EXPECTED

[C2] used to describe something that everyone does or has or something that is expected

Dictionary example: a salesman with the obligatory mobile phone

Learner example: Everybody should try a Danish lunch with the obligatory bread with her[r]ing and lots of beer.

oblige /əˈblɛɪdʒ/

Word family:
Nouns: obligation
Verbs: oblige
Adjectives: obligatory

VERB

be obliged to do sth

[B2] to be forced to do something

Dictionary example: Sellers are not legally obliged to accept the highest offer.

Learner example: Besides, I don't want to wear any protective head-gear, which all the riders are obliged to wear.

[C1] [I or T] FORMAL to be helpful

Dictionary example: The manager was only too happy to oblige.

Learner example: I understand that you attach a great deal of value to the views of your visitors. I am happy to oblige.
**obscene** /əbˈsiːn/ 

**ADJECTIVE**

**SEX**

[C2] relating to sex in a way that is unpleasant or shocking

*Dictionary examples:*
- an obscene gesture
- obscene language

*Learner example:
It was a woman with [a] deep, sexual voice, talking about my boyfriend with obscene innuendos about our relationship.*

**TOO LARGE**

[C2] An obscene amount of something is shocking or morally wrong because it is too large.

*Dictionary example:
obscene profits

*Learner example:
Needless to say, the price was 'obscene', but I did not care.*

**observant** /əbˈzɜː.vənt/ 

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** observation, observer
- **Verbs:** observe
- **Adjectives:** observant

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] good or quick at noticing things

*Dictionary example:
He's very observant.*

*Learner example:
What's more, Len is the most patient and observant listener I have ever come across.*

**observation** /ˌɒb.zəˈveɪ.ʃən/ 

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** observation, observer
- **Verbs:** observe
- **Adjectives:** observant
NOUN

WATCHING
[B2] [u] when someone watches someone or something carefully

Dictionary examples:
The doctor wants to keep him under observation for a week.
She has very good powers of observation.

Learner example:
But actually it is boring when you’re almost always under observation.

REMARK
[C1] [c] a remark about something that you have noticed

Dictionary example:
He made an interesting observation.

Learner example:
I’d like to make some observations regarding your CDs.

observe /əbˈzɜːv/

Word family:
Nouns: observation, observer
Verbs: observe
Adjectives: observant

VERB [T]

WATCH
[B2] to watch someone or something carefully

Dictionary examples:
The role of scientists is to observe and describe the world, not to try to control it.
He spent a year in the jungle, observing how deforestation is affecting local peoples.
Children learn by observing adults.

Learner example:
To support [the] idea [of] mak[ing] a short video about daily life at our school I have spen[t] some
time discussing it with other students, observing and anal[y]sing an av[era]ge day in our school.

NOTICE
[C1] formal to notice something

Dictionary examples:
Jack observed a look of anxiety on his brother’s face.
The guards failed to observe who delivered the package.
In all these films one observes that directors are taking a new interest in Native American culture.
Differences in speech styles may be observed between other social groups.
Learner example:
Two trends can be observed: one, "sociological", giving women [a] more and more important role in our country, and the other, "cultural", still keeping them to three "sacred things" – household, kids and [the] church.

OBEY

[C2] to obey a law, rule, or religious custom

Dictionary example:
to observe the law

observer /əbˈzɜːvə/

Word family:
Nouns: observation, observer
Verbs: observe
Adjectives: observant

NOUN [c]

[C2] a person who watches what happens but has no active part in it

Dictionary examples:
Political observers are expecting the election result to be close.
UN observers are monitoring the ceasefire.

Learner example:
Not even UN observers from other African countries understood this.

obsessed /əbˈsest/

Word family:
Nouns: obsession
Adjectives: obsessed, obsessive

ADJECTIVE

be obsessed by/with sb/sth
[B2] to think about someone or something all the time

Dictionary example:
to be obsessed with money/work

Learner example:
While she was walking her brain got more and more obsessed with the idea....... "I have to tell this story!"
**obsession** /əbˈseʃ.ən/

Word family:

**Nouns:** obsession

**Adjectives:** obsessed, obsessive

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] something or someone that you think about all the time

*Dictionary examples:*
- an unhealthy obsession with death
- her chocolate obsession
- He's always wanted to find his natural mother but recently it's become an obsession.

*Learner example:*
- Shopping is an obsession for all of us.

---

**obsessive** /əbˈses.ɪv/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** obsession

**Adjectives:** obsessed, obsessive

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] thinking too much about something, or doing something too much

*Dictionary examples:*
- obsessive behaviour
- He's obsessive about his health.

*Learner example:*
- Nevertheless attention must be paid to the fact that being influenced by other people's personality can lead to obsessive behaviour.

---

**obsolete** /ˈɒb.səl.iːt/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] not used now

*Dictionary examples:*
- obsolete equipment
- Will books become obsolete because of computers?

*Learner example:*
- The museum's advertisement promises an exciting experience, so students were surprised to find [so many] obsolete machines of no interest.
obstacle /ˈɒb.stə.kəl/

NOUN [C]
[C1] something that makes it hard for you to go somewhere or to succeed at something

Dictionary examples:
- to overcome an obstacle
- His refusal to talk is the main obstacle to peace.

Learner example:
- Nowadays if you are a member of a football club, for example, you have to pay a great amount of money. This can be an obstacle for a lot of young people.

obtain /əbˈteɪn/ FORMAL

VERB [T]
[B2] FORMAL to get something

Dictionary examples:
- to obtain permission
- First editions of these books are now almost impossible to obtain.
- In the second experiment they obtained a very clear result.
- Sugar is obtained by crushing and processing sugar cane.

Learner example:
- Now, he has obtained [a] permit from other countries to plant sugar in their countries.

occasion /əˈkeɪ.ʒən/

Word family:
Nouns: occasion
Adjectives: occasional
Adverbs: occasionally

NOUN [C]
PARTICULAR TIME
[B2] a time when something happens

Dictionary examples:
- That was a previous/separate occasion.
- We met on several occasions to discuss the issue.
- I’ve heard him be rude to her on a number of occasions.
Learner example:
On one occasion our teacher left the class.

**on occasion(s)**
[C2] sometimes, but not often

**Dictionary example:**
I only drink alcohol on occasion.

**Learner example:**
As I am writing this I am begin[ning]ing to conclude that there are very few disadvantages of banning private cars, only that for individuals it is far easier and [more] conven[i]ent to use a private car and not rely on our public transport, which can be on occasions very unreliable.

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**occasional** /əˈkeɪ.ʒən.əl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** occasion
**Adjectives:** occasional
**Adverbs:** occasionally

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] not happening or done often or regularly

**Dictionary examples:**
I play the occasional game of football.
He has the occasional cigar after dinner.

**Learner example:**
Of course, sometimes, there are theatre performances but I would prefer a permanent theatre to these occasional performances.

---

**occasionally** /əˈkeɪ.ʒən.əli/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** occasion
**Adjectives:** occasional
**Adverbs:** occasionally

**ADVERB**
[B2] sometimes but not often

**Dictionary examples:**
I see him occasionally in town.
Occasionally I'll have a piece of chocolate, but it's quite rare.
Learner example:
I will need to use the computer to contact my friend on E-Mail and occasionally listen to a couple of CDs.

**occupation** /ˌɒk.jəˈpeɪ.ʃən/

NOUN FORMAL

HOBBY

[C1] [C] FORMAL something that you do in your free time

Dictionary example:
He has a few occupations, such as gardening and woodwork.

Learner example:
She made literature classes an engaging activity and fun and turned reading into an absorbing and fascinating occupation.

CONTROL

[C2] [U] when an army moves into a place and takes control of it

Dictionary example:
a military occupation

Learner example:
During the German occupation in Greece she was alone in Athens with her two children, because her husband had died in Albania, fighting against the Italians.

**occupy** /ˈɒk.ju.ˈpeɪ/  

VERB [T]

FILL

[B2] to fill or use a place or period of time

Dictionary examples:
His book collection occupies most of the room.
All the seats were occupied.
The babies seem to occupy all our time.

Learner example:
An intelligent solution to this is the bicycle, which can be parked almost everywhere and occupies little space.

KEEP BUSY

[B2] to keep someone busy or interested
**Dictionary examples:**
On long car journeys I occupy myself with solving maths puzzles.
The new toys kept the kids occupied for hours.

**Learner example:**
So in order to keep myself occupied for a while, I went to the restaurant, except it wasn’t open.

**CONTROL**
[C1] to move into a place and take control of it

**Dictionary example:**
The troops eventually occupied most of the island.

**Learner example:**
It’s a show called "Taxa" based on true stories. It takes you back to 1942, when Denmark was occupied by Germany.

**occur /əˈkɜːːr/ (rr-)**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** occurrence
**Verbs:** occur

**VERB [i]**
[B2] to happen, often without being planned

**Dictionary examples:**
An accident involving over ten vehicles has occurred in the east-bound lane.
If any of these symptoms occur while you are taking the medicine, consult your doctor immediately.

**Learner example:**
Furthermore, I think that most accidents that occur with cars are due to the irresponsibility of some drivers and I think strong measures should be taken in order to punish them.

**occurrence /əˈkʌrsntʃ/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** occurrence
**Verbs:** occur

**NOUN [c]**
[C1] something that happens or how often it happens

**Dictionary examples:**
Street fights are an everyday occurrence in this area of the city.
The study compares the occurrence of heart disease in various countries.
Learner example:
When workers began to threaten [a] strike, about twenty days ago, people were instructed on how to tackle such an occurrence – you know, we are well organised and like to have emergency plans for any danger.

Ocean /ˈəʊ.ʃən/

Noun [No plural]
a drop in the ocean
[C2] a very small amount compared to the amount needed

Dictionary example:
My letter of protest was just a drop in the ocean.

Learner example:
Naturally it is a drop in the ocean, but we can hope that the others will imitate our behaviour.

Odd /əd/

Word family:
Adjectives: odd
Adverbs: oddly

Adjective
Strange
[B2] strange or unusual

Dictionary examples:
Her father was an odd man.
What an odd thing to say.
It struck me as odd that he hadn’t called.
That’s odd – I’m sure I put my keys in this drawer and yet they’re not here.
It’s a bit odd that no-one’s seen him.

Learner example:
That struck me as odd, since it had never happened before.

The odd
[C2] used to talk about something that happens or exists sometimes but not often

Dictionary examples:
She does the odd teaching job but nothing permanent.
You get the odd person who’s rude to you but they’re generally quite helpful.
**Learner example:**
Apart from the odd visit to other towns and villages, we used to spend the best part of our holiday on the beach.

**oddy** /ˈɒd.li/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** odd
**Adverbs:** oddly

**ADVERB**
[C2] in a strange or surprising way

**Dictionary examples:**
Didn’t you think she was **behaving** rather oddly at the party yesterday? 
Oddly **enough**, she didn’t mention anything about the fact that she was getting married.

**Learner example:**
Oddly enough, she never seems to be really angry and perhaps it is the reason why I like confiding in her.

**odds** /ɒdz/

**NOUN [PLURAL]**

**PROBABILITY**
[C1] the probability that a particular thing will or will not happen

**Dictionary examples:**
If you drive a car all your life, the odds **are** that you'll have an accident at some point.
There are heavy odds **against** people succeeding in such a bad economic climate.
What are the odds **on** him being re-elected?
The odds **are stacked against** a woman succeeding in the business.

**Learner example:**
After all, on the battlefield for promotion, men still have a vital interest to set the odds against women in favour of their own opportunities.

**against all (the) odds**
[C2] If you do or achieve something against all the odds, you succeed although you were not likely to.

**Dictionary example:**
We won the game against all odds.
Learner example:
The stormy waters and heavy winds were a great challenge, and almost deemed it impossible for me to succeed, but against all odds I managed to defeat my fears.

odds and ends
[C2] informal a group of small objects of different types which are not valuable or important

Dictionary example:
I use this box to keep odds and ends in.

be at odds with sb/sth
[C2] to not agree with someone or something

Dictionary example:
His remark was at odds with our report.

Learner example:
Young people are inexperienced as far as the world is concerned and thus they are frequently at odds with their family.

odour /ˈoʊ.dər/

NOUN [C]
[C2] a smell, often one that is unpleasant

Dictionary example:
body odour

Learner example:
It was stale and had a decidedly offensive odour.

of /ɒf/

PREPOSITION

JUDGMENT
[B2] used after an adjective when judging someone's behaviour

Dictionary examples:
It was very nice of you to think of us.
It was a bit mean of him to mention her weight.
Thank you so much for my present. How thoughtful of you.

Learner example:
It was most thoughtful of you to invite us and I warmly appreciate your hospitality.
RELATING TO
[C1] about or relating to

Dictionary examples:
Speaking of Elizabeth, here she is.
Let us consider the events of the last five months.
We know very little of her childhood.

Learner example:
Speaking of sightseeing, many thought that visiting other sights – like the Folk Museum – should not be compulsory.

of your own accord
[C2] If you do something of your own accord, you choose to do it and no one else forces you.

Dictionary example:
She left of her own accord.

Learner example:
She would go alone, but it was something that was chosen of her own accord.

off /ɒf/  

ADVERB

DISTANCE/TIME
[C1] far in distance or time

Dictionary examples:
You can see the village off in the distance.
My holidays seem a long way off.
The exams are so far off that I’m not even thinking about them yet.

Learner example:
Allow me to start by saying that one day, which may [ie] not so far off in the future, people will visit the buildings which were formerly known as ”Educational Institutions” like we visit museums to gape at the sheer size of the Dinosaurs...

PREPOSITION

NEAR
[B2] near to a building or place

Dictionary example:
an island off the coast of Spain

Learner example:
He spent all night off the coast, (unfinished)
off duty

[B2] If someone such as a doctor or a soldier is off duty, they are not working.

Dictionary example:
What time are you off duty tomorrow?

Learner example:
Sometimes I come off duty at ten p.m.

off the record

[C1] If you say something off the record, you do not want the public to know about it.

Dictionary example:
Off the record, ministers are saying the president must resign.

Learner example:
Off the record, how come that your reporter can print such lies when knowing they are perhaps hurting certain people in this important matter?

off limits

[C2] If an area is off limits, you are not allowed to enter it.

Dictionary example:
Most of the palace is off limits to the public.

Learner example:
The only place that was off limits for us was on the other side of the mountain, because it was too dangerous.

off the beaten track

[C2] in a place where few people go

Dictionary example:
I prefer to take my holiday somewhere off the beaten track.

Learner example:
Furthermore, in areas off the beaten track, there [are] not even police sometimes.

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

FOOD

[B2] If food or drink is off, it is not now fresh and good to eat or drink.

Dictionary example:
This milk smells off.

Learner example:
Who knows if the food isn't off?

STOPPED

[C2] stopped or given up
Dictionary examples:
The wedding's off – she's decided she's too young to settle down.
It's all off between Philippa and Mike.
The boat trip is off because of the weather.

Learner example:
On that day, she had written him a big long letter and told him that it was all off, for she didn't love him any longer.

offence  /əˈfɛnts/

Word family:
Nouns: offence, offender
Verbs: offend
Adjectives: offensive

NOUN

CRIME
[B2] [c] a crime

Dictionary examples:
Driving without a licence is an offence.
a serious/minor offence
a criminal offence
He committed several serious offences.
It's the third time that he's been convicted of a drug offence.

Learner example:
Finally, using a bike [keeps] you free of any parking problem [or] parking offence and your bike will wait [for] you all day long, [because] it won't be to[w]ed–away!

UPSET FEELINGS
[B2] [u] when something rude makes someone upset or angry

Dictionary examples:
I really didn't mean to cause/give any offence – I was just stating my opinion.
Do you think he took offence at what I said about his hair?
If you don't mind, I'd rather go on my own – no offence, but I think it would be better.

Learner example:
Now, about that organisation of yours. What is it actually doing? No offence, I just wonder are you saving nature or just writing articles about it?
offend /əˈfend/  

Word family:  
Nouns: offence, offender  
Verbs: offend  
Adjectives: offensive  

VERB [T]  
[B2] to make someone upset or angry  

Dictionary examples:  
I think she was a bit offended that she hadn't been invited to the party.  
He looked a offended when you called him middle-aged.  
If the sight of a few dirty dishes offends you, then I think you've got problems!  

Learner example:  
I know that she was not offended but I will never forget my stupid question.  

offender /əˈfen.dər/  

Word family:  
Nouns: offence, offender  
Verbs: offend  
Adjectives: offensive  

NOUN [C]  
[B2] someone who has committed a crime  

Dictionary examples:  
first-time offenders  
sex offenders  
young offenders  

Learner example:  
The ticket fare is very reasonable, [and] there [are] always police patrolling around, protecting the people from offenders.  

offensive /əˈfent.sɪv/  

Word family:  
Nouns: offence, offender  
Verbs: offend  
Adjectives: offensive  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] likely to make people angry or upset
Dictionary examples:
This programme contains language that some viewers might find offensive.
He told some really offensive sexist jokes.

Learner example:
Dear Sir/Madam, The review on the Westfield Music Festival was both offensive and incorrect.

offer /ˈɒf.ər/

VERB

AGREE TO PAY
[C1] [ɪ] to say that you will pay a particular amount of money

Dictionary examples:
I offered him £500 for the car.
Police have offered a $1,000 reward for information.

Learner example:
My company will offer 20 percent more than the minimum wage that exists for the same type of work in Canada.

NOUN [C]

on offer
[B2] available

Dictionary examples:
We were amazed at the range of products on offer.
You should find out about the services on offer.

Learner example:
The swimming pool is also on offer [to] tourists. Another advantage of the hotel is that it is not far from the cent[re].

PAYMENT
[C2] an amount of money that you say you will pay for something

Dictionary example:
The highest offer anyone has made so far is £150.

office /ˈɒf.ɪs/

NOUN

JOB
[C1] [u] an important job in an organization
Some people think he has been in office for too long. 
She held the office of mayor for eight years.

The former Polish prime minister was a woman – Hanna Suchocka – and she was able to remain in office for 15 months, in the time when the life expectancy of governments in Poland is about half a year.

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**officer** /ˈɒf.ɪ.saɪ/

Word family:
- **Nouns**: officer, official
- **Adjectives**: official
- **Adverbs**: officially

**NOUN [C]**

MILITARY

[B2] someone with an important job in a military organization

**Dictionary examples:**
- a naval officer
- an army officer

**Learner example:**
He was an officer in the army.

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**official** /əˈfɪʃ.əl/

Word family:
- **Nouns**: officer, official
- **Adjectives**: official
- **Adverbs**: officially

**ADJECTIVE**

APPROVED

[B2] approved by the government or someone in authority

**Dictionary examples:**
- the official language of Singapore
- an official document

There is to be an official inquiry into the incident.
The queen will attend the official opening of the theatre in June.

**Learner example:**
I have worked as an official translator in the British Embassy in Seoul.
**JOB/DUTIES**

[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] relating to the duties of someone in authority

**Dictionary example:**
an official visit

**Learner example:**
The two episodes in the book 'The colour of blood' that I've decided to write about are Cardinal Benn and Prime Minister meeting at the official residence, and the fatal mass in honour [of] the blessed martyrs.

**KNOWN**

[C2] known by the public

**Dictionary examples:**
Their engagement is now official.
Inflation has fallen below 2%, and that's official.

**Learner example:**
It was now official, she was the most beautiful girl of the school.

**NOT TRUE**

[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] An official explanation or statement is one that is given, but which may not be true.

**Dictionary example:**
The official reason for the delay is bad weather.

**Learner example:**
Well, this was the official reason to explain his stay, [but] the truth – which I had learned later – was that Martin was a broken man.

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] a person who has a position of responsibility in an organization

**Dictionary examples:**
a UN official
a government/trade-union official

**Learner example:**
Neither Olivia nor her husband, Douglas, are Indian, but Douglas is a British official in India.

**officially** /əˈfɪʃ.əl.i/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** officer, official
**Adjectives:** official
**Adverbs:** officially
ADVERB

[C1] formally and in a way agreed to or arranged by people in positions of authority

Dictionary examples:
The new hospital was officially opened yesterday.
The royal engagement was announced officially this morning.

Learner example:
If I could travel back to any place and time in history, I would choose the day when World War II was officially declared over.

off-putting /ˈɒfˈpʊt.ɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE

[C2] slightly unpleasant or worrying so that you do not want to get involved in any way

Dictionary example:
He's slightly aggressive, which a lot of people find a bit off-putting when they first meet him.

Learner example:
Therefore, it's quite off-putting to stay in Hong Kong for higher education.

offset /ˈɒfˈset/

VERB [T] (offsetting, offset)

[C2] If one thing offsets another thing, it has the opposite effect and so creates a more balanced situation.

Dictionary example:
The costs have been offset by savings in other areas.

Learner example:
During the interview, she tried to offset the bad impression she was sure she had made.

offspring /ˈɒf.spring/

NOUN [C] formal (plural offspring)

[C2] the child of a person or animal

Dictionary example:
to produce offspring
Learner example:
Now, seven years into a relationship with a woman that eventually became my wife and mother of my offspring, I sit back and recall with selfish and secret pleasure the sheer number of different wom[e]n I have been out with between these two absolute landmarks in my love life.

| often |ˈɒf.ən/ |

**ADVERB**

**NORMAL/TRUE**

[B2] If something often happens or is often true, it is normal for it to happen or it is usually true.

**Dictionary examples:**
Brothers and sisters often argue.
Headaches are often caused by stress.
Christmas is often mild in Britain.

**Learner example:**
Very often, people link classical music to Austrian or German [composers], [such] as Mozart or Handel, but rarely to England and genius[es] [such] as Haydn and Purcell.

**every so often**
[C2] sometimes, but not often

**Dictionary example:**
He went into town every so often to buy supplies.

**Learner example:**
Elizabeth and others visited her every so often until [one] day she left them.

| oil |ˈɔɪl/ |

**NOUN**

**burn the midnight oil**
[C2] to work late into the night

**Dictionary example:**
I had to burn the midnight oil to get the essay finished.

**Learner example:**
My examinations were nearing and I was always burning the midnight oil.
old /əʊld/

**ADJECTIVE**

the old days
[C1] a period in the past

Dictionary example:
In the old days large families were much more common.

the same old arguments/face/story, etc.
[C1] INFORMAL something or someone you have seen or heard many times before

Dictionary examples:
Every day I see the same old faces.
Politicians repeat the same old arguments time and time again.

Learner example:
I think that it is the same old story with media all over the world that they tend to present the news in [an] exaggerated manner.

omission /əʊˈmɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: omission
Verbs: omit

NOUN [C or U]

[C2] when something has not been included that should have been

Dictionary examples:
Measures to control child employment are a glaring omission from this legislation.
There are some serious errors and omissions in the book.

Learner example:
Finally, I think it would be an omission if I didn’t mention the children that live in poverty and die from starvation and diseases every day.

omit /əʊˈmɪt/ (−tt−)

Word family:
Nouns: omission
Verbs: omit

VERB [T]

[C1] to not include something
Dictionary examples:
She was omitted from the list of contributors to the report.
The Prince's tour conveniently omitted the most deprived areas of the city.

Learner example:
The advertisement had omitted some important facts about the school, like the rare possibility of taking the exam, the problems with transport, the lack of advertised social activities.

**omit to do sth**
[C1] to not do something

Dictionary example:
She omitted to mention where she was going.

Learner example:
Thus, no-one else could fill the gap if they omit to teach their children basic principles of living [in] society.

on /ɒn/

**PREPOSITION**

**TOUCH/HIT**
[B2] used to show what happens as a result of touching or hitting against something

Dictionary examples:
You'll cut yourself on that knife if you're not careful.
I hit my head on the shelf as I was standing up.

Learner example:
Suddenly I hit my head on the bed as the man was talking.

**FOOD/FUEL**
[B2] used to show something which is used as food or fuel

Dictionary examples:
What do frogs live on?
Does this radio run on batteries?

Learner example:
All new cars run on unleaded fuel which is a benefit to the environment.

**on account of sth**
[B2] because of something

Dictionary example:
He doesn't eat any dairy products on account of the diet he is following.
Learner example:
On account of its location, it is always busy.

**on behalf of sb or on sb’s behalf**

[B2] If you do something on behalf of someone, you do it for them or instead of them.

**Dictionary examples:**
On behalf of the entire company, I would like to thank you for all your work.
Unfortunately, George cannot be with us today so I am pleased to accept this award on his behalf.

Learner example:
I am writing on behalf of our college English club members to welcome you [to] our city.

**on balance**

[B2] used to give your opinion after you have considered all the facts about something

**Dictionary example:**
On balance, I’d prefer to come straight home.

Learner example:
On balance, no matter how important or useful computers may be, they will never replace the pleasure of re-reading familiar pages of your favourite books.

**on condition that**

[B2] only if

**Dictionary example:**
I’ll come with you on condition that we’re back before midnight.

Learner example:
I would like to do this on condition that you will not mention my name [on] the website.

**on duty**

[B2] If someone such as a doctor or a soldier is on duty, they are working.

**Dictionary example:**
What time are you on duty tomorrow?

Learner example:
I was on duty in front of the major’s house with another soldier.

**on top of sth**

[B2] in addition to something else that is bad

**Dictionary examples:**
On top of all this bad luck, he lost his mobile phone.
And then, on top of everything else, her car was stolen!

Learner example:
On top of everything, the weather was bad and the sea[a] was so cold that I couldn’t swim.
on the one hand ... on the other hand
[B2] used when you are comparing two different ideas or opinions

Dictionary example:
On the one hand, computer games develop many skills, but on the other, they mean kids don’t get enough exercise.

Learner example:
On the one hand, I know from my experience that it’s much easier in life if you know more about everything, but on the other hand, I’d say that if someone [had given] me a chance (when I was kid) to study what I enjoy[ed], probably I’d have more possibility to develop my skills.

on offer
[B2] available

Dictionary examples:
We were amazed at the range of products on offer.
You should find out about the services on offer.

Learner example:
The swimming pool is also on offer [to] tourists. Another advantage of the hotel is that it is not far from the cent[re].

be on a committee/panel, etc.
[C1] to be a member of a group or organization

Dictionary examples:
She’s on the playgroup committee.
How many people are on your staff?
She’s a researcher on a women’s magazine.

Learner example:
As a student on the committee w[h]ich organises this, I have to say that there have been some problems with the experience, and also that some changes should be made in order to make a better programme.

on the basis of sth
[C1] having something as a reason

Dictionary example:
Marks are awarded on the basis of progress and performance.

Learner example:
On the basis of the points mentioned above, it is a foregone conclusion that young people do not face any severe problems.

be on the ball INFORMAL
[C1] to be quick to understand and react to things

Dictionary example:
She’s over ninety, but she’s still on the ball.
Learner example:
When you're at Sants station, you'll need to be on the ball to find the tube.

**on air**
[C1] on television or radio

**Dictionary example:**
The radio station is on air from 6.00 a.m.

**Learner example:**
It is on air at 8.30 p.m. every Thursday and Saturday.

**on the grounds of/that**
[C1] because of a particular reason

**Dictionary examples:**
You cannot discriminate on the grounds of religion.
I refused on the grounds that it was too risky.

**Learner example:**
I am convinced that it is better than Southside College on the grounds that a great mass of students are satisfied.

**on hold**
[C1] If a plan or activity is on hold, it will not be done until a later time.

**Dictionary example:**
The project is on hold until we get more money.

**Learner example:**
What's more, it might, intentionally or not, raise awareness on issues that might have been put on hold by authorities, such as the legalization of soft drugs.

**on hold**
[C1] waiting to speak to someone on the telephone

**Dictionary example:**
His secretary put me on hold.

**Learner example:**
The day after, I called your office and after being put on hold, the person answering the phone was unwilling to come up with a proper reply.

**on the horizon**
[C1] likely to happen soon

**Dictionary example:**
Economic recovery is on the horizon.

**Learner example:**
Often this is justified as a result of society being collectively afraid that a shortage of fuel is on the horizon.
**on the increase**
[C1] If something is on the increase, it is happening more often.

**Dictionary example:**
Violent crime is on the increase.

**Learner example:**
[The] number of motorists is on the increase everywhere in the world.

**on loan**
[C1] If something is on loan, someone is borrowing it.

**Dictionary example:**
Both paintings are on loan from the city museum.

**Learner example:**
For example, you can always take out on loan any video you like from our center.

**on location**
[C1] If a film or television programme is made on location, it is made at a place suitable to the story.

**Dictionary example:**
The movie was shot on location in Kenya.

**Learner example:**
We can't help mentioning the nice shots on location.

**on the road**
[C1] driving or travelling, usually over a long distance

**Dictionary example:**
We'd been on the road for 48 hours.

**Learner example:**
I have experienced sitting behind a steering wheel on the road for many years.

**on track**
[C1] making progress and likely to succeed

**Dictionary examples:**
A fighter from Edinburgh is on track to become world heavyweight boxing champion.
We've got a lot of work to do but we're on the right track.

**Learner example:**
The sales teams are well on track and bringing in new customers every day.

**on show**
[C1] being shown to the public

**Dictionary example:**
Her designs are currently on show at the Museum of Modern Art.
Learner example:
One of the facilit[ies] that really make[s] a difference is the Art Gallery, with its great exhibition on show, as well as the Art Library.

on site
[C1] inside a factory, office building, etc.

Dictionary examples:
There are two restaurants on site.
They provide on-site childcare facilities for employees.

Learner example:
A small period of training on site is required a few days before the beginning of the job itself and how many interesting people you will meet!

be on the verge of sth/doing sth
[C2] to be going to happen or do something very soon

Dictionary example:
The company is on the verge of financial disaster.

Learner example:
I was on the verge of depression, when I decided to take the control of my own life.

have/carry sth on you
[C2] to have something with you

Dictionary example:
Do you have your driving licence on you?

on no account; not on any account
[C2] not for any reason or in any situation

Dictionary example:
On no account must these records be changed.

Learner example:
Mary did not want Martin to leave on any account, let alone move to a foreign country.

be on the brink of sth
[C2] to be in a situation where something bad is going to happen very soon

Dictionary example:
The two countries are on the brink of war.

Learner example:
By the end of the 21st century, Earth was on the brink of destruction. The atmosphere was polluted, the seas were poisoned, the animals were just a distant memory.

be on the cards
[C2] to be likely to happen
Dictionary example:
Do you think marriage is on the cards?

**be on cloud nine** _informal_
[C2] to be extremely happy and excited

Dictionary example:
After I heard I'd got the job, I was on cloud nine!

Learner example:
But now, after the promise in which both said "yes", she was on cloud nine.

**on the dot**
[C2] at that exact time

Dictionary example:
We have to leave at 7.30 on the dot.

Learner example:
He gave him an address and told him to be there at six on the dot.

**on occasion(s)**
[C2] sometimes, but not often

Dictionary example:
I only drink alcohol on occasion.

Learner example:
As I am writing this I am beginning to conclude that there are very few disadvantages of banning private cars, only that for individuals it is far easier and [more] convenient to use a private car and not rely on our public transport, which can be on occasions very unreliable.

**be on the verge of sth/doing sth**
[C2] to be going to happen or to do something very soon

Dictionary example:
a company on the verge of financial disaster

Learner example:
I was on the verge of depression, when I decided to take control of my own life.

**be on the same wavelength**
[C2] If two people are on the same wavelength, they have the same way of thinking and it is easy for them to understand each other.

Dictionary example:
We chatted occasionally, but I never really felt we were on the same wavelength.

Learner example:
We were on the same wavelength and we therefore started our own research.

**(be) on the line**
[C2] If someone's job, reputation, life, etc. is on the line, they may lose it.
 Dictionary example:
If we don't win the contract, all our jobs are on the line.

 Learner example:
The person who hopes to achieve success shouldn't be afraid of taking risks and sometimes putting his or her career on the line for the sake of gaining much bigger benefits.

**be on edge**
[C2] to be nervous or worried

 Dictionary example:
Sorry for shouting – I’m a bit on edge today.

 Learner example:
I was consequently on edge all the time and was not able to have fun as much as the others did.

**on the face of it**
[C2] used when you are describing how a situation seems on the surface

 Dictionary example:
On the face of it, it seems like a bargain, but I bet there are hidden costs.

 Learner example:
On the face of it, both sides have valid arguments, and it’s a difficult balancing act to manage.

**be on (good) form**
[C2] If someone is in form or on form, they are feeling or performing well, and if they are off form they are not feeling or performing well.

 Dictionary example:
Harry was on good form last night.

**be on (your) guard**
[C2] to be ready to deal with something difficult that might happen

 Dictionary example:
Companies were warned to be on their guard for suspicious packages.

 Learner example:
However, we should be on guard, so as not to let the things escape our control.

**on hand or to hand**
[C2] near to someone or something, and ready to help or be used when necessary

 Dictionary example:
Extra supplies will be on hand, should they be needed.

 Learner example:
From their point of view, they can always have you on hand whenever they need help, which is the most important part in their formative years.

**on impulse**
[C2] suddenly and without thinking first
Dictionary example:
I tend to act on impulse.

Learner example:
I’m seeing Milly as a capricious girl who, like most teenagers, enjoy[s] buying, although I think that she buys on impulse.

on the part of sb; on sb’s part
[C2] done or experienced by someone

Dictionary examples:
This is a major sacrifice on the part of the unions.
The accident was caused by carelessness on the instructor’s part.

Learner example:
It seems that international sports competitions have always tended to attract a great amount of interest on the part of the media and have consistently been popular with sports fans the world over.

on principle
[C2] If you refuse to do something on principle, you refuse to do it because you think it is morally wrong.

Dictionary example:
She doesn’t wear fur on principle.

Learner example:
They granted themselves a little celebration: it was time to keep the promise made four years before; so they bought some bottles of wine and got drunk (the[y] who, on principle, never drank alcohol).

on the side
[C2] in addition to your main job

Dictionary example:
She does a bit of bar work on the side.

Learner example:
At work, they gave her the worst jobs to do. She knew she didn't have much choice but she still tried to find something else on the side.

on the spot
[C2] immediately

Dictionary example:
I accepted the job on the spot.

Learner example:
And when it was Meredith’s turn to tell her about her impending wedding, she felt she was going to have a heart attack on the spot.
on the spur of the moment
[C2] If you do something on the spur of the moment, you do it suddenly, without planning it.

Dictionary example:
On the spur of the moment we decided to go to London for the day.

Learner example:
In reality, many people buy things on the spur of the moment only to discover later that they, in fact, do not meet their expectations.

on the threshold of *sth
[C2] at the start of a new and important time or development

Dictionary example:
We're on the threshold of a new era in European relations.

Learner example:
On the threshold of the third millennium, there is no stopping progress.

ADVERB

HAPPENING
[B2] happening or planned

Dictionary examples:
I'm busy tomorrow, but I've got nothing on the day after.
I've got a lot on at the moment.
Do you know what's on at the cinema?
Is the party still on for tomorrow?

MOVING FORWARD
[B2] in a way which results in forward movement

Dictionary examples:
You cycle on and I'll meet you there.
Move on, please, and let the ambulance through.

Learner example:
I had just got on the subway when it stopped and didn't move on.

WORKING
[B2] working or being used

Dictionary example:
The heating has been on all day.

Learner example:
For example, the staff shouldn't leave the lights on and the heating's on when they don't need to use it.
Dictionary examples:
Hurry up with the make-up – I’m on in ten minutes.
The audience cheered as the band came on.

Learner example:
My faith in youth started to fade but then a boy named Josh came on.

once /wʌnts/

ADVERB

for once
[B2] used to mean that something is happening that does not usually happen

Dictionary example:
For once, the bus came on time.

Learner example:
We would take lots of pictures, and play our own instruments, and if we get lucky enough, we would even touch the very stones and for once be embraced by magic itself.

(every) once in a while
[B2] sometimes but not often

Dictionary example:
We do go to the beach once in a while.

Learner example:
She did not say very much except for "oh" and "yes, yes" every once in a while.

at once
[C1] at the same time

Dictionary example:
They all started talking at once.

Learner example:
The study centre is really small and all the students talk at once.

all at once
[C1] suddenly

Dictionary example:
All at once he stood up and walked out of the room.

Learner example:
All at once, everything started to work again.
once and for all
[C2] completely and finally

Dictionary example:
Let's get to the bottom of this matter once and for all!

Learner example:
Now I was sure that my wife had left me once and for all.

CONJUNCTION
[B2] as soon as

Dictionary examples:
Once I've found somewhere to live I'll send you my address.
Remember that you won't be able to cancel the contract once you've signed.

Learner example:
I'll write back soon once I know exactly when I can visit you.

one  /wʌn/

PRONOUN

one by one
[B2] separately, one after the other

Dictionary examples:
One by one the old buildings in the city have been demolished and replaced with modern tower blocks.
They entered the room one by one.

Learner example:
So, he decides to investigate his death and he meets Harry's friends, one by one, to [find out] how he died, but they tell him different stories.

one at a time
[B2] separately

Dictionary example:
Eat them one at a time.

Learner example:
The story was a horrible one but it had a harmless ending. The mad man kills one at a time, but in the end, the producer of the film says: "Cut, we'll take everything once again."

one after another
[B2] (also one after the other) many, in a series, especially with very little time between them
Dictionary examples:
They had four children one after another.
She ate the chocolates one after the other until the box was finished.

Learner example:
Little parties organised one after another by [the] representatives of different countries gave me [an] opportunity to try the French, Spanish or Japanese specialties.

ANY PERSON

[C1] FORMAL any person in general

Dictionary example:
One ought to respect one's parents.

Learner example:
One can learn the beauty of the Greek language by simply reading the headings and will [soon] find that "The Step" is the best newspaper of all.

(all) in one

[C2] combined into a single thing

Dictionary example:
It's a vacation and art course all in one.

Learner example:
The internet is like combining a television, a telephone and an airplane all in one.

DETERMINER

FUTURE TIME

[B2] used to refer to a time in the future which is not yet decided

Dictionary examples:
Why don't we meet for lunch one day next week?
I'd like to go skiing one Christmas.

Learner example:
I would be very glad if Enrico could stay with you one summer.

PARTICULAR TIME

[B2] used to refer to a particular occasion while avoiding stating the exact moment

Dictionary examples:
I met him one day in the park.
One night we stayed up talking till dawn.
He was attacked as he was walking home from work late one afternoon.

Learner example:
One afternoon, my mum called me asking what I was doing.

SINGLE

[B2] a single thing
Dictionary examples:
Do you think five of us will manage to squeeze into the one car?
There's too much data to fit onto just one disk.
I think we should paint the bedroom all one colour.

Learner example:
I would recommend just the one hotel: Riverside Hotel, which offers great value.

ONLY
[B2] used when saying there is no other person or thing

Dictionary examples:
He's the one person you can rely on in an emergency.
This may be your one and only opportunity to meet her.
My final guest on tonight’s show needs no introduction. Please welcome the one and only Michael Jordan!

Learner example:
Often it’s the one and only possibility for young children to see wild animals or unknown animals from the other side of the world in real life.

one way or another
[B2] in some way that is not stated

Dictionary examples:
One way or another these bills have to be paid.
Everyone at the party was related in one way or another.

Learner example:
All of them made a big difference [to] our personal life and have affected it one way or another.

one way or the other
[B2] in any way that is possible

Dictionary example:
We have to make a decision one way or the other about what needs to be done.

Learner example:
Our transportation system nowadays is also very well organised and there is a wide range of buses, subways, etc. with which you can reach your destination one way or the other.

one of a kind
[C2] used to describe someone or something that is completely different from other people or things

Dictionary example:
My Dad was one of a kind – funny, kind and generous.

Learner example:
Pele is indeed one of a kind and can be considered a model for youngsters.
**oneself** /wʌnˈself/  
**PRONOUN FORMAL**  
[C1] the reflexive form of the pronoun 'one' when it refers to the person speaking or people in general  

**Dictionary example:**  
How else should one protect oneself and one's family?  

**Learner example:**  
One must ask oneself: "Why is this happening?"

**ongoing** /ˈɒŋˌɡəʊ.iŋ/  
**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] still happening  

**Dictionary examples:**  
an ongoing investigation/process/project  
No agreement has yet been reached and the negotiations are still ongoing.  

**Learner example:**  
To sum up, we are extremely positive about the club's future and its ongoing success.

**only** /ˈəʊn.li/  
**ADVERB**  
I only hope (that) ... /I only wish ... (that)  
[B2] used to emphasize what you are hoping or wishing for  

**Dictionary examples:**  
I only hope you know what you’re doing.  
I only wish that they would keep in touch more regularly.  

**Learner example:**  
I only hope I can have the chance to see her too.

**not only**  
[B2] used to say that more than one thing is true  

**Dictionary examples:**  
Not only did he turn up late, he also forgot his books.  
If this project fails it will affect not only our department, but also the whole organization.
Learner example:
Not only did she introduce me to her friends but she also introduced me to her brother.

**be only human**
[C2] to not be perfect

**Dictionary example:**
Of course Tom makes mistakes – he's only human.

**Learner example:**
In theory, it is easy to say "We should learn from the mistakes of the past" but is it easy to do so in practice? Many people would say "No" to this question, as we are only human.

**only so much/many**
[C2] used to say that there are limits to something

**Dictionary example:**
There's only so much help you can give someone.

**Learner example:**
The effects of a longer life span have many side effects such as an increase in the world's population and, since there is only so much food, many more people are starving to death.

**CONJUNCTION**
[C2] used to introduce a statement which explains why something you have just said cannot happen or is not completely true

**Dictionary examples:**
I'd invite Frances to the party, only I don't want her husband to come.
I'd phone him myself, only I've got to go out.
This fabric is similar to wool, only cheaper.

**Learner example:**
He was always there for me when I needed him, only I needed him less and less.

**onto (also on to)** /ˈɒn.tu/  

**PREPOSITION**

**CHANGING SUBJECT**
[B2] used to show that you are starting to talk about a different subject

**Dictionary example:**
How did we get onto this subject?

**Learner example:**
Let's move onto another topic!
onwards /ˈɒn.wədz/

**ADVERB (also onward)**

from the 1870s/March/6.30 pm, etc. onwards
[C2] beginning at a time and continuing after it

**Dictionary example:**
From June onwards, they began to meet regularly.

**Learner example:**
A growth to about 10% is expected around 2030 and an immense growth from 2030 onwards (from 10% to 27%).

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open /ˈəʊ.pən/

**Word family:**

*Nouns:* opening, openness

*Verbs:* open

*Adjectives:* open, opening

*Adverbs:* openly

**ADJECTIVE**

**have/keep an open mind**
[B2] to wait until you know all the facts before you form an opinion about something or judge someone

**Dictionary example:**
We're keeping an open mind about the causes of the fire.

**Learner example:**
To listen, to communicate, [and] to have an open mind are a way of life [nowadays].

**NOT COVERED**

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] without a roof or cover

**Dictionary example:**
an open courtyard

**Learner example:**
You can hardly find anything more lovely than driving through the Scottish landscape in an open car.

**open to discussion/suggestions, etc.**
[C1] willing to consider a discussion/suggestions, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
This is only a proposal. I'm open to suggestions.
Learner example:
He seems open to ideas like this, and I am sure he will not cancel at the last minute!

HONEST
[C2] An open person is honest and does not hide their feelings.

Dictionary examples:
He’s quite open about his weaknesses.
I wish you’d be more open with me, and tell me what you’re feeling.
She has an honest, open face.

Learner example:
I was grateful to my flatmate who told me I should be open about myself.

NOT SECRET
[C2] not secret

Dictionary examples:
There has been open hostility between them ever since they had that argument last summer.
The prime minister has promised an open debate on the issue.

Learner example:
The council has refused to have an open discussion with the residents.

open to abuse/criticism, etc.
[C2] likely to be abused/criticized, etc.

Dictionary example:
The system is wide open to abuse.

Learner example:
The development is also open to abuse as counterfeit products could be produced in certain markets.

keep your eyes open (for sb/sth)
[C2] to watch carefully for someone or something

Dictionary example:
Keep your eyes open for anything unusual.

Learner example:
It has helped us identify and successfully combat many a nutritional hazard, keeping our eyes open to immoderate consumption of some substances and its effects.

VERB

START OFFICIALLY
[B2] [I or T] If a business or activity opens, it starts officially for the first time, and if you open it, you make it start officially for the first time.
Dictionary examples:
That restaurant’s new – it only opened last month.
The Olympic Games open tomorrow.
The new hospital will be officially opened by the mayor on Tuesday.

Learner example:
Well, I reckon that you can take photographs of the old castle and also the Classic Museum, which was opened by Queen Victoria 100 years ago.

open your heart
[C2] to tell someone your secret thoughts and feelings

Dictionary example:
That night, she opened her heart to me and I think that's when I fell in love with her.

Learner example:
It is during this excessively dramatic conversation that George opening up his heart, tells her about his interpretation of her unhappiness with Cecil.

opening  /ˈəʊ.pənɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: opening, openness
Verbs: open
Adjectives: open, opening
Adverbs: openly

NOUN

CEREMONY
[B2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] a ceremony at the beginning of an event or activity

Dictionary example:
The official opening of the new school will take place next month.

Learner example:
The festival starts with a huge opening parade.

BEGINNING
[B2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] the beginning of something

Dictionary example:
The opening of the novel is amazing.

HOLE
[C2] [C] a hole or space that something or someone can pass through

Dictionary example:
The children crawled through an opening in the fence.
Learner example:
The water in the reservoir is allowed to flow [through] an opening in the dam.

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[C1] happening at the beginning of an event or activity

**Dictionary examples:**
her opening remarks
the opening night

**Learner example:**
Also we could offer free drinks from our new products [on] the opening night, so we could [get] their first impressions.

 openly /ˈəʊ.pn.li/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** opening, openness
**Verbs:** open
**Adjectives:** open, opening
**Adverbs:** openly

**ADVERB**

[C1] without hiding any of your thoughts or feelings

**Dictionary examples:**
They were openly dismissive of my suggestions.
He talks quite openly about his feelings.
We discussed our reservations about the contract quite openly.

**Learner example:**
I do hope that you are willing to cooperate, though I cannot say it openly.

 open–minded /ˌəʊ.pənˈmaɪn.dɪd/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] willing to consider ideas and opinions that are new or different to your own

**Dictionary example:**
Luckily, both my parents were very open–minded.

**Learner example:**
He is also open–minded and very reliable.
openness /ˈəʊ.pən.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: opening, openness
Verbs: open
Adjectives: open, opening
Adverbs: openly

NOUN [u]
[C2] when someone is honest about their thoughts and feelings

Dictionary example:
I appreciated his openness.

Learner example:
Firstly, I have found honesty and openness significantly important.

operate /ˈɒp.r.eɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: operation, operator
Verbs: operate

VERB

MACHINE
[B2] [i or ɪ] If a machine operates, it does what it is designed to do, and if you operate it, you make it do what it is designed to do.

Dictionary examples:
You have to be trained to operate the machinery.
These new sewing machines are easy to operate.
How do you operate the remote control unit?

Learner example:
Lots of things are operated by computers now like airplanes, elevators, ticket machines, and so on.

ORGANIZATION
[B2] [i or ɪ] If an organization or business operates, it is working, and if you operate it, you manage it and make it work.

Dictionary example:
Our company is operating under very difficult conditions at present.

Learner example:
Now we can get to Lampton by a coach service which is operated by ABC Coaches.
operation /ˌɒp.əˈreɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: operation, operator
Verbs: operate

NOUN [c]

PLANNED ACTIVITY
[C1] [c] an activity which is planned to achieve something

Dictionary examples:
a military/peacekeeping operation
Following the earthquake, a large-scale rescue operation was launched.
The operation to fly in supplies will begin as soon as possible.

ORGANIZATION
[C1] [c] an organization or business

Dictionary example:
a large commercial operation

Learner example:
If I cannot receive any satisfactory reply this month, I will write to the newspaper to expose your operation.

WORK
[C1] [u] the fact of operating or being active

Dictionary examples:
There are several reactors of the type in operation at the moment.
We expect the new scheme for assessing claims to come into operation early next year.

Learner example:
We see computers in operation at work as well as in almost every home.

operator /ˈɒp.ər.ətər/

Word family:
Nouns: operation, operator
Verbs: operate

NOUN [c]

PERSON CONTROLLING MACHINE
[B2] someone whose job is to use and control a machine or vehicle

Dictionary example:
a computer operator
**Learner example:**
Last year I was working in a printing company as a Macintosh operator.

**COMPANY**

[B2] a company that does a particular type of business

**Dictionary example:**
a tour operator

**Learner example:**
If once more we are not satisfied, tour operators organize several types of safari holidays wherever we like.

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**opinion** /əˈpɪn.ʃən/

**NOUN**

**OF GROUP**

[B2] [u] the thoughts or beliefs that a group of people have

**Dictionary examples:**
Eventually, the government will have to take notice of public opinion.
There is a diverse range of opinion on the issue.
There was a difference of opinion as to the desirability of the project.
Opinion is divided as to whether the treatment actually works.
Both performances were excellent, it's simply a matter of opinion as to whose was better.

**Learner example:**
I would like to add that when it comes to public opinion there is a great variety of different points of view – that is why this article, which asserts that "performers were second-rate" seems to be unfair.

**have a high/low opinion of sb/sth**

[C1] to think that someone or something is good/bad

**Dictionary example:**
He has a low opinion of doctors.

**Learner example:**
He had a very high opinion of this particular course.

**in my humble opinion**

[C2] used to give your opinion about something, often when you are sure you are right

**Dictionary example:**
In my humble opinion, that's the wrong decision.
Learner example:
In my humble opinion, there's no such thing as a uniform celebrity, good, bad or otherwise.

opponent /əˈpəʊ.nənt/

NOUN [C]

SPORT
[B2] someone who you compete against in a game or competition

Dictionary example:
In the second game, her opponent hurt her leg and had to retire.

Learner example:
Carmelita was her opponent in the vol[ley]ball final.

PERSON WHO DISAGREES
[B2] someone who disagrees with an action or belief and tries to change it

Dictionary examples:
a political opponent
Leading opponents of the proposed cuts in defence spending will meet later today.

Learner example:
First of all let me look at the arguments used to support cycling and then at those of its opponents, who prefer travelling by car.

opportunity /ˌɒp.əˈtjuː.nə.ti/

NOUN

CHANCE OF JOB
[B2] [C USUALLY PLURAL] the chance to get a job

Dictionary examples:
employment/job opportunities
opportunities for young graduates
There are far more opportunities now for school leavers than there were fifty years ago.

Learner example:
And many people don't have any other job opportunities so they would be stuck with [these] bad jobs.

take the/this opportunity to do sth
[B2] to use an occasion to do or say something
Dictionary example:
I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you.

Learner example:
Most of the comments [are] not right at all. I would like to take this opportunity to correct them.

**oppose /əˈpəʊz/**

Word family:
Nouns: opposite, opposition
Verbs: oppose
Adjectives: opposite, opposed
Adverbs: opposite

**VERB [^1]**
[B2] to disagree with a plan or activity and to try to change or stop it

Dictionary examples:
They both opposed the plan.
Most of the local residents opposed the closing of their hospital.
The proposed new examination system has been vigorously opposed by teachers.

Learner example:
Some of them were defending the idea that the car is the most lethal object that anybody can have, and others who opposed that idea said that the car is and [will] always be the best invention made by humanity.

**opposed /əˈpəʊzd/**

Word family:
Nouns: opposite, opposition
Verbs: oppose
Adjectives: opposite, opposed
Adverbs: opposite

**ADJECTIVE**

be opposed to *sth*
[C1] to disagree with a plan or activity

Dictionary example:
We're not opposed to tax increases.

Learner example:
As you can see, Greendale Park is a very precious place for the majority of the residents, and they are opposed to the council's plan.
as opposed to
[C2] used to say that two things are very different

**Dictionary example:**
I'm talking about English football, as opposed to European football.

**Learner example:**
Love is accepting people as they are, being tolerant and giving freedom, as opposed to possessive love, which is what is often – if not always – understood by love.

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**opposite** /ˈɒp.ə.zɪt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** opposite, opposition
**Verbs:** oppose
**Adjectives:** opposite, opposed
**Adverbs:** opposite

---

**ADJECTIVE**

**DIFFERENT**
[B2] completely different

**Dictionary examples:**
All the traffic was going in the opposite direction.
Police attempts to calm the violence had the opposite effect.

**Learner example:**
The uncle had warned her so that she wouldn't interfer[e] with what happened at the inn, but it had the opposite effect on Mary.

**the opposite sex**
[C1] people who are the other sex from you

**Dictionary example:**
He would never dare to speak to a member of the opposite sex.

**Learner example:**
This is not only about trying to impress (preferably) a person of the opposite sex, but fashion also gives you a great chance to express yourself.

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**opposition** /ˌɒp.əˌzɪʃ.ən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** opposite, opposition
**Verbs:** oppose
**Adjectives:** opposite, opposed
**Adverbs:** opposite
**NOUN [u]**

**DISAGREEMENT**

[C1] strong disagreement

**Dictionary examples:**
There is **fierce/strong** opposition to the proposed changes.
The unions are in opposition to the government over the issue of privatization.

**Learner example:**
The students, in an attempt to demonstrate the opposition of the Greek people to the military regime, occupied their schools for many days.

**the opposition**

[C1] the political parties in a country that are not part of the government

**Dictionary example:**
The opposition is arguing for a review of the policy.

**Learner example:**
He was elected MP for a record of 9 times [and] was the leader of EPE for many years, leading the opposition when Georgios Papandreou, Andreas' father was in power.

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**opt /ɒpt/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** option
**Verbs:** opt
**Adjectives:** optional

**VERB [i]**

[C1] to choose something or to decide to do something

**Dictionary examples:**
Mike opted for early retirement.
Most people opt to have the operation.

**Learner example:**
My recommendation today is to take in[to] consideration people's views and opt for the 'Park and Ride'.

---

**optimism /ˈɒp.tɪ.mɪzəm/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** optimism, optimist
**Adjectives:** optimistic
NOUN [u]
[C2] when you believe good things will happen

Dictionary examples:
There was a note of optimism in his voice as he spoke about the company's future.
Judging from your examination results, I think you have cause for cautious optimism about getting a university place.

Learner example:
We had never been abroad on our own and our hearts were full with a mixture of optimism, curiosity and absurd fears.

optimist /ˈɒp.tɪm.ɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: optimism, optimist
Adjectives: optimistic

NOUN [c]
[C1] someone who always believes that good things will happen

Dictionary example:
She's an optimist.

Learner example:
She is an incurable optimist with a great sense of humour.

optimistic /ˌɒp.tɪˈmɪs.tɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: optimism, optimist
Adjectives: optimistic

ADJECTIVE
[B2] always believing that good things will happen

Dictionary example:
She is optimistic about her chances of winning a gold medal.

Learner example:
I'm not very optimistic about them being sensitive enough to try to produce [fewer] cars, putting human life before their profits.
option /ˈɒp.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: option
Verbs: opt
Adjectives: optional

NOUN [c]

have no option (but to do **sth**)  
[C1] to not have the possibility of doing something else

Dictionary example:
We didn't want to dismiss him, but we had no option.

Learner example:
For example, [on] the first day, Monday, students have the day free with their host parents but there are some of them who work all day and the students have no option but to stay alone in the house.

optional /ˈɒp.ʃən.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: option
Verbs: opt
Adjectives: optional

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] If something is optional, you can choose whether to do it, pay it, buy it, etc.

Dictionary example:
English is compulsory for all students, but art and music are optional.

Learner example:
Refer[ing] to optional lessons, it was recommended that Speaking and Listening, Computer [Studies] and Business English are suitable for filming.

or /ɔː/  

CONJUNCTION

CHANGE
[B2] used to change or correct something you have said
Dictionary examples:
We told the truth, or most of it.
Rosalind, or Roz to her friends, took the initiative.
Things have been going quite well recently. Or they were, up until two days ago.

Learner example:
She is the one [who goes] around with all Rebecca's secrets. Or, almost all the secrets.

or else
[B2] used to say what will happen if another thing does not happen

Dictionary example:
We must be there by six, or else we'll miss the beginning.

Learner example:
[He] told me to hurry up, or else I would miss my bus.

REASON
[C1] used to give a reason for something you have said

Dictionary example:
She must love him or she wouldn't have stayed with him all these years.

or two
[C1] used to show a very small number, usually one or two

Dictionary example:
I'd like to say a word or two about loyalty.

Learner example:
Many fathers do not realize what they are missing by not demanding the privilege of staying at home with the child, at least for a month or two.

or else
[C2] used to compare two different things or situations

Dictionary example:
He talks to her all the time, or else he completely ignores her.

Learner example:
Naturally Olivia's leaving affects Douglas, though not as strongly as one could have expected or else he simply does not show it.

oral /ˈɔːrəl/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] spoken, not written

Dictionary example:
an oral agreement/exam
Learner example:
To sum it up, watching TV improves our oral skills and is a better way of taking notice of the world outside, whereas books improve our writing and reading skills.

**orchestral** /ɔːˈkes.trəl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** orchestra
**Adjectives:** orchestral

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] played by, written for or to do with an orchestra

**Dictionary example:**
an orchestral arrangement

**Learner example:**
The lyrics are about life, love, pain and death but the most important thing is how these lyrics match with the orchestral part of the song.

**ordeal** /ɔːˈdɪəl/

**NOUN [c]**
[C2] a very unpleasant experience

**Dictionary examples:**
The hostages’ ordeal came to an end when soldiers stormed the building. They feared he would not survive the ordeal. She went through the ordeal of being interviewed by a panel of ten people.

**Learner example:**
The first ordeal is the transfer to the airport, in which tears from the children on the back seats along with the many question[s] about what probably might be missing are fixed points in the programme.

**order** /ˈɔː.dər/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** order, disorder

**NOUN**

**INSTRUCTION**
[B2] [c] an instruction that someone must obey
Dictionary examples:
The soldiers fired as soon as their commander gave the order. Soldiers must obey orders.

Learner example:
Today I can still remember my last order: "Put that light out!"

TIDY

[B2] [u] a situation in which everything is in its correct place

Dictionary examples:
I like to put everything in order before I go away. The house was so untidy that she spent the whole day trying to establish some sort of order.

Learner example:
Everything was clean and in order.

CORRECT BEHAVIOUR

[C2] [u] a situation in which people obey laws and there is no trouble

Dictionary examples:
The teacher found it hard to keep her class in order. As the demonstration began to turn violent, the police were called in to restore order. After some heated discussion, the chair called the meeting to order.

Learner example:
Some young people began to be aggressive, putting everything in a mess; some policemen trying to restore order even got wounded.

economic/political/social order

[C2] the way that the economy, politics, or society is organized

Dictionary example:
a threat to the established social order

Learner example:
The failure of the social order Ralph tries to establish and the success of beautifully painted hunters led by Jack, hunting pigs up in the mountains, slowly makes the number of Ralph's supporters diminish.

law and order

[C2] the obeying of laws in society

Dictionary example:
a breakdown in law and order

Learner example:
The breakdown in law and order, lack of basic amenities to support life, absence of a fair and enabling environment for citizens to thrive, to mention but a few, are some among many factors that constitute the cogent reason why most Nigerians choose to travel out of their own country.
**VERB**

**INSTRUCT**

[B2] [1] to give someone an instruction that they must obey

Dictionary examples:
The management has ordered a cutback in spending.
"Wait over there," she ordered.
They ordered him to leave the room.

Learner example:
Then, the men ordered him to walk back to the museum as if not[hing] had happened.

---

**ADJECTIVE**

**out of the ordinary**

[C2] unusual or different

Dictionary examples:
Their relationship was a little out of the ordinary.
The investigation revealed nothing out of the ordinary.

Learner example:
This event is something out of the ordinary for local life and it gives our town prestige and originality.

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**NOUN [C]**

**BODY**

[C1] a part of an animal or plant that has a special purpose

Dictionary examples:
an external/internal/reproductive organ
an organ donor/transplant

Learner example:
Now you can replace or heal almost every bone or organ in a human body.

**MUSIC**

[C2] a large musical instrument that has keys like a piano and produces different notes when air is blown through pipes of different lengths
Dictionary example:
a church organ

Learner example:
I played the piano for three hours every day, took organ lessons and at the age of 10 started to write programs on my home computer.

organic /ˈɔːɡən.ɪk/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] not using artificial chemicals when keeping animals or growing plants for food

Dictionary example:
organic food/fruit/farms/farmers/vegetables

Learner example:
Also, people care more about what really is in the food they eat and so interest in organic food is increasing.

organization (also UK organisation) /ˌɔː.gəˈneɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: organization, organizer
Verbs: organize
Adjectives: disorganized, organized

NOUN

ARRANGEMENT
[C1] [u] the way that parts of something are arranged

Dictionary example:
I’m trying to improve the organization of my computer files.

Learner example:
He also stressed the importance of timing and organisation of your speech and the procedure of business meetings.

organize (also UK organise) /ˈɔː.gən.aɪz/

Word family:
Nouns: organization, organizer
Verbs: organize
Adjectives: disorganized, organized
VERB [v]

ARRANGING

[B2] to do or arrange something according to a particular system

Dictionary example:
The books were organized on the shelves according to their size.

Learner example:
Now Museums are big, have lots of light and you can find the latest technology in them. They are organized in such a different way.

organized (also UK organised) /ˈɔː.gən.aɪzd/

Word family:
Nouns: organization, organizer
Verbs: organize
Adjectives: disorganized, organized

ADJECTIVE

PLANNED

[B2] planned or arranged

Dictionary examples:
We didn't go on an organized tour.
The letters had been placed in organized piles, one for each letter of the alphabet.

Learner example:
Are there any organised trips?

GOOD AT PLANNING

[B2] describes someone who is able to plan things carefully and keep things tidy

Dictionary example:
She's not a very organized person and she always arrives late at meetings.

Learner example:
I am also [a] very organised person and extremely healthy.

organizer (also UK organiser) /ˈɔː.gən.ər/
NOUN [C]
[B2] someone who plans an event or activity

Dictionary examples:
conference/exhibition organizers
There aren’t enough seats for all the guests – I must tell the organizers.

Learner example:
According to the organisers, they sold over 5,000 tickets.

orientation /ˌɒ.rɪ.enˈteɪ.ʃən/

NOUN

BELIEFS
[C2] [c or u] the type of beliefs that a person has

Dictionary example:
He’s very secretive about his political orientation.

Learner example:
Travelling can be enlightening for people who travel to [a] country which is poorer or [a] country with [a] different political orientation.

TRAINING
[C2] [u] training or preparation for a new job or activity

Dictionary example:
an orientation session

Learner example:
I may require some training or orientation should you be using specialized cleaning tools or equipment.

origin /ˈɒr.ɪ.dʒɪn/

Word family:
Nouns: origin, original
Verbs: originate
Adjectives: original
Adverbs: originally

NOUN [C or U]

CAUSE
[B2] (also origins) the cause of something, or where something begins or comes from
Dictionary examples:
What's the origin of that saying?
It's a book about the origins of the universe.
The furniture was French in origin.

Learner example:
The cooking [is] base[d] on traditional recipes of Westfalian origin and it is tasty but often very rich!

COUNTRY/RACE, ETC.
[C1] the country, race, or social class of a person’s family

Dictionary examples:
He is of North African origin.
What is your of origin?
The president's family was of humble origins.

Learner example:
The rules are very simple, they can be understood by everyone, regardless of age, origin or social status.

original /əˈrɪdʒ.ə.nəl/

Word family:
Nouns: origin, original
Verbs: originate
Adjectives: original
Adverbs: originally

ADJECTIVE

PAINTING, ETC.
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] describes a piece of work produced by an artist or writer and not a copy

Dictionary examples:
an original drawing/manuscript
Is this an original Rembrandt?

Learner example:
The War Theatre is visited daily [by] thou[s]ands of people from all [over] the world because of its fantastic Van Gogh original paintings.

NOUN [C]
[B2] something that is in the form in which it was first created and has not been copied or changed

Dictionary example:
If the painting is an original, it will be very valuable.
Learner example:
She was paying him, but not as much as she would need to [to] buy the original.

originally /əˈrɪdʒ.ən.lɪ/  
Word family:  
Nouns: origin, original  
Verbs: originate  
Adjectives: original  
Adverbs: originally

ADVERB
[B2] at the beginning or before any changes  
Dictionary example:
Originally it was a bedroom, but we turned it into a study.

Learner example:
I've been living in England for 6 months and I have studied English for 8 years in Sweden, where I was originally born.

originate /əˈrɪdʒ.ə.nət/  
Word family:  
Nouns: origin, original  
Verbs: originate  
Adjectives: original  
Adverbs: originally

VERB [I]
originate from/in/with, etc.  
[C2] to come from a particular place, person or cause, or to begin during a particular period

Dictionary example:
Citrus fruits originated in China and Southeast Asia.

Learner example:
They originated in Polynesia but had come to N[ew] Z[ealand] about one thousand years ago.

ornament /ˈɔː.nə.mənt/  
NOUN [C]
[C2] an attractive object that is used as a decoration in a home or garden
**Dictionary example:**
There were glass ornaments on the shelf.

**Learner example:**
Expensive products such as necklaces and decorative ornaments are highly represented, much to the joy of the more wealthy people in the town.

**orphan /ˈɔː.fən/**

**NOUN [C]**
[C2] a child whose parents have died

**Dictionary example:**
They adopted an orphan.

**Learner example:**
"Vanyka" is a story about a nine-year-old orphan sent to Moscow to work as a servant in a rich person's house.

**orthodox /ˈɔːθə.dɒks/**

**ADJECTIVE**
**RELIGION**
[C2] keeping the traditional beliefs and customs of Judaism or some types of Christianity

**Dictionary examples:**
an orthodox Jewish family
the Russian/Greek Orthodox Church

**Learner example:**
Her ancestors were orthodox Jews and Rabbis.

**IDEA**
[C2] If ideas or methods are orthodox, most people think they are correct, usually because they have existed for a long time.

**Dictionary example:**
orthodox medicine

**Learner example:**
Despite both being healthy people something appeared to be wrong after following all the orthodox methods to conceive a child.
other /ˈʌðər/

DETERMINER

In other words
[B2] used to introduce an explanation that is simpler than the one given earlier

Dictionary example:
He was economical with the truth – in other words, he was lying.

Learner example:
We are able to use zoos as a place where we can spend our free time with our children. In other words, it is a good place for the family.

The other way round/around
[B2] happening in the opposite way

Dictionary example:
I thought the older people would be more offended than the young people, but it was the other way round.

Learner example:
As you know, I did that the other way round for the States.

or other INFORMAL
[C1] used when you cannot or do not want to be exact about the information you are giving

Dictionary examples:
The event was held in some park or other.
We'll find someone or other to help us.

Learner example:
Maybe you hate the memory of boring literature classes at school, but I'm sure each of you is interested in some subject or other.

Other than
[C1] formal different from or except

Dictionary examples:
Holidays other than those in this brochure do not have free places for children.
The form cannot be signed by anyone other than yourself.
There's nothing on TV tonight, other than rubbish.

Learner example:
There are no vegetarian alternatives other than cheese sandwiches, which our members find very depressing.

Other than that
[C1] except for the thing you have just said
Dictionary example:
My arm was a bit sore – other than that I was fine.

Learner example:
Currently, I only have a small corner in the room whereas my sisters get a bigger portion. This means I have to keep all my things under the bed. Other than that, I would like a big beautiful garden because I love nature.

every other day/week, etc.
[C2] happening one day/week, etc. but not the next

Dictionary example:
Alice goes to the gym every other day.

Learner example:
The rubbish is collected every other day, which is quite often.

PRONOUN

others
[B2] more ones

Dictionary examples:
This one is broken – do you have any others?
I only know about this book, but there might be others.

Learner example:
In fact, we [might] manage to do some interesting activities such as mountain biking in Sintra, canoeing in Teja, etc. You would be glad to see how many interesting people we [might] meet while doing those activities and any others that you would like to [do].

otherwise /ˈʌð.ə.waɪz/

ADVERB

NOT INCLUDING
[B2] except for what has just been referred to

Dictionary examples:
The bike needs a new saddle, but otherwise it’s in good condition.
The poor sound quality ruined an otherwise splendid film.

Learner example:
This seemed the high point of an otherwise dull and disorganised event.

DIFFERENTLY
[C1] different to what has just been stated
Dictionary examples:
I'll meet you there at 6 o'clock, unless I hear otherwise.
The police believe he is the thief, but all the evidence suggests otherwise.
Under the law, a person is presumed innocent until proved otherwise.
Marion Morrison, otherwise known as the film star John Wayne, was born in 1907.
I can't meet you on Tuesday – I'm otherwise engaged.

Learner example:
An important event in the history of Greece was the Civil War between the cities of Athens and Sparti around 400 B.C., otherwise known as [the] Pelopon[n]esian War.

ought to /ˈaʊt.tuː/

MODAL VERB

TRUE

[B2] used to say that you expect something to be true or that you expect something to happen

Dictionary examples:
She ought to be home by now.
He ought to pass the exam this time.

Learner example:
All the students ought to know how famous you are. You are a very well-known writer who was born in Rhodes.

out /aʊt/

ADVERB

LIGHT/FIRE

[B2] If a light or fire is out, it is no longer shining or burning.

Dictionary examples:
When we got home, all the lights were out.
Is that fire completely out?

Learner example:
I looked out through the window to check if the lights were out in the windows of the block of flats next to ours.

NOT ACCURATE

[C1] not accurate
Dictionary example:
Your figures are out by £300.

FAR AWAY
[C2] a long distance away from land, a town or your own country

Dictionary examples:
The fishing boats were out at sea for three days.
They live out in the countryside, miles from anywhere.
He lived out in Zambia for seven years.

Learner example:
Today I live out in the country.

down and out
[C2] having no money, no luck and no opportunities

Dictionary example:
Nobody loves you when you’re down and out.

Learner example:
The neglect of social security as a vital point in state policies leaves homeless people down and out, with little chance for improving their bleak prospects.

the ins and outs of sth
[C2] the details of a particular subject

Dictionary example:
the ins and outs of the legal system

Learner example:
I knew all the ins and outs of every story but I couldn’t stay one single day in bed without reading it.

outbreak  /ˈaʊt.breɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: break, outbreak
Verbs: break
Adjectives: breakable, broken

NOUN [c]
[C2] when something unpleasant and difficult to control starts, such as a war or disease

Dictionary examples:
an outbreak of flu/food poisoning/rioting/war
Last weekend saw further thundery outbreaks.
Learner example:
Being a GP during the time of another outbreak of the flu, meant long hours of hard work.

outcome /ˈaʊ.tʌm/

NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL]
[C1] the final result of an activity or process

Dictionary example:
It's too early to predict the outcome of the meeting.

Learner example:
In order to ensure a pleasant end-of-term activity and to avoid yet another negative outcome, it is necessary for us to dispose of a great sum of money.

outer /ˈaʊ.tər/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] on the edge or surface of something

Dictionary examples:
Remove the outer layers of the onion.
the outer lane of the motorway
outer London

Learner example:
Perhaps you could give some consideration to the outer building, like renovation work.

outgoing /ˌaʊtˈɡəʊ.ɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE

FRIENDLY
[C1] Someone who is outgoing is friendly, talks a lot, and enjoys meeting people.

Dictionary example:
Anne is very outgoing, but her sister's quite shy.

Learner example:
He is very outgoing, friendly and communicative.

LEAVING A PLACE
[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] going to another place, or leaving a job
Dictionary examples:
outgoing mail/calls/flight
the outgoing chairman

Learner example:
We therefore propose you scrap your plans for Terminal 5 and instead try to reduce the number of incoming and outgoing flights, by diverting some planes to Luton or Stansted or Gatwick Airport.

outgoings  /ˈaʊtˌɡəʊ.ɪŋz/

NOUN [PLURAL]
[C2] money that you have to spend on rent, food, etc.

Dictionary example:
After my regular outgoings, I have about £100 a week left.

Learner example:
When you have paid for all your outgoings, you could start to think about entertainment.

outlet  /ˈaʊt.let/

NOUN [C]
SHOP
[C2] In business, an outlet is a shop that sells one type of product or the products of one company.

Dictionary example:
He works in a sports outlet outside town.

Learner example:
In addition, the atmosphere is cheered up by the presence of the most well-known fast-food outlets of our country, where the client can find some rest and food at a good [price].

EXPRESS
[C2] a way for someone to express an emotion, idea, or ability

Dictionary example:
She needs a job that will provide an outlet for her creative talent.

Learner example:
I am a very busy person but I try to find time to go to concerts, which, I think, are an excellent outlet for our feelings.
**outline /ˈaʊt.laɪn/**

**NOUN [c]**

**DESCRIPTION**
[B2] a short description of the most important ideas or facts about something

**Dictionary examples:**
If you read the minutes of the meeting, they'll give you a brief/broad outline of what was discussed.
Some novelists start by writing an outline.

**Learner example:**
Perhaps a brief outline of the party will help you to make your decision.

**SHAPE**
[C2] the shape made by the outside edge of something

**Dictionary example:**
She drew the outline of the boat and then coloured it in.

**Learner example:**
The roof tiles were of a beautiful shade of pink, each of them carved in an outline of a heart.

**VERB [t]**
[B2] to describe only the most important ideas or facts about something

**Dictionary example:**
At the interview she outlined what I would be doing.

**Learner example:**
First of all, I will briefly outline some personal details.

**outlook /ˈaʊt.lʊk/**

**NOUN [no plural]**

**FUTURE**
[C1] the likely future situation

**Dictionary examples:**
The outlook for the economy is bleak.
The outlook for today is cloudy and dry at first with showers later.

**Learner example:**
The outlook for all three companies is bright over the next 5 years.

**THINKING**
[C2] the way a person thinks about something
**Dictionary example:**
Despite her illness, she has a very positive outlook on life.

**Learner example:**
He was a kind and friendly man, with an optimistic outlook on life.

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**outnumber** /ˌaʊtˈnʌm.bə/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** number
- **Verbs:** number, outnumber
- **Adjectives:** innumerable, numerous

**VERB [T]**
[C1] to be larger in number than another group

**Dictionary example:**
Women now far outnumber men on language courses.

**Learner example:**
An annual average rate of 10% GDP growth for the past ten years has created more than 7 million new jobs, which outnumbered the number of new male entrants.

---

**out of** /ˈaʊt.əv/  

**PREPOSITION**

**NO LONGER IN CONDITION**
[B2] no longer in a particular condition or situation

**Dictionary example:**
The patient is now out of danger.

**Learner example:**
She told me that D was out of danger and that she will have other information tomorrow.

**BECAUSE OF**
[B2] used to show the reason why someone does something

**Dictionary examples:**
I took the job out of necessity because we had no money left.  
Just out of interest, how much did it cost you?  
I only went there out of curiosity.

**Learner example:**
When the warrior had left, the explorer [explored the cave] out of curiosity and [to] his big surprise found the treasure.
be out of \textit{sth}

[B2] to have no more of something left

\textbf{Dictionary example:}
We're nearly out of petrol.

\textbf{Learner example:}
By then I was out of money so I start[ed] walking.

\textbf{be out of breath}

[B2] to be breathing quickly because you have been running, walking fast, etc.

\textbf{Dictionary example:}
He burst into the room, red-faced and out of breath.

\textbf{Learner example:}
I find that shopping is very good exercise too! By the time you have completed the whole High Street, you will be out of breath.

\textbf{out of control}

[B2] If something or someone is out of control, you cannot influence, limit or direct them.

\textbf{Dictionary example:}
The car skidded and \textbf{went} out of control, crashing into an oncoming truck.

\textbf{Learner example:}
I had just driven through Piazza Duomo, when another car came round a corner much too fast, skidded, and went out of control.

\textbf{out of nowhere}

[B2] If someone or something appears out of nowhere, it appears suddenly or unexpectedly.

\textbf{Dictionary example:}
The car came out of nowhere and we had to swerve to miss it.

\textbf{Learner example:}
I was lying all alone on the beach, then suddenly, out of nowhere, right behind me those strange creatures appeared.

\textbf{be out of practice}

[B2] to not do something well because you have not done it recently

\textbf{Dictionary example:}
I didn't play very well today – I'm out of practice.

\textbf{Learner example:}
I think playing in the club will be a great opportunity for me so as not to be out of practice.

\textbf{out of stock}

[B2] not available in a shop
Dictionary example:
The book is out of stock at the moment.

Learner example:
And sometimes the item you are looking for is out of stock.

out of season
[C1] If vegetables or fruit are out of season, they are not usually available at that time.

Dictionary example:
Strawberries are out of season at the moment.

Learner example:
As our place was famous for fresh sea food, I bought crabs and salmon although they were out of season and expensive.

out of tune
[C1] singing or playing the wrong notes

Dictionary example:
The piano is out of tune.

Learner example:
Even if you sing out of tune please call us.

out of the blue
[C1] If something happens out of the blue, it is completely unexpected.

Dictionary example:
One day, out of the blue, she announced that she was leaving.

Learner example:
Dear Kim, I was extremely happy when I received your letter out of the blue.

out of action
[C1] damaged or hurt and not able to operate or play sports

Dictionary examples:
I’m afraid my car’s out of action.
They've got three players out of action.

Learner example:
The air-condition[ing] in my room was out of action and the hotel manager didn't care.

out of your depth
[C2] not having the knowledge, experience, or skills to deal with a particular subject or situation

Dictionary example:
When they start talking about philosophy, I'm completely out of my depth.
Learner example:  
It was my first day of school. What I can remember is that I really felt out of my depth: my parents were so happy that I couldn't succeed in telling them that I was terribly frightened and that [the only] thing that I wanted was my doll.

out of a job  
[C2] without a job

Dictionary example:  
How long have you been out of a job?

Learner example:  
So, what is so terrible about being out of a job, you might ask yourself.

out of the ordinary  
[C2] unusual or different

Dictionary examples:  
Their relationship was a little out of the ordinary.  
The investigation revealed nothing out of the ordinary.

Learner example:  
This event is something out of the ordinary for local life and it gives our town prestige and originality.

be out of this world INFORMAL  
[C2] to be of extremely good quality

Dictionary example:  
Their chocolate cake is just out of this world!

Learner example:  
The dessert trays are out of this world.

(be) out of line  
[C2] If someone's actions or words are out of line, they are not suitable or acceptable.

Dictionary example:  
Her remarks to the press were way out of line.

Learner example:  
Today I see that my mother was right in this aspect since I acted extremely out of line sometimes and a soft hand certainly wouldn't help me in the future.

get out of hand  
[C2] to become difficult to control

Dictionary example:  
It was the end of term and the children were getting a little out of hand.

Learner example:  
A few solutions can prevent this problem from getting out of hand.
out of place
[C2] not in the correct position

Dictionary example:
Why are my files all out of place?

Learner example:
It was awful getting back from school and seeing all my things out of place.

out of place
[C2] not right or suitable for a particular situation

Dictionary example:
Everyone else was wearing jeans and I felt completely out of place in my office clothes.

Learner example:
This does not mean everybody is wearing tuxedos and dresses but you might be out of place just wearing shorts and a shirt.

out of proportion
[C2] If something is out of proportion, it is much bigger or smaller than it should be, when compared to other things.

Dictionary example:
The punishment is completely out of proportion to the crime.

Learner example:
If you were doing it to make a profit, I could understand, but for a library it is just out of proportion [and] I even believe more people could be attracted [if] the prices decrease.

be out of the question
[C2] If something is out of the question, it is not possible or not allowed.

Dictionary example:
Providing more money is out of the question.

Learner example:
Walking home was out of the question since that would have taken even longer.

out of season
[C2] If you go somewhere out of season, you go during a period of the year when few people are there.

Dictionary example:
I prefer to travel out of season.

Learner example:
Some towns [that] are completely dependent on tourism "die" out of season, while others are destroyed because of the excessive emigration of [their] people.

out of shape
[C2] not healthy or physically strong
Dictionary example:
Since I stopped cycling, I'm very out of shape.

Learner example:
I no longer run and it has been more than a year since the last time I raced, [so] I am out of shape.

be/get out of touch
[C2] to know little about what has recently happened

Dictionary example:
I've been abroad for the last two years, so I'm very out of touch.

Learner example:
In much worse cases, some individuals may even be trapped in the virtual world and get out of touch with the real one.

output /ˈaʊt.pʊt/  

NOUN [u]  
[C2] an amount of something produced by a person, machine, factory, country, etc.

Dictionary example:  
Last year British manufacturing output fell by 14%.

Learner example:  
The right-wing thinkers claim that unemployment is one of the indicators in [the] economy, displaying [a] lack of balance between industrial output and citizens' demands.

outrage /ˈaʊt.rɛdʒ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: outrage  
Verbs: outrage  
Adjectives: outrageous  

NOUN  

FEELING  
[C2] [u] a strong feeling of anger or shock

Dictionary example:  
Many politicians and members of the public expressed outrage at the verdict.

THING CAUSING SHOCK  
[C2] [c] something that causes great anger or shock
Dictionary examples:
The terrible living conditions of migrant workers, he said, were an outrage.
It's an outrage that so much public money should have been wasted in this way.

Learner example:
It shows one child's reaction to the outrage, to the fear and it as been held out as an example of
the unthinkable and cruel effects that a racist mentality may have.

VERB [\t]
[C1] to cause someone to feel very angry, shocked, or upset

Dictionary example:
The proposed pay cut outraged the staff.

Learner example:
I was outraged when I was given a copy of an article published in your magazine.

outrageous  /auˈtɛr.i.dʒəs/  

Word family:
Nouns: outrage
Verbs: outrage
Adjectives: outrageous

ADJECTIVE
[B2] shocking or extreme

Dictionary examples:
outrageous behaviour/clothes
That's an outrageous thing to say!
The prices in that restaurant were outrageous.

Learner example:
The only negative thing to be said about [this restaurant] is that the prices are outrageous, but [it
is] worth every penny.

outset  /ˈaʊt.set/  

NOUN

at/from the outset
[C2] at or from the beginning of something

Dictionary examples:
I made my views clear at the outset.
We knew from the outset that we were unlikely to win.
Learner example:
From the outset I hadn't liked that hotel.

outside

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]** /ˈaut.saired/

**NOT IN BUILDING**

[B2] not in a building

Dictionary example:
an outside light

Learner example:
I was going to say to him to turn on the outside light, but seeing his face, I changed my mind.

**DIFFERENT ORGANIZATION**

[C1] coming from another place or organization

Dictionary example:
The company has called in outside experts.

**NOUN** /ˈaut.saired/

**the outside**

[B2] the outer part or side of something

Dictionary examples:
The outside of the house needs painting.
The house looks larger when looked at from the outside.

Learner example:
It had been dark in the room since the door was locked from the outside.

outskirts /ˈaut.skæts/

**NOUN [PLURAL]**

[B2] the outer area of a city or town

Dictionary examples:
There are plans to build a new stadium on the outskirts of Liverpool.
They live in Melbourne's south-eastern outskirts.

Learner example:
In spite of travelling for hours a day, I prefer staying on the outskirts of London.
outstanding /ˌaʊtˈstæn.dɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] excellent and much better than most

Dictionary examples:
an outstanding achievement
It's an area of outstanding natural beauty.
This is an outstanding first novel.

Learner example:
Although it was an outstanding festival, I would like to point out some problems [which] happened there.

outweigh /ˌaʊtˈweɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: weight
Verbs: weigh, outweigh
Adjectives: overweight

VERB [T]
[C1] to be greater or more important than something else

Dictionary example:
The benefits of this treatment far outweigh the risks.

Learner example:
However, in my opinion the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages and competition is a natural phenomenon that we should accept.

oval /ˈəʊ.vəl/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] in the shape of an egg or a slightly flat circle

Dictionary examples:
an oval mirror
an oval face

Learner example:
It was green, oval and opaque.
over /ˈəʊ.vər/

PREPOSITION

USING
[B2] using

Dictionary examples:
They spoke over the phone.
We heard the news over the radio.

Learner example:
She laughed over the phone, and said "It's really like you".

CONTROL
[C2] in control of or teaching someone or something

Dictionary examples:
A good teacher has an easy authority over a class.
She's a sales manager but she has a regional sales director over her.
The victory over the French at Waterloo was Wellington's greatest triumph.

Learner example:
Fortunately, my parents do not wield authority over me and my siblings like dictators.

ABOUT
[C2] connected with or about

Dictionary example:
It's stupid arguing over something so trivial.

Learner example:
The teams themselves suffered from these money problems: recently strikes broke out in basketball teams in the U.S when players began to argue over money.

over the top
[C2] too extreme and not suitable

Dictionary example:
I thought her performance was way over the top.

Learner example:
In addition to that, many so-called "stars" have that certain over the top attitude, which would not be welcome in normal life.

ADVERB

DIFFERENT SURFACE
[B2] describes the way an object moves or is moved so that a different part of it is facing up
Dictionary example:
She turned another page over.

Learner example:
A big truck had turned over and blocked the road and there was no other way for us to go, so we had to wait.

over and over (again)
[B2] happening or done many times

Dictionary example:
I read the article over and over till it made sense.

Learner example:
I've been searching in newspapers over and over again and finally after a couple of days I found something.

all over again
[B2] repeated from the beginning

Dictionary example:
We had to start all over again.

Learner example:
After that I went back to my home in Ribeirao Preto to begin my routine all over again.

get sth over (and done) with
[C2] to do something difficult or unpleasant as soon as you can so that you do not have to worry about it any more

Dictionary example:
I got all my apologies over and done with at the beginning of the meeting.

Learner example:
Not to mention that he knew that he had to get his degree over and done with before he started making serious decisions.

overall /ˌəʊ.vəˈrɔːl/

ADVERB; ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] in general rather than in particular, or including all the people or things in a particular group or situation

Dictionary examples:
The overall situation is good, despite a few minor problems.
Overall, it has been a good year.
The overall winner, after ten games, will receive $50,000.

Learner example:
Overall these two restaurants are worth [going] to for nice meals.
overboard /ˈəʊ.və.bɔːd/

**ADVERB**

[C2] over the side of a boat and into the water

**Dictionary example:**
to fall overboard

**Learner example:**
My diary is lost – it fell overboard on my way home.

go overboard INFORMAL

[C2] to do something too much, or to be too excited about something

**Dictionary example:**
I think people go overboard with presents at Christmas.

**Learner example:**
While no one should restrict their eating habits to the point eating is no longer a pleasure, but rather a chore, it is important not to go overboard, completely disregarding the advice of nutrition experts.

overcome /ˌəʊ.vəˈkʌm/ (overcame, overcome)

**VERB [T]**

**DEAL WITH**

[B2] to deal with and control a problem or feeling

**Dictionary examples:**
I admire the way she has overcome her difficulties/problems and made a success of her life. Eventually he managed to overcome his shyness in class.

**Learner example:**
Trying to overcome my fear, I was slowly going toward the dangerous stranger.

be overcome by excitement/fear/sadness, etc.

[C2] to suddenly have too much of a feeling

**Dictionary example:**
She was overcome by emotion.

**Learner example:**
When she got in her house she was overcome by a sense of wrath and started screaming and crying.
overcrowded /ˌəʊ.ʊ.ˈkraʊ.dɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: crowd
Adjectives: crowded, overcrowded

ADJECTIVE
[C1] containing too many people or things

Dictionary example:
an overcrowded classroom/prison

Learner example:
As you arrive about midday, the trams are likely to be overcrowded.

overdo /ˌəʊ.vəˈduː/

Word family:
Verbs: do, overdo

VERB [T] (overdid, overdone)
[C1] to do or use too much of something

Dictionary example:
I went to the gym yesterday, but I think I overdid it a bit.

Learner example:
On the other hand, people usually overdo it and prefer making use of the modern technology to meeting a friend.

overdraft /ˈəʊ.veɪ.draːft/

Word family:
Nouns: overdraft
Adjectives: overdrawn

NOUN [C]
[C1] If you have an overdraft, you have taken more money out of your bank account than you had in it.

Dictionary example:
a £250 overdraft

Learner example:
In addition, some young people use credit card[s] to buy luxurious products, which lead[s] to bank overdrafts.
overdrawn /ˌəʊ.vəˈdrɔːn/  

Word family: 
Nouns: overdraft  
Adjectives: overdrawn  

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] If you are overdrawn, you have taken more money out of your bank account than you had in it.  

Dictionary example:  
We've gone £200 overdrawn!  

Learner example:  
In other words their expenditure [is] much more than their income. They get into debt and [are] mostly overdrawn.

overestimate /ˌəʊ.vəˈrɛstɪ.meɪt/  

Word family: 
Nouns: estimate  
Verbs: estimate, underestimate, overestimate  
Adjectives: estimated  

VERB [I or T]  
[C1] to guess or think that something is or will be bigger or better than it really is  

Dictionary example:  
They overestimated her ability to do the job.  

Learner example:  
In spite of the progress achieved in promoting the social status of women, one should not overestimate the significance of these achievements to ordinary women's careers.

overflow /ˌəʊ.ʊ.vəˈfləʊ/  

Word family: 
Nouns: flow  
Verbs: flow, overflow  

VERB  

CONTENTS  
[C2] [I or T] If a container overflows, the things inside it start to come out because it is too full, and if the contents of a container overflow, they come our because it is too full.
Dictionary examples:
The bath overflowed, and there's water all over the floor!
The bin was overflowing with rubbish.
The river overflowed its banks after the heavy rainfall.

Learner example:
As a result of relentless rain the river had broken its banks and overflowed violently.

TOO MANY PEOPLE
[C2] If a place is overflowing, there are too many people in it.

Dictionary example:
The square was overflowing with people trying to see the queen.

Learner example:
The prisons are overflowing, society is losing out in many ways.

overflow with confidence/happiness/love, etc.
[C2] to have a lot of a quality or emotion

Dictionary example:
Her father was overflowing with pride as he watched her collect her award.

Learner example:
She felt overflowing with indignation as if he had been rude to her.

overhear /ˌəʊ.vəˈhɪər/

VERB [T] (overheard)
[C2] to hear what someone is saying when they are not talking to you

Dictionary example:
I overheard him telling her he was leaving.

Learner example:
I once overheard a remark from a person who had just been in Italy.

overlap /ˌəʊ.vəˈlæp/

VERB [T or I] (overlapping, overlapped)
[C2] If two subjects or activities overlap, they are the same in some way.

Dictionary example:
Although our job titles are different, our responsibilities overlap quite a lot.

Learner example:
Of course, these two motivations can be overlapping and ideally they do overlap.
overload

Word family:
Nouns: load, overload
Verbs: load, unload

VERB [T] /ˌəʊ.vəˈləʊd/
[C2] to give someone too much to do

Dictionary examples:
All the staff are completely overloaded.
I feel that they overload their children with activities.

Learner example:
I was also overloaded with work and had many doubts about joining the group at all.

NOUN [C or U] /ˈəʊ.vəˌləʊd/
[C2] when someone has more of something than they can deal with

Dictionary example:
We are suffering from data overload here.

Learner example:
Will we get to the point of "information overload"?

overlook /ˌəʊ.vəˈlʊk/

Word family:
Nouns: look
Verbs: look, overlook

VERB [T]

SEE FROM ABOVE
[B2] to have a view of something from above

Dictionary examples:
Our hotel room overlooked the harbour.
The house is surrounded by trees, so it's not overlooked at all.

Learner example:
The apartment was very big and there was a balcony which overlooked the beach.

NOT NOTICE
[C2] [OFTEN PASSIVE] to not notice or consider something

Dictionary example:
Two important facts have been overlooked in this case.
Learner example:
Of course, man’s basic needs cannot be overlooked and a certain amount of wealth can be put to very good use, wisely to provide for oneself and one’s family and home.

overnight /ˌəʊ.vəˈnaɪt/

ADJECTIVE; ADVERB

SUDDENLY
[C2] very quickly or suddenly

Dictionary example:
Change does not happen overnight.

Learner example:
I am aware of the fact that it is not at all an easy path nor is [it] something that can happen overnight.

overseas /ˌəʊ.vəˈsiːz/

ADJECTIVE; ADVERB

[B2] in, from or to other countries

Dictionary examples:
We need to open up the overseas markets.
There are a lot of overseas students in Cambridge.
Many more people work overseas these days.

Learner example:
It is suggested that one of our English as a Foreign Language lessons should be filmed, as there are some 100 overseas students who are from over 30 countries in our school.

overtake /ˌəʊ.vəˈteɪk/ (overtook, overtaken)

VERB

VEHICLE
[B2] [ɪ or ə] to go past a vehicle or person that is going in the same direction

Dictionary examples:
We were overtaken by a red sports car.
Always check your rear view mirror before you overtake (another car).
**Learner example:**
Of course it is easier [for a bike] to overtake the cars in traffic jams.

**BIGGER**

[C1] [ɪ] to go past something by being a greater amount or degree

**Dictionary examples:**
Our US sales have now overtaken our sales in Europe.
We'd planned to hold a meeting tomorrow, but events have overtaken us.

**Learner example:**
This however was projected to be overtaken by people coming from the 35–49 year old bracket by 2006.

---

**overtime /ˈəʊ.və.taim/**

**NOUN** [u]

[B2] extra time that you work after your usual working hours

**Dictionary example:**
unpaid overtime

**Learner example:**
You can't go on living like this, chasing around and always being press[ur]ed by your work and all this overtime.

---

**overview /ˈəʊ.və.vjuː/**

**NOUN** [c]

**DESCRIPTION**

[C1] a short description giving the most important facts about something

**Dictionary example:**
I'll just give you an overview of the job.

**Learner example:**
This report will give a brief overview of my experiences from my recent attend[a]nce [on] their April course.

**KNOWLEDGE**

[C1] knowledge of the general features of something

**Dictionary example:**
Having spent some time there, she had a good overview of the market.
Learner example:
As my main interest was to get an overview of the current market situation, I was simply impressed by the variety of companies that you've presented.

overweight /ˌəʊ.vəˈweɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: weight
Verbs: weigh, outweight
Adjectives: overweight

ADJECTIVE
[B2] too heavy or too fat

Dictionary example:
He’s still a few pounds overweight.

Learner example:
In England the majority of people are either overweight or underweight.

overwhelm /ˌəʊ.vəˈwelm/

Word family:
Verbs: overwhelm
Adjectives: overwhelming

VERB [T]
[C1] If a feeling or situation overwhelms someone, it has an effect that is too strong or extreme.

Dictionary example:
She was overwhelmed by the excitement of it all.

Learner example:
I am sure the students from the acting classes will be overwhelmed by the grandeur of the 200-seat theatre.

overwhelming /ˌəʊ.vəˈwel.mɪŋ/

Word family:
Verbs: overwhelm
Adjectives: overwhelming

ADJECTIVE
[C1] very strong in effect or large in amount
Dictionary examples:
She felt an overwhelming urge/desire/need to tell someone about what had happened.
She said how much she appreciated the overwhelming generosity of the public in responding to the appeal.
An overwhelming majority have voted in favour of the proposal.

Learner example:
Therefore, the overwhelming majority of school-leavers annually strive to enter a state institution of higher education.

overworked /ˌəʊ.vəˈwɜːkt/

Word family:
Nouns: work, worker
Verbs: work
Adjectives: working, overworked

ADJECTIVE
[C1] Someone who is overworked has to work too much.

Dictionary example:
We're overworked and underpaid.

Learner example:
People are overworked and often choose fast food for dinner.

owe /əʊ/

VERB [+ TWO OBJECTS]

owe sb an apology/explanation/favour, etc.
[B2] to have to give something to someone because they deserve it

Dictionary example:
I think you owe me an explanation/apology.

Learner example:
I owe you a favour.

owe your existence/success, etc. to sb/sth
[C2] to have something or achieve something because of someone or something else

Dictionary example:
The museum owes much of its success to the present generation of young British artists.
**Learner example:**
Many restaurants, bars and gift shops owe their existence to the fact that visitors to our country enjoy the view of the river and its surroundings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>owing to</strong> /ˈəʊ.ɪŋˌtuː/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PREPOSITION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] because of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The concert has been cancelled owing to low ticket sales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To start with, [it] is a great idea to change rooms because the[y] are too crowded, owing to the fact that there a lot of people.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>owl</strong> /aʊl/</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN [C]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] a bird with a flat face, large eyes, and strong curved nails, which hunts small mammals at night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We heard an owl hooting in the night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I could hear a[n] owl hooting in the tree nearby.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>own</strong> /əʊn/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> owner, ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Verbs:</strong> own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE; PRONOUN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>get your own back (on sb)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] to do something unpleasant to someone because they have done something unpleasant to you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I got my own back by putting a frog in her bed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learner example:
There, Kingshaw has the opportunity to get his own back by pushing Hooper down the wall, but he doesn’t dare because he is not as cruel as Hooper.

hold your own
[C2] to be as successful as other people or things
Dictionary example:
Alison could always hold her own in political debates.

Learner example:
An average IT company in the UK is only 30% female so it is vital to be comfortable in the company of so many men, and to be able to hold your own against them in meetings and discussions.

VERB [T]

OWN UP PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to admit that you have done something wrong or embarrassing
Dictionary example:
No one has owned up to breaking that window.

Learner example:
I have never owned up to them that I wanted their love.

ownership /ˈəʊ.nəʃɪp/

Word family:
Nouns: owner, ownership
Verbs: own

NOUN [u]
[C1] when you own something
Dictionary example:
Do you have any proof of ownership for this car?

Learner example:
As people’s disposable income rises, more and more people can now afford cars. Furthermore, cheap imports from the newly industrialised countries have also contributed to the increase in car ownership.

oxygen /ˈɒks.ɪ.dʒən/

NOUN [u]
[B2] a gas that is in the air and that animals need to live
Dictionary example:
an oxygen tank

Learner example:
Everybody needs oxygen and trees produce oxygen.

ozone /ˈəʊ.zəʊn/

NOUN [u]
[C1] a form of oxygen that exists high in the atmosphere

Dictionary example:
the ozone layer

Learner example:
There is probably no child who hasn’t heard about the holes in the ozone layer or the greenhouse effect.
pace /ˈpɜːs/ 

NOUN

SPEED

[B2] [u] the speed at which someone or something moves or does something

Dictionary examples:
a slow/fast pace
I don't like the pace of modern life.
These changes seem to be happening at too fast a pace.

Learner example:
I am living at a much faster pace.

keep pace with sb/sth

[C1] to move or develop at the same speed as someone or something else

Dictionary example:
We have to keep pace with the changing times.

Learner example:
It was first published a century ago and what amazes people most is that [it] keeps pace with the development of the country without leaving out references to our history and tradition.

VERB

pace yourself

[C2] to be careful not to do something too quickly so that you do not get too tired to finish it

Dictionary example:
You must learn to pace yourself if you want to win.

Learner example:
When people are so old, they begin to pace themselves with some difficulties.

pace about/up and down, etc

[C2] [i] to walk around because you are worried or excited about something

Dictionary example:
He kept pacing up and down, glancing at his watch.
Learner example:
He was pacing up and down the entrance hall when finally he caught a glimpse of a person disappearing round a corner.

pack  /pæk/

Word family:
Nouns: pack, package
Verbs: pack, unpack
Adjectives: packed

VERB [I or T]
pack up (sth) or pack (sth) up PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to collect all your things together when you have finished doing something

Dictionary examples:
I just need a few minutes to pack up my equipment and then we can leave.
I'm about to pack my things up and go home.
I got to the market just as it was closing and everyone was packing up.

Learner example:
They packed up all the equipment [and got ready] to leave, because most of them had to attend school the next day.

NOUN [C]

SET OF PRODUCTS
[B2] a set of products or other things that are wrapped up together

Dictionary examples:
The information pack consists of a brochure and a map.
I bought a large pack of tissues.

ANIMALS
[C2] a group of animals that live together, especially those of the dog family

Dictionary example:
a pack of wolves

Learner example:
We were like a pack of wolves, only puppies at the time though.
### package /ˈpæk.idʒ/

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** pack, package  
**Verbs:** pack, unpack  
**Adjectives:** packed

**NOUN [C]**

**PARCEL**  
**[B2]** a parcel

**Dictionary examples:**  
The postman has just **delivered** a package for you.  
The package was **wrapped** in plain brown paper.

**Learner example:**  
It was a call from the post office saying that the package he was waiting [for had arrived].

**GROUP OF THINGS**  
**[B2]** a related group of things when they are offered together as a single unit

**Dictionary examples:**  
The computer comes with a **software** package.  
This ski package includes flights, hotel accommodation, and a six-day lift pass.

**Learner example:**  
Lastly, I need to know if all meals are included in your package.

### packed /pækt/

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** pack, package  
**Verbs:** pack, unpack  
**Adjectives:** packed

**ADJECTIVE**  
**[B2]** very crowded

**Dictionary examples:**  
The hall was packed.  
The bus was packed with schoolchildren.

**Learner example:**  
If you want to meet and photograph the local people, the place to go is the Wednesday market. It is always packed with farmers, children, older people and so on.
pact /pækt/  
NOUN [c]  
[C2] an agreement between two people or groups  

Dictionary example:  
We have a pact never to talk about each other.  

Learner example:  
It became clear we had made a pact of silence.  

pain /peɪn/  
Word family:  
Nouns: pain  
Adjectives: painful  

NOUN  
EMOTIONAL  
[B2] [u] sadness or mental suffering caused by an unpleasant event  

Dictionary examples:  
I can't describe the pain I suffered when he died.  
The parents are still in great pain over the death of their child.  

Learner example:  
He had caused me so much pain that I was unable to forgive him anymore.  

be a pain INFORMAL  
[B2] to be annoying  

Dictionary examples:  
Having to keep the bikes in the house is such a pain.  
My sister was being a real pain.  

Learner example:  
It was really a pain to pay that much for only a box of metal and a screen, but I think it is really going to help me.  

be a pain in the neck INFORMAL  
[C1] to be annoying  

Dictionary example:  
My brother can be a real pain in the neck sometimes.  

Learner example:  
He's adorable although sometimes he can really be a pain in the neck (don't tell him I wrote this.)
a sharp pain
[C2] a sudden, short, strong pain

Dictionary example:
I felt a sharp pain in my leg.

Learner example:
All that Tom remembered afterwards was the loud noise of the braking tyres, a sharp pain in his legs and then darkness.

painful /ˈpeɪn.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: pain
Adjectives: painful

ADJECTIVE

EMOTIONAL
[B2] making you feel sad or upset

Dictionary example:
The old photograph brought back painful memories.

Learner example:
You know, I went through this painful decision just a few months ago, when I started working for a new company that pays me more, but gives me less time for my hobbies.

pale /peɪl/

ADJECTIVE

FACE
[B2] If your face is pale, it has less colour than usual because you are ill or frightened.

Dictionary example:
You’re looking pale – do you feel ill?

Learner example:
Her face was pale and she was feeling that something w[ould] go wrong.
palm /pɑːm/

NOUN [c]

TREE
[C1] a palm tree

Dictionary example:
They sat beneath a palm tree.

Learner example:
Santorini was a picturesque island, with many rural areas, sensational deserted beaches with palm trees.

HAND
[C2] the inside surface of your hand

Dictionary example:
I cut the palm of my hand on the rock.

Learner example:
When the concert was over, everybody in the audience was on their feet clapping (until their palms were sweaty) and asking for [an] encore.

pancake /ˈpæn.kək/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a thin, flat food made from flour, milk, and egg mixed together and cooked in a pan

Dictionary example:
We had pancakes with lemon.

Learner example:
You can't come to Holland without trying the Dutch pancakes, which are much better than the English ones.

panel /ˈpæn.əl/

NOUN [c]

PEOPLE
[C1] a group of people who are chosen to discuss something or make a decision about something
Dictionary example:
a panel of experts

Learner example:
We can justify our opinion about the quality by referring to the extremely varied and constructive social programme, which is also organised by a panel of experts, sociologists and psychologists.

PIECE

[C2] a flat, rectangular piece of wood, metal, etc. that forms the surface of a door, wall, etc.

Dictionary example:
The walls were made from wooden panels.

Learner example:
The glass roof provides excellent lighting, and the wood panels on the walls certainly contribute to the cosy atmosphere.

panic  /ˈpæn.ɪk/  

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a sudden, strong feeling of worry or fear that makes you unable to think or behave calmly

Dictionary examples:
a state of panic
Panic spread through the crowd as the wind and rain grew worse.
Carmel was in a panic about her exam.
He got into a panic that he would forget his lines on stage.

Learner example:
All [the] people in the church thought it would be a perfect wedding ceremony, but there were two things missing: the bride and the bridegroom! After [this] was realised, there was panic!

VERB [I or T] (panicking, panicked, panicked)
[B2] to suddenly feel so worried or frightened that you cannot think or behave calmly, or to make someone feel this way

Dictionary examples:
Don't panic! We've got plenty of time.
The sound of gunfire panicked the crowd.
The boss always panics over/about the budget every month.

Learner example:
David started thinking that a thief may have come [in]to their house. "Don't panic", he told his wife.
**paper**  
/ˈpeɪ.pə/  

**NOUN**  
**WRITING**  
[C2] [c] a piece of writing about a particular subject

**Dictionary example:**  
She's just published a paper on bilingualism.

**Learner example:**  
Being a psychologist, I am currently writing a paper about work patterns, and I was therefore particularly interested in the comments made by the students.

**paperwork**  
/ˈpeɪ.pə.wɜːk/  

**NOUN [u]**  
[B2] the part of a job that involves producing reports, writing letters, organizing information, etc.

**Dictionary example:**  
Many office jobs involve a lot of unnecessary paperwork.

**Learner example:**  
As I am good [at] paperwork, I think [it would] be great if I [could] help you in the office.

**parachute**  
/ˈpær.ə.ʃuːt/  

**NOUN [c]**  
[B2] a large piece of special cloth used to cause someone or something it is attached to drop slowly and safely from an aircraft to the ground

**Dictionary example:**  
He used a parachute to jump to safety.

**Learner example:**  
Those minutes, up in the air, feeling the wind in my face, were fantastic... and then I was terrified when I couldn't open the parachute!
parade  /ˈpəˈreɪd/  
NOUN [c]
[B2] a line of people or vehicles that moves through a public place as a way of celebrating an occasion

Dictionary example:
a victory parade

Learner example:
The festival starts with a huge opening parade.

paradigm  /ˈpær.ə.daim/  
NOUN [c] FORMAL
[C2] a typical example or model of something

Dictionary example:
Career women are establishing a new paradigm of work and family life.

Learner example:
Science is supposed to be a rational, factual matter, but especially in this field when you express a view or do research into topics which go against the ruling paradigm, it's difficult.

paradise  /ˈpær.ə.dais/  
NOUN
[C1] [c or u] a perfect place or situation

Dictionary examples:
a tropical paradise
a shoppers' paradise

Learner example:
Our online-catalogue is a true shopping paradise.

paradox  /ˈpær.ə.dboks/  
Word family:
Nouns: paradox
Adjectives: paradoxical
NOUN [c]
[C2] a situation that seems very strange or impossible because of two opposite qualities or facts

Dictionary example:
It's a curious paradox that drinking a lot of water can make you feel thirsty.

Learner example:
They usually have less money and more time to spend their money in. This is a paradox.

paradoxical /ˌpær.əˈdɒk.sɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: paradox
Adjectives: paradoxical

ADJECTIVE
[C2] seeming very strange or impossible because of two opposite qualities or facts

Dictionary example:
a paradoxical position/situation

Learner example:
Women are entering the labour market and, paradoxical though it may seem, they still are, in many cases, in charge of the house.

parallel /ˈpær.ə.lel/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] similar and happening at the same time

Dictionary example:
Parallel experiments are being conducted in both countries.

Learner example:
The diary was a dimensional portal to a parallel world he called Wonderland.

NOUN [c]
[C2] a similarity

Dictionary examples:
There are a number of parallels between our two situations.
People are drawing parallels between the two cases.
Learner example:
It magnificently establishes a parallel between the tragic demise of an outstanding Ibo man named Okonkwo and the cultural as well as religious downfall of his entire clan and generally the disintegration of African tribal life.

**paramount** /ˈpær.ə.maut/

**ADJECTIVE** FORMAL
[C2] more important than anything else

**Dictionary examples:**
Safety, of course, is paramount.
Communication is of paramount importance.

**Learner example:**
The attitude[s] towards creating their own styles differ – some perceive it simply as a matter of taste, for others this visual reflection of personality is of paramount importance.

**parcel** /ˈpɑː.səl/

**NOUN [C]**

**part and parcel**
[C2] If something is part and parcel of an experience, it is a necessary part of that experience and cannot be avoided.

**Dictionary example:**
Stress is part and parcel of the job.

**Learner example:**
This is true to a certain extent as food is often part and parcel of traditional rituals.

**parliament** /ˈpɑː.lɪ.mənt/

**NOUN [C U + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]**
[B2] in some countries, a group of people who make the laws for the country

**Dictionary examples:**
On Tuesday the country’s parliament voted to establish its own army.
She was elected to Parliament in 1997.
part /pɑːt/

Word family:
Nouns: part
Adjectives: partial
Adverbs: partly, partially

NOUN

have/play a part in sth
[B2] to be one of the people or things that are involved in an event or situation

Dictionary example:
People forget to wash their hands and that plays a part in spreading colds and flu.

Learner example:
Technology plays an important part in this situation, because I don't think that adults are playing computer games for Batman or Spiderman, for example, but for the special effec[t]s and the gra[phics].

MACHINE
[B2] [c] a piece of a machine or vehicle

Dictionary examples:
aircraft parts
spare parts

Learner example:
We were lucky to have some spare parts with us and finally Tom managed to repair [his car].

for the most part
[C1] mostly or usually

Dictionary example:
I enjoyed it for the most part.

Learner example:
First of all, for the most part, people have to use computers in their jobs.

on the part of sb; on sb's part
[C2] done or experienced by someone

Dictionary examples:
This is a major sacrifice on the part of the unions.
The accident was caused by carelessness on the instructor's part.

Learner example:
It seems that international sports competitions have always tended to attract a great amount of interest on the part of the media and have consistently been popular with sports fans the world over.
**in part**  *FORMAL*
* [C2] partly

**Dictionary example:**
He is in part to blame for the accident.

**Learner example:**
Technology is in part to blame.

**the best/better part of sth**
* [C2] most of a period of time

**Dictionary example:**
It took the better part of the afternoon to put those shelves up.

**Learner example:**
Major sporting competitions have been around for the better part of 2500 years, ever since the original Olympic Games were held in ancient Greece.

**part and parcel**
* [C2] If something is part and parcel of an experience, it is a necessary part of that experience and cannot be avoided.

**Dictionary example:**
Stress is part and parcel of the job.

**Learner example:**
This is true to a certain extent as food is often part and parcel of traditional rituals.

**VERB**

**SEPARATE**
* [C2] If two sides of something part, they become separated, and if you part them, you make them separate.

**Dictionary example:**
Slowly her lips parted and she smiled.

**Learner example:**
There we were, three rather dishevelled young men with a stench that parted a path for us like Moses did the Red Sea.

**LEAVE**
* [C2] FORMAL If two people part, or if one person parts from another, they leave each other.

**Dictionary example:**
That summer, after six years of marriage, we parted.

**Learner example:**
It was on my seventeenth birthday that he gave me a little blue and shimmering box, but said I couldn't open it until the day we parted.
**partial** /ˈpɑː.təl/

Word family:
Nouns: part
Adjectives: partial
Adverbs: partly, partially

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] not complete

Dictionary example:
The general has ordered a partial withdrawal of troops from the area.

Learner example:
In conclusion, I am [very] disappointed and therefore, I believe that I am entitled to a partial refund.

**partially** /ˈpɑː.təli/

Word family:
Nouns: part
Adjectives: partial
Adverbs: partly, partially

**ADVERB**
[C1] not completely

Dictionary example:
partially cooked

Learner example:
Building a parking area outside the city centre would partially solve this problem.

**participant** /ˈpɑː.tɪs.ɪ.pənt/

Word family:
Nouns: participant
Verbs: participate

**NOUN [C]**
[C1] someone who is involved in an activity

Dictionary example:
All participants finishing the race will receive a medal.

Learner example:
I was one of the participants who helped a charity organization to raise money for the local hospital.
participate /paːˈtɪs.ɪ.peɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: participant
Verbs: participate

VERB [i]
[B2] to take part in or become involved in an activity

Dictionary example:
She never participates in any of our discussions, does she?

Learner example:
So, all the students can participate in different activities.

particle /ˈpɑː.tɪk.l/

NOUN [c]
[C2] a very small piece of something

Dictionary example:
particles of dust

Learner example:
They got their hands on some anthrax bacteria, grew them in petri dishes and with all her knowledge in biology managed to make anthrax spores. Her friends ground the clumps of spores into fine particles.

particular /pəˈtɪk.jʊ.ər/

Word family:
Adjectives: particular
Adverbs: particularly

ADJECTIVE
SPECIAL
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] special, or this and not any other

Dictionary examples:
She wanted a particular type of olive oil.
Is there any particular restaurant you'd like to go to?
He wouldn't take just any book – he had to have this particular one!
"Why did you ask?" "Oh, no particular reason, just making conversation."

Learner example:
Are you a fan of a particular team?
NOT EASILY SATISFIED

[C1] [NEVER BEFORE NOUN] choosing things carefully and not easily satisfied, or making sure that things are exactly as you want them to be

Dictionary example:
Teenagers are very particular about the clothes they'll wear.

Learner example:
When I chose you I was very particular about the quality of the service you offer and you guaranteed professional service.

partner /ˈpaːt.nər/

NOUN [C]

BUSINESS

[B2] one of two or more people who own a business

Dictionary examples:
junior/senior partner
My business partner handles international sales.

Learner example:
Don’t spend the evenings with your business partners, but with your women, children and friends.

partnership /ˈpaːt.nə.ʃɪp/

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] when two people or organizations work together to achieve something

Dictionary example:
She’s gone into partnership with someone she used to work with.

Learner example:
I really need the money you’re offering, mainly to set up that kindergarten school I’ve told you about, where I would work in partnership with a friend.

pass /pɑːs/

VERB

pass (the) time

[B2] to spend time doing something
Dictionary example:
We passed the time reading and swimming.

Learner example:
What's more, I would have to read to pass the time!

**pass a law**
[B2] to officially approve of something and make it into a law or rule

Dictionary example:
The government passed a law to restrict the sale of guns.

Learner example:
I hope the government will pass a law which could [control] all these sort of things.

**GO AWAY**
[C2] [i] If a feeling passes, it goes away.

Dictionary example:
I know he's angry now but it'll pass.

Learner example:
My soul and my mind are frozen. I know that will pass.

**BE MORE THAN**
[C2] [t] to be more than a particular level

Dictionary example:
Donations have passed the one million mark.

**SPORTS**
[C2] [i or t] in sports, to throw or kick a ball to someone else

Dictionary example:
Edwards passes to Brinkworth.

Learner example:
Worth passed the ball to Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and with two players disturbing him, he sh[o]t a three-pointer that went in nicely.

**NOUN [C]**

**TEST RESULT**
[B2] a successful result in an exam

Dictionary example:
A pass in this exam is above 60%.

**SPORTS**
[C2] in sports, when you throw or kick a ball to someone else

Dictionary example:
That was a great pass!
passage /ˈpæs.iːdʒ/  

NOUN

CONNECTING WAY
[B2] [c] a long, narrow space that connects one room or place to another

Dictionary examples:
The bathroom's on the right at the end of the passage.
There's a passage to the side of the house, leading to the garden.

Learner example:
We saw a big house but it was old and locked. We found a secret passage between the trees and we got inside.

PART
[B2] [c] a short part of a book, speech, or piece of music

Dictionary example:
Several passages from the book were printed in a national newspaper before it was published.

Learner example:
She would read a passage for us every night before [we fell] asleep.

PROGRESS
[C2] [u NO PLURAL] the movement or progress from one stage or place to another

Dictionary example:
It's a difficult passage from boyhood to manhood.

Learner example:
Work has always been a fundamental question in the life of man since the iron–age, it marks the passage from youth to adulthood and for most of us it can be a turning point.

passion /ˈpæʃ.ən/  

Word family:
Nouns: passion
Adjectives: passionate
Adverbs: passionately

NOUN [C or U]

LOVE
[B2] a very powerful feeling, for example of sexual attraction, love, hate, anger or other emotion
Dictionary examples:
She saw the passion in his eyes.
Football arouses a lot of passion in fans.
Politics and philosophy were his lifelong passions.

Learner example:
Surfing is my passion.

a passion for sth
[C1] when you like something very much

Dictionary example:
a passion for football

Learner example:
I always had a passion for writing and for 3 years I wrote many articles in my school magazine.

passionate /ˈpæʃ.ən.t/  

Word family:  
Nouns: passion  
Adjectives: passionate  
Adverbs: passionately  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] having very strong feelings or emotions

Dictionary examples:  
a passionate speech  
a passionate kiss  
The child's mother made a passionate appeal for help.  
Joe is passionate about baseball.

Learner example:  
I wrote a passionate article about how to protect our environment.

passionately /ˈpæʃ.ən.t.i/  

Word family:  
Nouns: passion  
Adjectives: passionate  
Adverbs: passionately  

ADVERB  
[B2] in a way that shows strong feelings or emotions
Dictionary examples:
I walked into the room and found them arguing passionately. 
Ann has always believed passionately in women's rights.

Learner example:
We met in our favourite pub, we kissed each other passionately like the first time, and then we sat down.

**passive** /ˈpæs.iv/  
ADJECTIVE  
NO ACTION  
[B2] letting things happen to you and not taking action  

Dictionary example:  
Women at that time were expected to be passive.

Learner example:  
Television provides a passive form of entertainment and so just watching it is much easier than reading books which needs concentration.

**passport** /ˈpa:s.po:t/  
NOUN [C]  
a passport to *sth  
[C2] something that allows you to achieve something else  

Dictionary example:  
Education is a passport to a better life.

**past** /pɑːst/  
PREPOSITION; ADVERB  
AFTER LIMIT  
[B2] above a particular age or further than a particular point  

Dictionary examples:  
This meat is past its sell–by date.  
She’s past the age where she needs a babysitter.
pastime  /ˈpɑːs.taim/

NOUN [c]
[C2] an activity that you enjoy doing when you are not working

Dictionary example:
Shopping is one of her favourite pastimes.

Learner example:
Going to concerts and visiting record shops have always been my favourite pastime.

pastry  /ˈpeɪ.stri/

NOUN

MIXTURE
[C1] [u] a mixture of flour, fat, and water that is cooked, usually used to cover or contain other food

Dictionary example:
I made some pastry for the pie.

Learner example:
The most popular sweet dish is called "Apfelstrudel", which is a bit of potato pastry filled with apples and nuts.

CAKE
[C1] [c] a small cake that is made with pastry

Dictionary example:
We had coffee and pastries.

Learner example:
They don't want to miss their sweet pastries and "Sacher tortes", [which] Austria is famous for.

pat  /pæt/

VERB [r] (patting, patted)
[C2] to touch a person or animal with a flat hand in a gentle, friendly way

Dictionary example:
She stopped to pat the dog.

Learner example:
All my mother's friends would come to our house, pat me on the head and say smiling: "Isn't she precious?!"
**patch** /pætʃ/

**NOUN [c]**

**AREA**

[C2] a small area that is different from the area around it

**Dictionary examples:**
a bald patch
There are icy patches on the road.

**Learner example:**
All my senses were sharpened, I could clearly see the tired smile of the bass-guitarist and wet patches on his T-shirt.

**MATERIAL**

[C2] a piece of material that you use to cover a hole in your clothes or in other material

**Dictionary example:**
He had leather patches sewn on the elbows of his jacket.

**Learner example:**
And my mother cherishes her family [heirloom] handed down for generations – it's a quilt with sewn patches on it, representing what each of the women's strongest passion was. My mother sewed on her patch presenting her childhood fascination of The Beatles.

**LAND**

[C2] a small area of land used for a particular purpose

**Dictionary example:**
a cabbage/vegetable patch

**Learner example:**
My father had a big allotment with different vegetables like turnips, beet, etc., etc. [At] my house there was also a vegetable patch.

**a bad/rough, etc. patch**

[C2] a difficult time

**Dictionary example:**
I think their marriage is going through a bad patch.

**Learner example:**
We all went through a rough patch when my mother turned out to have cancer.

**VERB [t]**

[C2] to repair a hole in a piece of clothing or other material by sewing a piece of material over it
Dictionary example:
to patch your trousers

Learner example:
There were also clothes to be mend and patched, socks to be darned.

path /pɑːθ/

NOUN [C]

ACTIONS
[B2] a set of actions over a period of time, especially ones which lead to a goal or result

Dictionary examples:
a career path
The path to success has many difficulties.

Learner example:
Maybe you could talk about your latest book "Murder on Avenue B" or about your path to fame.

DIRECTION
[C2] the direction that a person or vehicle moves in

Dictionary example:
a flight path

Learner example:
As you obviously cannot change the flight path towards or away from the airfield then we have to take alternative action.

cross sb's path
[C2] to meet someone, especially by accident

Dictionary example:
Mike has moved away and I doubt he'll ever cross my path again.

Learner example:
We are all socialised by our peers, family and other people who cross our path at one time or another.

pathetic /pəˈθet.ɪk/

ADJECTIVE

BAD
[C2] INFORMAL showing no skill, effort, or bravery

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Dictionary examples:
He made a rather pathetic attempt to apologize.
You're too frightened to speak to her? Come on, that's pathetic!
It was a pathetic performance and the team lost badly.

Learner example:
Sometimes it seems to me that the whole world has a book of platitudes, which everybody uses in order to communicate. I find it rather pathetic.

SAD
[C2] sad and weak

Dictionary examples:
Four times the pathetic little creature fell to the ground.
The refugees were a pathetic sight – starving, frightened and cold.

Learner example:
On Saturday morning, I see them sleeping rough under the bridges, a pathetic sight.

patience  /ˈpeɪ.ʃənts/

Word family:
Nouns: patience, impatience
Adjectives: impatient, patient
Adverbs: impatiently, patiently

NOUN [u]
[B2] the quality of being able to stay calm and not get angry, especially when something takes a long time

Dictionary examples:
You have to have such a lot of patience when you're dealing with kids.
In the end, I lost my patience and shouted at her.
He's a good teacher, but he doesn't have much patience with the slower pupils.

Learner example:
I have patience with animals and care [for] them with love.

patiently  /ˈpeɪ.ʃənt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: patience, impatience
Adjectives: impatient, patient
Adverbs: impatiently, patiently

ADVERB
[B2] in a patient way
Dictionary example:
There was a queue of people *waiting* patiently for the bus to arrive.

Learner example:
She made her way slowly to the waiting room and patiently waited for the train to arrive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pattern</th>
<th>/ˈpætn/</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**NOUN [C]**

**WAY**
[B2] a particular way that something is often done or repeated

**Dictionary examples:**
The pattern of family life has been changing over recent years. Many *behavioural* patterns have been identified in this study of chimpanzees.

**Learner example:**
If the alarm-clock had worked, everything would have follow[ed] its usual pattern but this time I woke up too late.

**GUIDE**
[B2] a drawing, shape or set of instructions that helps you to make something

**Dictionary example:**
a *dress/knitting* pattern

**Learner example:**
Approximately three years ago I started to sew my own clothes. I always buy a pattern and follow every instruction given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pause</th>
<th>/pɔːz/</th>
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</table>

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a short period in which something such as a sound or an activity is stopped before starting again

**Dictionary examples:**
There will be a brief pause *in* the concert while the piano is moved into place.
After a long, awkward pause someone asked a question.
She spoke for three quarters of an hour without a pause.

**Learner example:**
I would like to correct the journalist [by] saying to him that RADIANT played for 1 hour without any pause.
VERB

EQUIPMENT

[B2] [i or ɪ] to make a CD, DVD, etc. stop for a short time by pressing a button

Dictionary example:
Can you pause the film there, please?

Learner example:
I paused the video I was watching, wondering what that [knocking sound] was.

paw /pɔː/

NOUN [c]

[B2] the foot of an animal that has claws or nails, such as a cat, dog or bear

Dictionary example:
I found paw prints in the kitchen.

Learner example:
My cat is only 2 years old. She is very beautiful with her long [b]ushy tail and soft paws.

pay /peɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: pay, payment
Verbs: pay, repay
Adjectives: payable, underpaid, unpaid

VERB (paid, paid)

pay sb/sth a visit or pay a visit to sb/sth

[B2] to visit a person or place, usually for a short time

Dictionary example:
We thought we’d pay Sam a visit while we were in Oxford.

Learner example:
P.S: Wherever you decide to go, do not fail to pay me a visit!

pay sb a compliment

[C2] to tell someone that you admire something about them

Dictionary example:
He paid her several compliments about her painting.

Learner example:
His companions always pay him compliments on his [piano] playing.
SUFFER
[C2] [i] to suffer because of something bad you have done

Dictionary example:
He's certainly paying for his mistakes.

Learner example:
He hurried back to the castle and was so disgusted with her that he had her locked forever in a cell, to pay for what she had done.

pay the price
[C2] to accept the unpleasant results of what you have done

Dictionary example:
If you abuse your body now, you’ll pay the price when you’re older.

Learner example:
When all is said and done, do contemporary sports events pose an advantage to athletes pursuing their physical excellence? I would dare to say no, unless he, or increasingly she, is prepared to pay the price in becoming a ready-made product for public consumption.

pay tribute to sb/sth
[C2] to thank someone or say that you admire someone or something, especially in public

Dictionary example:
He paid tribute to his former teacher.

Learner example:
Although it may not seem so, this is just a way of paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, since he always encouraged people to return to their traditions and customs.

payable /ˈpeɪ.ə.bl/  
Word family:
Nouns: pay, payment
Verbs: pay, repay
Adjectives: payable, underpaid, unpaid

ADJECTIVE
TO BE PAID
[C1] describes something to be paid

Dictionary example:
Rent is payable monthly.

Learner example:
We were informed by you that there would be nothing extra to be paid but in fact several admission fees were payable.
FOR PERSON

[C1] If a cheque is payable to a person, that person's name is written on the cheque and the money will be paid to them.

Dictionary example:
Cheques should be made payable to 'Express Enterprises'.

Learner example:
Please make your cheque payable to "Mr. C. ZHANG". I am looking forward to receiving your answer and the cheque I claimed before the end of this month.

payment /ˈpeɪ.mənt/

Word family:
- Nouns: pay, payment
- Verbs: pay, repay
- Adjectives: payable, underpaid, unpaid

NOUN

AMOUNT PAID

[B2] [c] an amount of money paid

Dictionary examples:
We need a deposit of £165 followed by twelve monthly payments of £60.
When is the first payment due?

Learner example:
Now people can buy or sell things from their home. [T]hey don't have to go to the bank, if they want [to] make a payment.

ACT

[B2] [u] the act of paying

Dictionary examples:
They will accept payment by credit card.
Usually we ask for payment on receipt of the goods.

Learner example:
Fina[l]ly, we employees have been facing delays on payment of our wages.

peace /piːs/

Word family:
- Nouns: peace
- Adjectives: peaceful
- Adverbs: peacefully
NO VIOLENCE
[B2] when there is no war, violence or arguing

Dictionary examples:
peace talks
a peace agreement
Now that the war is over may there be lasting peace between our nations.
She's very good at keeping (the) peace within the family.

Learner example:
World peace was being threat[e]ned by the Gulf War, major countries were taking sides and preparing to fight each other, millions of lives were in danger but no one seemed to care enough.

peace of mind
[C2] a feeling that you do not need to worry about anything

Dictionary example:
We lock our doors and windows at night for peace of mind.

Learner example:
After all, successfully earning your living guarantees peace of mind.

peaceful /ˈpiːs.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: peace
Adjectives: peaceful
Adverbs: peacefully

ADJECTIVE
NO VIOLENCE
[B2] without violence

Dictionary example:
a peaceful demonstration/protest

Learner example:
Leipzig is well–known in the world because of the begin[ning] of the peaceful revolution in 1989 in Germany.
peacefully /ˈpiːs.fəl.i/

Word family:
Nouns: peace
Adjectives: peaceful
Adverbs: peacefully

ADVERB

[B2] in a peaceful way

Dictionary example:
He died peacefully at home.

Learner example:
There were a beautiful bride and a handsome bridegroom who were sleeping peacefully with smiles on their faces.

peak /piːk/

NOUN [C]

HIGHEST POINT

[B2] the highest level or value of something

Dictionary examples:
peak travel times
Holiday flights reach a peak during August.
Here we see an athlete at the peak of her fitness and career.

Learner example:
The situation gets worse, especially [during] peak hours, when people go to work or school and when they return home.

peasant /ˈpez.ənt/

NOUN [C]

[C1] a poor person who works on the land, usually in a poor country

Dictionary example:
a peasant farmer

Learner example:
Monteiro made a lot of trips to see and speak with fishermen and peasants.
peculiar /pɪˈkjuː.li.ər/

**ADJECTIVE**

**STRANGE**

[B2] unusual and strange, sometimes in an unpleasant way

**Dictionary examples:**
She has the most peculiar ideas.
What a peculiar smell!
It’s peculiar that they didn’t tell us they were going away.
The video on road accidents made me feel rather peculiar.

**Learner example:**
Yesterday I had a birthday and my friend Pat suggested that I should visit a fortune-teller. We went along to visit the most peculiar woman I have ever met in my life.

**peculiar to sb/sth**

[C2] belonging to or relating to a particular person or thing

**Dictionary example:**
Her accent is peculiar to the region.

**Learner example:**
The warm atmosphere obliterated every trace of shyness peculiar to the somewhat inhibited Swedes.

pedal /ˈped.əl/

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a part of a machine that you press with your foot to operate or move the machine

**Dictionary examples:**
the brake pedal
This sewing machine is operated by a foot pedal.
He stood up on the pedals of his bike to get extra power as he cycled up the hill.

**Learner example:**
It has a comfortable seat, big pedals and a [w]onderful inscription “RIDER”.

1696
peel /piːl/

VERB

FOOD
[B2] [ɪ] to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables

Dictionary example:
Peel and chop the onions.

Learner example:
We are a family of four and everybody peels vegetables, does [the] washing-up and makes coffee.

COVERING
[C2] [ɪ] or [ɻ] If a layer or covering peels, it slowly comes off, and if you peel a layer or covering, you remove it slowly and carefully.

Dictionary examples:
The posters were peeling away from the damp walls.
Peel off the backing strip and press the label down firmly.

Learner example:
The building that housed the school was run down, with paint peeling off the walls and all the furniture like chairs and tables falling apart.

keep your eyes peeled (for sb/sth)
[C2] to watch carefully for someone or something

Dictionary example:
Keep your eyes peeled, he should be here any minute.

Learner example:
Ever since, I try to keep my eyes peeled for anything similar.

peep /piːp/

VERB [ɪ]

peep at/through/out, etc.
[C2] to look at something for a short time, often when you do not want other people to see you

Dictionary example:
She peeped at them through the fence.

Learner example:
Once I peeped through the keyhole and I could see him crying in pain over my mother's photograph.
peer /piə/  

NOUN [c]  
[C1] someone who is the same age, or who has the same social position or abilities as other members of a group

Dictionary example:  
Most teenagers want to be accepted by their peers.

Learner example:  
It could be a little boring, especially when you are young and all you want is to be with your peers, stay out [all night], get back early in the morning and sleep until afternoon.

VERB  
peer at/into/through, etc.  
[C2] to look carefully or with difficulty

Dictionary example:  
She peered at me over her glasses.

Learner example:  
Slightly opening the door, she peered inside: a small [shaft] of moonlight passing through the [curtain] lit the small room: there was nobody inside, and the phone on the old desk was silent.

peer pressure /ˈpiə.prɛʃ.ə/  

NOUN [u]  
[C2] the influence of people who are of a similar age or in a similar situation to you

Dictionary example:  
When it comes to fashion, peer pressure can be intense.

Learner example:  
To sum up, although young people face many problems and restrictions, such as peer pressure, excessive homework and their parents' prohibitions, they overcome all the barriers and enjoy their life exploiting to the full all the advantages of their age and character.

penalty /ˈpen.əl.ti/  

NOUN [c]  
PUNISHMENT  
[B2] a punishment for doing something that is against a law or rule
Dictionary examples:
The violation carries a penalty of up to three years in prison. Currently, ticket holders pay a penalty equal to 25% of the ticket price when they change their flight plans.

Learner example:
Although, the government can increase the penalties for negligent driving. In this regard, police officers are already paying more attention to drunk drivers.

SPORT
[B2] an advantage given in some sports to a team or player when the opposing team or player breaks a rule

Dictionary example:
The referee awarded a penalty kick.

Learner example:
After twenty more minutes of playing or I should say fighting, none of us could score and finally the match had to be decided by penalties.

**pension** /ˈpent.ʃən/

Word family:
**Nouns:** pension, pensioner

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] a sum of money paid regularly by the government or a private company to a person who has stopped working because they are old or ill

Dictionary examples:
a pension plan
a state/private pension
He won't be able to draw his pension until he's 65.

Learner example:
Moreover, you'll have to pay attention to your health, if you don't want to die before [you get] your pension.

**pensioner** /ˈpentʃənər/

Word family:
**Nouns:** pension, pensioner

**NOUN [c]**
[C1] a person who is receiving a pension

Dictionary example:
Many pensioners are worried about rises in heating costs.
Learner example:
Probably the era of soap operas will end when there are no more housewives and pensioners to watch them.

people /ˈpiː.pl/  

NOUN

the people
[C1] all the ordinary people in a country

Dictionary example:
The rebels have gained the support of the people.

Learner example:
John Paul II is one of the few popes – if not the only one – to have actually been in contact with the people.

perceive /paˈsi:v/  

Word family:
Nouns: perception
Verbs: perceive
Adjectives: perceptive

VERB [T] FORMAL

THINK
[C1] to think of something or someone in a particular way

Dictionary example:
The British are often perceived as being very formal.

Learner example:
However, traveling with parents or other family members is generally perceived as less exciting and interesting than traveling with friends.

NOTICE
[C2] to notice something that is not easy to notice

Dictionary example:
We perceived a faint light in the distance.

Learner example:
I could perceive a dim light through the shutters but immediately afterwards it disappeared.

1700
percentage /ˈpəˌsen.tɪdʒ/  

**NOUN**  
[B2] [c] an amount of something, often expressed as a number out of 100  

**Dictionary examples:**  
What percentage of women return to work after having a baby?  
Interest rates have risen by two percentage points.  

**Learner example:**  
If "today's youngster[s]" [are] asked where [they] would like to have lunch, a high percentage of them will probably answer "McDonalds".

perception /ˈpəˌsep.ʃən/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** perception  
**Verbs:** perceive  
**Adjectives:** perceptive  

**NOUN [C or U]**  
[C2] what you think or believe about someone or something  

**Dictionary examples:**  
The public perception of him as a hero is surprising.  
These photographs will affect people’s perceptions of war.  

**Learner example:**  
Today's royalty is a lot less respected and the media influence of modern times has shaped and transformed much of our perception.

perceptive /ˈpəˌsep.tɪv/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** perception  
**Verbs:** perceive  
**Adjectives:** perceptive  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] quick to notice or understand things  

**Dictionary example:**  
a perceptive writer  

**Learner example:**  
Both incidents show how perceptive Lucy is.
**perfect**

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** perfect, imperfect

**Adverbs:** perfectly

**ADJECTIVE**  /ˈpɜː.fɪkt/

**TO EMPHASIZE**

[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] used to emphasize a noun

**Dictionary example:**
His suggestion makes perfect sense.

**Learner example:**
When the visit is a grandmother with whom you have nothing to talk about I don't think there is much you can do about it. But if you wake up in the morning and the first thing you see in front of you is the face of a perfect stranger with wrinkles all over the place staring at you with motherly eyes... wh[at] would be your first reaction? Yell, of course!

**NOUN [NO PLURAL]**  /ˈpɜː.fɪkt/  SPECIALIZED

**the perfect (tense)**

[B2] the tense of a verb that shows action that has happened in the past or before another time or event

**Dictionary examples:**
the present/past perfect
In English, the perfect is formed with a form of the verb 'have' and the past participle of the verb – for example, "She has visited Mexico."

**VERB**  /pəˈfekt/

[C2] to make something as good as it can be

**Dictionary example:**
I've spent hours perfecting my speech.

**Learner example:**
Instead, it matters how far they get with perfecting their skills.

**perfection**  /paˈfek.ʃən/

**NOUN [U]**

[C1] when someone or something is perfect

**Dictionary examples:**
She strives for perfection in everything she does.
chicken legs cooked to perfection
Learner example:
Moreover, he is hard-working and always strives for perfection.

perfectly /ˈpɜː.fɪk.tli/

Word family:
Adjectives: perfect, imperfect
Adverbs: perfectly

ADVERB

EMPHASIS
[B2] used to emphasize the word that follows

Dictionary examples:
To be perfectly honest, I don't care any more.
You know perfectly well what the matter is.
I made it perfectly clear to him what I meant.
I was perfectly happy on my own.

Learner example:
I told them I hadn't brought a map because I knew the way perfectly well.

perform /pəˈfoːm/

Word family:
Nouns: performance, performer
Verbs: perform

VERB

DO
[B2] [ɪ] FORMAL to do a job or a piece of work

Dictionary examples:
Computers can perform a variety of tasks.
The operation will be performed next week.
Most of the students performed well in the exam.

Learner example:
The technology of computers can [produce] special effects [i]n films and cartoons, it can also be used to perform some kind[s] of surgery.
**performance** /pəˈfɔːrn.əns/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** performance, performer
**Verbs:** perform

**NOUN**

**HOW SUCCESSFUL**

[B2] [u] how successful someone or something is

**Dictionary examples:**
The new suits help swimmers to improve their performance.
High-performance cars are the most expensive.
This was a very **impressive** performance by the young player, who scored 12 points within the first 10 minutes.

**Learner example:**
I do some exercises in order to improve my performance in the water.

**perk** /pɜːk/

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] something special in addition to the money you are paid that you are given because of your job

**Dictionary example:**
Free child care for preschool children of employees was a popular perk.

**Learner example:**
The economy nowadays is so technologically driven it is common belief that having a job in the computer industry means high pay and perks.

**permanently** /ˈpɜːrnəntli/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** permanent
**Adverbs:** permanently

**ADVERB**

[B2] always and forever

**Dictionary examples:**
I seem to be permanently broke.
Michael and his family have settled permanently in Brazil.
Learner example:
Although I am not permanently employed, I found it very interesting to help skilled instructors teach other people to swim and surf.

permit

Word family:
Nouns: permission
Verbs: permit

VERB /ˈpəːmɪt/ FORMAL SLIGHTLY (-tt-)
MAKE POSSIBLE
[C1] [i] to make something possible

Dictionary example:
The match starts at 3 pm, weather permitting.

Learner example:
In my mind there is little to improve in this programme except increasing the [amount] of family accommodation and – budget permitting – the occasions for weekend trips.

NOUN [C] /ˈpɜːr.mɪt/
[C1] an official document that allows you to do something

Dictionary examples:
a work permit
You need a permit to park your car here.

Learner example:
I am able to start as soon as possible and due to my grandfather [being] Italian also have d[ual] na[t]ionality, which means that I don’t even need [a] work permit.

perseverance /ˌpɜːsrəˈveɪ.rənts/

NOUN [U]
[C2] continued effort and determination

Dictionary example:
Hard work and perseverance do pay off in the end.

Learner example:
Would we be still living as our ancestors used to live if people like Einstein, Volta, Newton and Galileo [had not] had the perseverance and intelligence that allowed them to discover things such as the theory of relativity?
**persist** /pəˈsɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: persistence
Verbs: persist
Adjectives: persistent

**VERB [i]**

CONTINUE TO EXIST

[C2] If an unpleasant feeling or situation persists, it continues to exist.

**Dictionary example:**
If symptoms persist, consult a doctor.

**Learner example:**
In my opinion her achievement is based on the fact that she did manage to alter the image of a handicapped person which persisted in many minds.

CONTINUE TO DO

[C2] to continue to do something although it is annoying other people

**Dictionary example:**
He persists in calling me Jane, even though I've corrected him twice.

**Learner example:**
Most surprising perhaps is the fact that although many people are aware of the shortage of drinkable water, [they] persist in either leaving the tap run[ning] or just consume water when it is unnecessary, something that in my opinion is inexcusable.

**persistence** /pəˈsɪstəns/

Word family:
Nouns: persistence
Verbs: persist
Adjectives: persistent

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] when someone or something persists

**Dictionary example:**
He has been campaigning on road safety for years – you have to admire his persistence.

**Learner example:**
A reward for months of effort and persistence had at last arrived.
### persistent /pəˈsɪst.ənt/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** persistence  
**Verbs:** persist  
**Adjectives:** persistent  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] continuing to do something in a determined way  

**Dictionary example:**  
He can be very persistent when he wants something.  

**Learner example:**  
I learned how to make the most out of failure, how to be persistent in my efforts and strive for excellence.

### person /ˈpɜː.sən/ (PLURAL people)  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** person, personality  
**Adjectives:** personal, impersonal  
**Adverbs:** personally  

**NOUN [C]**  

**in person**  
[B2] If you do something in person, you go somewhere to do it yourself.  

**Dictionary example:**  
You have to collect the document in person.  

**Learner example:**  
I am looking forward [to] meeting you in person.

### personal /ˈpɜː.sən.əl/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** person, personality  
**Adjectives:** personal, impersonal  
**Adverbs:** personally  

**ADJECTIVE**  

**personal hygiene**  
[C1] how clean a person's body, teeth, hair, etc. are
Her personal hygiene is not as good as it should be.

The ones that need medical services at home have hardly had anyone, and no one has helped them with personal hygiene.

**personality** /ˌpɜːsəˈnæl.ə.ti/

Noun family:
- Nouns: person, personality
- Adjectives: personal, impersonal
- Adverbs: personally

**CHARACTER**

[B2] [c or u] the type of person you are, which is shown by the way you behave, feel and think

Dictionary examples:
- She has a very warm personality.
- He is well qualified for the job, but he does lack personality.

Learner example:
- I mean, when she dances, she transmits strength and a big personality.

**FAMOUS PERSON**

[B2] [c] a famous person

Dictionary example:
- The show is hosted by a popular TV personality.

Learner example:
- What is more, you could take part in the festival without paying for it and meet some famous personalities from the world of music.

**personally** /ˈpɜː.ən.l.i/

Word family:
- Nouns: person, personality
- Adjectives: personal, impersonal
- Adverbs: personally

**ADVERB**

[B2] done by or affecting one person and not by someone else

1708
Dictionary examples:
These figures should be correct because I've checked them personally. He believes that parents should be made personally responsible for their children's behaviour.

Learner example:
At the end of the concert, when it was after midnight and everyone had already left, the group came up to each of us (who helped out) and thanked us personally!

take *sth* personally
[C1] to think that someone is criticizing you or to feel that a failure or bad situation is your fault

Dictionary example:
You mustn't take everything so personally.

Learner example:
She tends to take things too personally, and sometimes she over[r]eacts.

personnel /ˌpɜːsnˈel/

NOUN
[C1] [plural] the people who work for an organization

Dictionary example:
military personnel

Learner example:
We also employ 10000 workers in 10 factories across the country and additional administrative personnel.

perspective /pəˈspektɪv/

NOUN
WAY OF THINKING
[C1] [c] the way you think about something

Dictionary example:
Being unemployed has made me see things from a different perspective.

Learner example:
We have performed a class survey and interviewed Fordham residents, who see this issue from a different perspective.
**in perspective**

[C2] when things are in perspective, you think about them in a sensible and realistic way, and understand how important or unimportant they really are

**Dictionary examples:**
You must **keep** things in perspective – the overall situation isn’t really that bad. When you see pictures of their suffering, it **puts** your own problems in perspective.

**Learner example:**
I think it will enable me to see things more in perspective.

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<th>/pəˈswεərd/</th>
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**VERB [T]**

MAKE SOMEONE BELIEVE

[B2] to make someone believe that something is true

**Dictionary examples:**
Their argument failed to persuade me.
It’s no use trying to persuade him *(that)* you’re innocent.

**Learner example:**
My friends persuaded me that everythin[g] was going well.

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**NOUN**

[C2] [U] when you persuade someone

**Dictionary example:**
I’m sure she’ll agree, she just needs a little *gentle* persuasion.

**Learner example:**
After a lot of persuasion I decided to take part in the Public Speaking.
**persuasive** /pəˈswɛːsɪv/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** persuasion

**Verbs:** persuade

**Adjectives:** persuasive

**ADJECTIVE [C1]** able to make people agree to do something

**Dictionary example:**
It's a very persuasive argument.

**Learner example:**
The presentation and the enthusiasm of the representatives was very persuasive and appealing.

**pessimistic** /ˌpes.ɪˈmɪstɪk/

**ADJECTIVE [B2]** always believing that bad things are likely to happen

**Dictionary examples:**
The tone of the meeting was very pessimistic.
The doctors are pessimistic about his chances of recovery.

**Learner example:**
In his book, [the] most important thing is his character. He has never been pessimistic, he has never hated his parents.

**petrified** /ˈpet.rɪ faɪd/

**ADJECTIVE [B2]** extremely frightened

**Dictionary example:**
I'm petrified of spiders.

**Learner example:**
I was petrified as well as confused.

**petty** /ˈpet.ɪ/

**ADJECTIVE [C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]** unimportant or not serious
Dictionary examples:
petty details
petty crime

Learner example:
Most unemployed people often turn to petty crimes and sometimes big crimes such as robbery, prostitution and drug-trafficking.

**pharmacist** /ˈfɑː.me.sɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: pharmacist, pharmacy

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] someone who is trained to prepare or sell medicines

Dictionary example:
The pharmacist gave me some medicine.

**phase** /feɪz/

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a stage or period which is part of a longer period

Dictionary examples:
The **first** phase of the project is likely to be completed by August.
We're entering a new phase in international relations.
When I was in my early teens I **went through** a phase of only wearing black.

Learner example:
Many people disagree about the best phase of a man's life but I definitely believe that [the] teenage years are the most beautiful of your life and I have many reasons for believing that!

**phenomenal** /fɪˈnɒm.ɪ.nəl/

Word family:
Nouns: phenomenon
Adjectives: phenomenal

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] extremely successful or showing great qualities or abilities

Dictionary example:
The film has been a phenomenal success.
Learner example:
When they opened in 1990, they had a huge car park which held up to 9,000 cars but due to its phenomenal success they had to build more multi-storey car parks to cope with the tidal wave of vehicles.

**phenomenon** /ˈfɪnəm.nən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** phenomenon
**Adjectives:** phenomenal

**NOUN [c] (phenomena)**
[C1] something that exists or happens, usually something unusual

**Dictionary examples:**
storms, lightning, and other natural phenomena
Road rage seems to be a fairly recent phenomenon.

**Learner example:**
An unexpected phenomenon that someone called “drunkenness tourism” has appeared in the Mediterranean villages and towns.

**philosopher** /ˈfɪloʊˌsəفزər/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** philosopher, philosophy
**Adjectives:** philosophical

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] someone who studies or writes about the meaning of life

**Dictionary example:**
Plato was a Greek philosopher.

**Learner example:**
He wasn't a teacher, he wasn't a philosopher, but he was a great artist.

**philosophical** /ˌfɪləˈsfɪ.əl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** philosopher, philosophy
**Adjectives:** philosophical
ADJECTIVE

PHILOSOPHY
[C2] relating to the study or writing of philosophy

Dictionary example:
a philosophical problem/question

Learner example:
Ralph started taking advice from Piggy and asking him philosophical questions.

CALM
[C2] accepting unpleasant situations in a calm and wise way

Dictionary example:
She seems fairly philosophical about failing her exam.

Learner example:
One of the traits that attract[s] me most in the Balinese is their philosophical attitude towards life and their strong belief in Hindu gods and spirits.

NOUN

STUDY
[B2] [u] the study or writing of ideas about the meaning of life, or a particular set of ideas about the meaning of life

Dictionary example:
Descartes is considered by many to be the father of modern philosophy.

Learner example:
We have been enthui[s]astic students of history, literature and philosophy for three years now.

WAY OF THINKING
[C1] [c] a way of thinking about what should be done in life

Dictionary example:
My philosophy has always been to give those with ability the chance to progress.

Learner example:
Brighton college has changed its philosophy considerably over the past decades.
photograph /ˈfəʊ.tə.grɑːf/

Word family:
Nouns: photo, photograph, photographer, photography
Verbs: photograph

VERB [T]
[B2] to take a picture using a camera

Dictionary examples:
I prefer photographing people rather than places.
MacKay was photographed leaving the building.

Learner example:
This city is not big as you know, so we don't have m[any] interesting buildings to be photographed.

physical /ˈfɪz.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Adjectives: physical
Adverbs: physically

ADJECTIVE

BODY
[B2] related to the body

Dictionary examples:
physical exercise/fitness/strength/disabilities
physical appearance

Learner example:
Eighty kilometres is a pretty long distance and there is a [danger] that our trip would turn out to be a gruelling experience because of physical exhaustion.

THINGS
[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] relating to real things that you can see and touch

Dictionary examples:
a physical object
There was no physical evidence linking Jones to Shaw's murder.

Learner example:
In other words, books as physical objects represent memories of specific times of my life and occasionally I enjoy recalling them by reading (again) some passages of already read books.
physically /ˈfɪz.i.kli/

Word family:
**Adjectives:** physical
**Adverbs:** physically

**ADVERB**
[B2] in a way that relates to the body or someone's appearance

**Dictionary examples:**
physically active/fit
Physically I find him very attractive.
The work is physically demanding.
Special holidays are available for physically disabled people.

**Learner example:**
Most people believe that team sport[s] help children to become healthier, both mentally and physically, but there are those who have objections to this statement.

pick /pɪk/

**VERB** [T]
**pick up the pieces**
[C2] to try to get back to an ordinary way of life after a difficult experience

**Dictionary example:**
After Ruth's death, Joe found it hard to pick up the pieces and carry on.

**Learner example:**
Now that I'm settled in my own country, picking up the pieces and trying to start a new life, I've decided that having a diary is not a bad idea after all.

picture /ˈpɪk.tʃər/

Word family:
**Nouns:** picture
**Adjectives:** picturesque

**NOUN**
**IDEA**
[B2] [USUALLY NO PLURAL] an idea of what something is like

**Dictionary example:**
After watching the news, I had a clearer picture of what was happening.
Learner example:
The next day we will go round the area so you will have a general picture in your mind.

TV
[B2] [c] an image seen on a television or cinema screen

Dictionary example:
We can’t get a clear picture.

Learner example:
Another important point for me is that things like listening [to] music or watching TV sounds better and the pictures on TV are being improved, because the machines [are becoming] better.

put/keep sb in the picture INFORMAL
[C1] to explain to someone what is happening

Dictionary example:
Jim had no idea what was going on till I put him in the picture.

Learner example:
Tell him you are friends of mine. (I will put him in the picture!)

get the picture INFORMAL
[C2] used to say that someone understands a situation

Dictionary example:
Oh right, I get the picture.

Learner example:
If you use a photograph though, you can be sure that everyone will get the picture (pun intended) and prob[ably]bly remember the person you’re talking about next time they see him.

VERB [T]
[C1] to imagine something in a particular way

Dictionary example:
The house isn’t at all how I had pictured it.

Learner example:
Picture this: one house, one bathroom, one bedroom, approximately 100 cameras, 9 people from all possible walks of life and no contact with the world outside.

picturesque /ˌpɪk.ɪ.tʃəˈrɛsk/  

Word family:
Nouns: picture
Adjectives: picturesque

ADJECTIVE
[B2] A picturesque place is attractive to look at.
Dictionary example:
the picturesque narrow streets of the old city

Learner example:
Poland is a really nice country, with many historical buildings and picturesque places.

piece /piːs/

NOUN [C]

ART/LITERATURE/MUSIC
[B2] an example of artistic, written or musical work

Dictionary examples:
a beautiful piece of music
an orchestral piece
There was an interesting piece on alternative medicine in the newspaper yesterday.

Learner example:
My favourite music is an instrumental piece of music by Vangelis.

be a piece of cake
[B2] INFORMAL to be very easy

Dictionary example:
The exam itself was a piece of cake.

Learner example:
The article was a piece of cake though I didn’t expect to win.

go/fall to pieces
[C2] If someone goes to pieces, they become so upset that they cannot control their feelings or think clearly.

Dictionary example:
He went to pieces when his mother died.

Learner example:
He was amazed [at] his ability to solve the problems as he came to them and not go to pieces, like Hooper did.

pick up the pieces
[C2] to try to get back to an ordinary way of life after a difficult experience

Dictionary example:
After Ruth’s death, Joe found it hard to pick up the pieces and carry on.

Learner example:
Now that I’m settled in my own country, picking up the pieces and trying to start a new life, I’ve decided that having a diary is not a bad idea after all.
bits and pieces
[C2] small things or jobs which are not connected or not very important

Dictionary example:
We've packed most of it up now, there are just a few bits and pieces left.

Learner example:
So, it's memories that make us keep odd bits and pieces.

pile  /paɪl/

NOUN [C]

a pile of/ piles of sth
[B2] INFORMAL a lot of something

Dictionary examples:
I've got a pile of things to do today.
He's got piles of money.

Learner example:
He was very disappointed, he didn't want to leave but he had to because he had a pile of work waiting for him.

pile up PHRASAL VERB
[B2] If something unpleasant piles up, you get more and more of it.

Dictionary example:
My work's really starting to pile up.

Learner example:
My work [has] piled up and I have to carry on.

pine /paɪn/ (also pine tree)

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] a tall tree with long, thin leaves shaped like needles

Dictionary example:
a pine forest

Learner example:
After a few days, we came to a small lake surrounded by pine trees.
### pinpoint /ˈpɪn.pɔɪnt/

**VERB [r]**

[C2] to say exactly what or where something is

**Dictionary example:**
It is difficult to pinpoint the exact time of death.

**Learner example:**
It is difficult to pinpoint the exact factors that lead to success and even more difficult to arrange them in any order of priority.

### pint /paɪnt/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a measure for liquid equal to about half a litre

**Dictionary examples:**
a pint of milk
a pint of beer

**Learner example:**
I thank everybody, hoping we'll see [each other] in the pub where I'll invite you for a pint of beer.

### pioneer /ˌpaɪ.əˈnɪər/

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] someone who is one of the first people to do something

**Dictionary example:**
one of the pioneers of modern science

**Learner example:**
Not only was he a bold pioneer by writing lyrics for rock songs in German as early as the late 1960s when the German music scene was still dominated by Anglo-American influences, but he was also concerned with German domestic and foreign politics.

### pit /pɪt/

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a large hole which has been dug in the ground

1720
They dug a big pit to bury their rubbish.

I could demonstrate to people how to create compost pits and use kitchen waste to generate compost for their gardens.

pitch /pɪtʃ/

NOUN

SPORTS AREA

[B2] [c] an area painted with lines for playing particular sports, especially football

Supporters invaded the pitch.

For example, you can have free access to the football pitch, the basketball court and even to the golf course.

pitch dark/black

[C2] extremely dark

It was pitch dark when we started to walk and soon we lost all sense of direction because of all the small paths that criss-cross the island.

VERB

pitch a tent

[B2] to choose a place for a tent and put it there

We pitched our tent in a field.

After pitching my tent I could not wait to hike the moors.
pitiful /ˈpɪt.i.fəl/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** pity
- **Verbs:** pity
- **Adjectives:** pitiful

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] **DISAPPROVING** describes something that you consider is bad or not satisfactory or not enough

**Dictionary examples:**
a pitiful excuse
pitiful wages
The amount of time and money being spent on researching this disease is pitiful.

**Learner example:**
Due to the social structure of late 20th century Western States, with the so-called nucle[ar] family being the usual family unit, more and more old people are driven to senior citizen's homes where they lead a pitiful life in isolation neglected by their children and society in general.

pity /ˈpɪt.i/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** pity
- **Verbs:** pity
- **Adjectives:** pitiful

**NOUN**

SYMPATHY

[B2] [u] a feeling of sympathy and understanding for someone else's unhappiness or difficult situation

**Dictionary examples:**
The girl stood gazing in/with pity at the old lion in the cage.
We took pity on a couple of people waiting in the rain for a bus and gave them a lift.

**Learner example:**
But the young man insisted so much that I took pity on him and in the end I agreed to help him.

**VERB**

[T]

[C2] to feel sorry for someone

**Dictionary example:**
She doesn't want people to pity her.

**Learner example:**
I pitied him for having such an empty life.
Word family:
Nouns: place, replacement, displacement
Verbs: place, replace, displace, misplace

NOUN

in place of *sth*
[B2] instead of something

Dictionary example:
Try adding fruit to your cereal in place of sugar.

Learner example:
Both television and books are very important for our education, for our lives, but never one in the place of the other!

take *sb's place*
[B2] to do something instead of someone else

Dictionary example:
If I can't make it to the theatre that night you can take my place.

Learner example:
First of all, it had been written that Danny Brook and Tina Truelove were starring, but Danny wasn't there and somebody else took his place.

in the first place
[B2] at the start of a situation

Dictionary example:
Why did you invite her in the first place?

Learner example:
In the first place, you were unknown people for me, but now you are my special foreign friends.

all over the place
[B2] in or to many different places

Dictionary example:
There were dirty dishes all over the place.

Learner example:
I am thinking of dog–dirt on the pavements, cans all over the place, [and] a lot of disgusting paintings on the walls in the public toilets, the underground and so on.

in place
[C2] in the correct position

Dictionary example:
The chairs are all in place.
Learner example:
I looked neat and clean even after the wildest games in the school yard, with all the ribbons that tied my long hair in place.

in place
[C2] If a rule, system, etc. is in place, it has started to exist.

Dictionary example:
There are now laws in place to prevent this from happening.

Learner example:
Let’s take [the] example of Mexico City, where such restrictions have been in place since early 2000.

put sb in their place
[C2] to let someone know that they are not as important as they think they are

Dictionary example:
He was rather arrogant, but the other kids soon put him in his place.

out of place
[C2] not in the correct position

Dictionary example:
Why are my files all out of place?

Learner example:
It was awful getting back from school and seeing all my things out of place.

fall into place
[C2] When events or details that you did not understand before fall into place, they become easy to understand.

Dictionary example:
When Jo told me she had a twin sister, everything fell into place.

VERB [T]

place sth in/on, etc.
[B2] to put something somewhere carefully

Dictionary example:
She placed the letter in front of me.
Learner example:
Suddenly little Sophie, who was chewing a sweet, lifted the lady’s hat, took the sweet out of her mouth and placed it on top of the lady’s head.

**place an advertisement/order, etc.**
[C1] to arrange to have an advertisement/order, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
She placed an advert for a housekeeper in the local paper.

**Learner example:**
Place an advertisement on the board near the students’ cant[een]. There are always people looking for flat-sharing.

**SITUATION**
[C1] to cause someone to be in a situation

**Dictionary example:**
One stupid action has placed us all at risk.

**Learner example:**
Lack of education placed them in the lowest range of salaries at that time.

**place emphasis/importance, etc. on sth**
[C2] to give something emphasis/importance, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
They place a lot of importance on qualifications.

**Learner example:**
They want to fit [in]to their peer group – having idols and placing importance upon clothes is not new for this age.

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**plague /ˈpleɪg/**

**NOUN [C]**
[C2] a serious disease that spreads quickly and kills a lot of people

**Dictionary example:**
They died in the plague.

**Learner example:**
Unfortunately, due to the [basic] conditions of hygiene, health care and even the constant wars and the consequent slaughtering, no one expected to get too old, especially in the Middle Ages, when the plague was running wild and free and teenage miscarriages, resulting in the progenitor’s death, were common.

**VERB [T] (plaguing, plagued)**
[C2] to make someone suffer for a long time
Dictionary example:
He's been plagued by bad luck ever since he bought that house.

Learner example:
On six days of the week, low-flying aircraft follow their course only metres above our heads, leaving behind a trail of citizens plagued by the constant incredibly loud noise.

plain /plɛn/

ADJECTIVE

OBVIOUS
[C2] obvious and clear

Dictionary example:
It's quite plain that she doesn't want to talk to me about it.

Learner example:
The former can be seen in her (somewhat violent, I daresay) reaction to the dismissal of the two Jewish girls on Lord Darlington's order: she made it plain that she would leave if they should leave.

PERSON
[C2] A plain person is not attractive to look at.

Dictionary example:
His wife is quite plain.

Learner example:
Lisa had a delicate frame and looked rather plain.

plan /plæn/

Word family:
Nouns: plan, planning
Verbs: plan

NOUN [C]

DRAWING
[B2] a drawing of a building, town, area, vehicle, machine, etc. which only shows its shape from above, its size, and the position of important details

Dictionary examples:
an architect's plans
a street plan
a seating plan
Learner example:
He uses a computer to help him draw 3D plans, elec[trical] circuit plans and th[at] kind [of thing].

**planning** /ˈplæn.ɪŋ/

Word family:
**Nouns:** plan, planning
**Verbs:** plan

**NOUN** [U]

**DECIDING**
[B2] the activity of thinking about and deciding what you are going to do or how you are going to do something

**Dictionary example:**
Events like these take months of careful planning.

**Learner example:**
It seems like you have been doing a lot of planning for our trip next week.

**BUILDINGS**
[C1] control over which buildings are built in an area

**Dictionary example:**
town planning

**Learner example:**
Town planning and some income-tax rules are two other prominent factors.

**plant** /plɑːnt/

**VERB** [T]

**plant a bomb**
[B2] to put a bomb somewhere so that it will explode there

**Dictionary example:**
Rebels had planted several bombs near the base.

**Learner example:**
As a result, [they] accused him of having planted a bomb in the Airport of Recife, in the city where he lived.

**IDEA/Doubts**
[C2] to make someone start thinking something
Dictionary example:
I was confident till you planted **doubts** in my mind.

Learner example:
While a society is trying to plant the idea of 'living together', at the same time, the short-term resolution for this problem should be considered.

platform  /ˈplæt.fɔːm/

**NOUN [C]**

RAISED SURFACE
[B2] a raised surface for people to stand on that is higher than the ground

Dictionary examples:
a **viewing** platform
This brilliant young violinist has appeared on **concert** platforms all round the world.

Learner example:
It was dangerous, but I knew I had do it, bung[ee] jumping! My instructor said 1, 2, 3, and then he said : "Go", so I jumped from the platform where I was standing.

FOR OPINIONS
[C2] a way of telling the public about your opinions

Dictionary example:
Basically, he uses the newspaper as a platform **for** airing his political views.

Learner example:
The artists in the music and entertainment industry especially have such a powerful platform [for] expression, but seldom do we see them use it to bring about unity, peace and brotherhood in the world; instead their music and message is about self-indulgence and gratifying their own personal needs.

plausible  /ˈplɔː.zə.bl/

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] If something that someone says or writes is plausible, it could be true.

Dictionary example:
a plausible **excuse/explanation**

Learner example:
All these points are strong and their theory is certainly plausible, but if we take a look at the subject from a different perspective, things may not be so clear anymore.
Word family:

Nouns: play, player

Verbs: play

VERB

play a joke/trick on sb
[B2] to deceive someone in order to make them laugh

Dictionary examples:
I played a trick on her and pretended I'd forgotten her birthday.
She didn't realise they were just playing a joke on her.

Learner example:
His best friend John couldn't put up with Pat always revealing his secrets, so decided to play a
trick on him.

play a part in sth
[B2] to be one of the people or things that are involved in an event or situation

Dictionary example:
Alcohol plays a part in around 60% of violent crime.

Learner example:
Technology plays an important part in this situation, because I don't think that adults are playing
computer games for Batman or Spiderman, for example, but for the special effec[t]s and the
gra[phics].

play sth by ear
[C2] to play a piece of music by remembering the notes

Dictionary example:
She plays all the songs by ear.

Learner example:
As the years went by, she found it hard to cope with her slow headway in classical piano and her
endlessly unfinished songs played by ear.

play it by ear
[C2] to decide how to deal with a situation as it develops

Dictionary example:
I'm not sure what to tell Dad – I'll just have to play it by ear.

Learner example:
On the way to Cambridge, I had made up my mind to play it by ear.

play with fire
[C2] to be involved in an activity that could be dangerous
Dictionary example:
We're playing with fire if we continue with genetic modification of our food.

Learner example:
Stop playing with fire or World War 3 might come in [the] shape of a nuclear war.

**play games**
[C2] to not deal with a situation seriously or honestly

Dictionary example:
Someone's life is in danger here – we're not playing games.

Learner example:
I couldn't possibly get all that money together, and the kidnappers were not playing games.

**NOUN**

**CHILDREN**
[B2] [juː] when children enjoy themselves with toys and games

Dictionary example:
a play area

Learner example:
And it has [a] play area for children to enjoy themselves.

**fair play**
[C2] behaviour that is fair, honest, and does not take advantage of people

Dictionary example:
The public needs to feel a sense of fair play from the government.

Learner example:
He still believes in justice or just the rule of fair play.

**plea  /pliː/**

**NOUN [C]**
[C2] a strong request

Dictionary example:
an emotional plea for forgiveness

Learner example:
"I promise, I'll never ever do it again" she nodded her head to emphasise the seriousness of her plea.
plead /ˈpliːd/

VERB (pleaded, ALSO US pled)

LEGAL
[C2] to say in a court of law if you are guilty or not guilty of the crime you have been accused of

Dictionary example:
He pleaded not guilty to five felony charges.

Learner example:
I have no idea if she was imprisoned, but certainly she pleaded not guilty and I'm sure she wasn't.

ASK
[C2] to ask for something in a strong and emotional way

Dictionary examples:
He pleaded with her to come back.
She pleaded for mercy.

Learner example:
He had pleaded with his superior that he wasn't familiar enough with that part of the country, all in vain.

EXCUSE
[C2] to say something as an excuse

Dictionary example:
You'll just have to plead ignorance.

Learner example:
It is no fun being left alone to tackle a hitch when everybody else pleads ignorance to the given subject.

please /ˈpliːz/

Word family:
Nouns: pleasure
Verbs: please
Adjectives: pleasant, pleased, unpleasant, pleasurable
Adverbs: pleasantly

VERB [I or T]
anything/as/what/whatever, etc. you please
[C2] used to say that someone can have or do anything they want
Dictionary examples:
Feel free to talk about anything you please.
He can come and go as he pleases.

Learner example:
Another is to [have] 20 years to do whatever you please!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pleasurable  /ˈpleʒərəbəl/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Word family:</td>
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<td>Adjectives: pleasant, pleased, unpleasant, pleasurable</td>
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<td>Adverbs: pleasantly</td>
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ADJECTIVE
[C1] enjoyable

Dictionary example:
a pleasurable experience

Learner example:
Not that I would like to be locked up forever without a career or personal growth and just dozens of children of my own scampering around, but it certainly is pleasurable to drift off dreaming for a while in those huge castles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>plethora  /ˈpleθərə/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOUN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a plethora of sth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] a large number of something</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dictionary example:
There is a confusing plethora of pension plans.

Learner example:
There is a plethora of diets proposed by nutrionists and even if the ingredients happen to be widely diversified, every single one recom[m]ends fruit and vegetables as the most vital strengtheners of [the] human immune system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>plight /plæt/</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOUN [NO PLURAL]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] an unpleasant or difficult situation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dictionary example:
the plight of the sick and the poor

Learner example:
My brother’s plight has always been a concern of mine.

plot  /plɔt/

NOUN [C]

STORY

Dictionary examples:
The film has a very simple plot.
The plots of his books are basically all the same.

Learner example:
A film with a good plot, special effects, sound quality and some computer animations can turn into a real experience if watched with friends or relatives.

LAND
[C2] a piece of land, often for growing food or for building on

Dictionary example:
a building plot

Learner example:
Is there nothing we can do to prevent this little plot of nature we have left from being destroyed?

plug  /plʌɡ/

VERB

plug sth in PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to connect a piece of electrical equipment to an electricity supply or to another piece of equipment

Dictionary example:
Could you plug the iron in for me?

Learner example:
It allows anybody to call from anywhere without having to plug it in a wall!
**plumber** /ˈplʌmər/  

**NOUN [c]**  
[B2] someone whose job is to repair or connect water pipes, and things like toilets and baths  

**Dictionary example:**  
When is the plumber coming to mend the burst pipe?  

**Learner example:**  
In the past I worked as a plumber.

**plump /plʌmp/**  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] quite fat  

**Dictionary example:**  
a plump child  

**Learner example:**  
After two hours a plump nurse came in and took him to the doctor’s office.

**plunge /plʌndʒ/**  

**VERB**  
**BECOME LOWER**  
[C1] [i] to become lower in temperature, value, etc. very suddenly and quickly  

**Dictionary example:**  
Temperatures plunged below zero.  

**Learner example:**  
Five years later the German trend plunged and the Spanish followed, both reaching marks of 1.3 and 1.2 average children per family respectively.  

**plunge down/into, etc.**  
[C2] to fall or move down very quickly and with force  

**Dictionary example:**  
The car came off the road and plunged down the hillside.
Learner example:
The moment you plunge into the pool you no longer belong to yourself, you cut the smooth surface of the water, moving faster and faster, until you reach the end, exhausted but content with yourself.

**NOUN**

take the plunge

[C2] to do something important or difficult, especially after thinking about it for a long time

Dictionary example:
We're finally going to take the plunge and buy a house.

Learner example:
Being unable to stand this mystery, I decided to take the plunge and follow him.

**plus /plʌs/**

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] (PLURAL pluses or plusses) INFORMAL an advantage or a good feature

Dictionary example:
Your teaching experience will be a plus in this job.

Learner example:
Free accommodation is a plus for me, but there are some points which I want to [find out about].

**pocket /ˈpɒk.ɪt/**

**NOUN [C]**

MONEY

[C2] the amount of money that you have for spending

Dictionary example:
I shouldn't have to pay for travel out of my own pocket.

Learner example:
The prices are not too heavy on the pocket and the service is brisk, efficient and friendly.
poetic /pəʊˈet.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: poem, poet, poetry
Adjectives: poetic

ADJECTIVE
[C2] relating to poetry

Dictionary example:
poetic language

Learner example:
It was not vulgar or ordinary; far from that, it was literary, it was poetic: it was pure art.

point /pɔɪnt/

Word family:
Nouns: point
Verbs: point
Adjectives: pointless

NOUN

SHARP END
[B2] [c] the thin, sharp end of something

Dictionary example:
the point of a needle

IMPORTANT OPINION
[B2] [NO PLURAL] an opinion or fact that deserves to be considered seriously, or which other people agree is true

Dictionary examples:
"She's always complaining that the office is cold." – "Well, she's got a point."
"How are we going to get there if there are no trains?" – "Good point."

Learner example:
First of all, in your picture you can reveal the style of life of teenagers (I think it is a good point).

the point
[B2] the most important part of what someone says or writes

Dictionary examples:
The point is, if you don’t claim the money now you might never get it.
I think she missed the point of what you were saying.
I thought he was never going to get to the point.
Learner example:
I'm in a hurry, so I will come directly to the point.

**REASON**
[B2] [NO PLURAL] the reason for or purpose of something

Dictionary examples:
I'd try to explain to her how I feel but there's no point because she won't listen.
There's no point in inviting her – she never comes to parties.
What's the point of studying if you can't get a job afterwards?

Learner example:
Obviously, there is no point in saying "famous people have a right to their own live[s]."

**TIME**
[B2] [C] a particular time or stage in an event or process

Dictionary examples:
At one point, he seemed to completely forget what he was saying.
At that point, a soldier opened fire on the car.
It has got to the point where I can't bear to speak to him.
If, at this point, you decide to leave, that is fine.

Learner example:
At one point, I realised that it was 3 a.m. and many people were leaving the disco.

**MATHEMATICS**
[B2] [C] the mark (.) that is used to separate the two parts of a decimal

Dictionary example:
One mile equals one point six (1.6) kilometres.

**be at/on the point of doing sth**
[B2] to be going to do something very soon

Dictionary example:
I was at the point of walking out when he suddenly spoke to me.

Learner example:
In fact he simulated his death to escape from the police, who were on the point of catching him for [his] penicillin racket.

**up to a point**
[B2] partly

Dictionary example:
What he says is true up to a point.

Learner example:
I agree up to a point with the statement give[n], but if the journalists [di]dn't follow them, people wouldn't know [so] much about them.
**sb's strong point**

[C1] something that someone is very good at

**Dictionary example:**
Cooking is not my strong point.

**Learner example:**
She's got a lot of strong points, more than weaknesses.

**make a point of doing sth**

[C1] to be certain that you always do a particular thing

**Dictionary example:**
He made a point of learning all the names of his staff.

**Learner example:**
I was not expecting to meet him that night, because I thought he would be busy and not have time to talk to anyone, but being so special as he is, he made a point of talking to everybody.

**QUALITY**

[C2] [c] a quality or ability which someone has

**Dictionary example:**
I know she's bossy but she has lots of good points.

**Learner example:**
"I wonder why Mr Co put up with her?" Ku mumbled. "But I suppose she had her good points."

**DIRECTION**

[C2] [c] one of the marks on a compass

**Dictionary example:**
The points of the compass

**Learner example:**
In the summer time, people come from all the points of [the] compass to have a vacation here.

**beside the point**

[C2] not important or not connected with what you are talking about

**Dictionary example:**
The fact that he doesn't want to come is beside the point – he should have been invited.

**to the point**

[C2] If something someone says or writes is to the point, it expresses the most important things without extra details.

**Dictionary example:**
His report was short and to the point.
a sore point

[C2] a subject which causes disagreement or makes people angry when it is discussed

Dictionary example:
Money is a bit of a sore point with him at the moment.

Learner example:
The family gathering was a bit of a sore point.

point out sth or point sth out PHRASAL VERB

[B2] to tell someone about some information, often because they do not know it or have forgotten it

Dictionary examples:
He was planning to book a rock-climbing holiday, till I pointed out that Carla is afraid of heights.
I feel I should point out how dangerous it is.

Learner example:
I would like to point out some incorrect information.

pointless /ˈpɔɪnt.ləs/

Word family:
Nouns: point
Verbs: point
Adjectives: pointless

ADJECTIVE

[C1] Something that is pointless has no purpose.

Dictionary examples:
pointless arguments/conflict
a pointless exercise
It would be pointless to argue with him.

Learner example:
Moreover, people who meet through e-mails and chatrooms can confirm that talking or sending messages to someone you can’t see is pointless and boring.
point of view /ˌpɔɪnt.əvˈvjuː/

NOUN [C]

OPINION

[B2] an opinion

Dictionary examples:
I can certainly understand her point of view.
You have to be willing to see other people’s points of view.

Learner example:
That is my point of view.

WAY OF THINKING

[B2] a way of thinking about a situation

Dictionary examples:
From the point of view of personal savings, the cut in interest rates is bad news.
From a medical/scientific point of view, it is an important achievement.

Learner example:
In addition, it is not useful to keep animals in cages even from a scientific point of view.

poison /ˈpɔɪ.zən/

Word family:
Nouns: poison
Adjectives: poisonous

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] a substance that can make you ill or kill you if you eat or drink it

Dictionary example:
Someone had put poison in her drink.

Learner example:
The third day they were in the forest, Pablo was hurt by a piece of wood with poison on it.

VERB [T]

KILL

[B2] to try to kill someone by giving them a dangerous substance to drink or eat

Dictionary example:
He tried to poison his wife.

Learner example:
Therefore, Matthew decided to kill Pat. He poisoned Pat by putting poisonous ice-cubes into Pat’s wine glass.
MAKE DANGEROUS
[B2] to put poison or a dangerous substance in something

Dictionary example:
They poisoned the city's water supply.

Learner example:
Everyday millions of animals die, millions of acres of forest are burnt, millions of gallons of water are poisoned.

poisonous /ˈpɔɪ.zən.əs/

Word family:
Nouns: poison
Adjectives: poisonous

ADJECTIVE

SUBSTANCE
[B2] very harmful and able to cause illness or death

Dictionary examples:
poisonous chemicals
Can you tell the difference between poisonous mushrooms and edible varieties?

Learner example:
On the other hand, the people in the future will probably wear clothes to protect themselves from the polluted air and water, the harmful ultra-violet rays from the sun and all the dangerous and poisonous gases or chemicals which [are the] result of a developed country.

ANIMAL

Dictionary example:
a poisonous snake

Learner example:
Some of the animals, like poisonous snakes, crocodiles, [and] lions, are kept in special cages.

polar bear /ˌpəʊl.aˈber/

Noun [C]
[B2] a large, white bear that lives in areas near the North Pole

Dictionary example:
Polar bears can be very dangerous.
Learner example:
So it's very difficult to create real-life conditions for some animals, for instance for polar bears and eagles.

**pole** /pəʊl/

**NOUN** [C]

[C2] a long, thin stick made of wood or metal, often used to hold something up

**Dictionary example:**
tent poles

**Learner example:**
It showed two young women in t-shirts and shorts leaning against a big pole stating '90 miles to Cuba'.

**be poles apart**
[C2] to be complete opposites

**Dictionary example:**
They are poles apart in their attitudes to religion.

**Learner example:**
Soho at night seemed to be the nicest place on Earth, poles apart from my home town.

**policy** /ˈpɒl.i.əsi/

**NOUN** [C]

**PLAN**
[B2] a set of ideas or a plan of what to do in particular situations that has been agreed officially by a group of people, a business organization, a government or a political party

**Dictionary examples:**
They believe that the European Community needs a common foreign and security policy. What is your party's policy on immigration?

**Learner example:**
In fact, more and more countries are [creating] new enviro[n]mental policies.

**AGREEMENT**
[C1] an agreement that you have with an insurance company

**Dictionary example:**
Does your policy cover medical costs?
Learner example:
Working in an insurance company often means 'selling the air', but when you see that a person gets out of a difficult situation just because he or she has an insurance policy, you begin to love this job.

politeness  /pəˈlɑːt.nəs/ 

Word family:
Nouns: politeness
Adjectives: impolite, polite
Adverbs: politely

NOUN [u]
[B2] the state of being polite

Dictionary example:
We were impressed by their politeness.

Learner example:
Moreover, I have other qualities such as politeness, thus I am capable of looking after members of the public.

politically  /pəˈlɪt.i.kli/ 

Word family:
Nouns: politician, politics
Adjectives: political

ADV
[C1] in a way that is connected with politics

Dictionary examples:
Politically, she is very experienced.
a politically active group

Learner example:
Nowadays most women have equal chances of education, are permitted to work, sign any bureaucratic papers with no need of their husbands' countersignature, are politically active and have an important professional career.

pollute  /pəˈluːt/ 

Word family:
Nouns: pollution
Verbs: pollute
VERB [t] [B2] to make water, air, soil, etc. dirty or harmful

Dictionary example:
We need a fuel that won't pollute the environment.

Learner example:
Most of them don't pollute the environment, and they don't create traffic jams on the roads.

pond /pɒnd/

NOUN [c] [B2] an area of water smaller than a lake, often artificially made

Dictionary example:
a duck pond

Learner example:
After that, we'll visit "Suizenji-Park" which is a real Japanese Garden with a pond and many kinds of flowers and trees.

ponder /ˈpɒndər/

VERB [i or t] LITERARY [C2] to think carefully about something

Dictionary example:
He pondered what might have happened if he hadn't gone home.

Learner example:
However, I am still pondering and I am still not quite sure of what it means and so I asked myself, would climbing a mountain be a challenge for me?

pony /ˈpəʊ.ni/

NOUN [c] [C1] a small horse

Dictionary example:
I have a pony.

Learner example:
The forest is inhabited by wild bears, wild ponies, golden eagles and non-poisonous snakes.
pool /puːl/

NOUN

LIQUID
[B2] [c] a small area of water or a small amount of liquid on a surface

Dictionary examples:
We dipped our feet in a shallow pool by the rocks.
a pool of blood

Learner example:
When I came into the kitchen, I saw a pool of blood [o]n the floor.

poor /pɔːr/

Word family:
Nouns: poor
Adjectives: poor, poorly
Adverbs: poorly

ADJECTIVE

BAD
[B2] of very low quality

Dictionary examples:
poor health
Last year's exam results were poor.
a poor harvest

Learner example:
But the quality of [the] food was poor.

NO SKILL
[B2] not having much skill at a particular activity

Dictionary examples:
Her spelling has always been poor.
Sam's a poor swimmer.

Learner example:
Since I was a teenager, I've often drawn and painted but without any kind of teaching, so my tec[h]nique is poor.

be poor in sth
[B2] If something is poor in a particular substance, it has very little of the substance.
Dictionary example:
Avoid foods which are high in calories but poor in nutrients.

Learner example:
They couldn’t avoid a diet poor in vitamins, because of the shortage of food.

NOUN

the poor
[C1] people who are poor

Dictionary example:
She spent her life working with the poor.

Learner example:
It is widely believed that under his management, Greece advanced economically and socially, made steps forward concerning the relationships with other countries and people, (especially the poor) loved him, for he made them feel important.

poorly  /ˈpɔː.li/

Word family:
Nouns: poor
Adjectives: poor, poorly
Adverbs: poorly

ADVERB

[C1] badly

Dictionary example:
poorly educated

Learner example:
On the contrary, to my mind both issues were handled rather poorly.

ADJECTIVE

[C1] ill

Dictionary example:
Rosie was feeling poorly so I put her to bed.

Learner example:
When a colleague is absent [due to] feeling poorly, I can automatically do the duties of that person because we work as a group.

1746
**pop** /ˈpɒp/  

**VERB** (−pp−)  

**pop in/out/over, etc.**  

[B2] **INFORMAL** to go to a particular place  

**Dictionary examples:**  
Doug’s just popped out for a few minutes.  
I’ll pop into the supermarket on my way home.  
Why don’t you pop in/over and see us this afternoon?  

**Learner example:**  
Who could imagine life without the telephone? Not being able to call your friend and ask if you can pop in for a moment?  

**SOUND**  

[C2] [i or ɪ] to make a short sound like a small explosion, or to make something do this by breaking it  

**Dictionary examples:**  
The music played and champagne corks popped.  
He popped the balloon.  

**Learner example:**  
Never had she experienced anything like it before, and all her intensity came back in one big bang, just as if she had been a bottle of champagne that someone had been shaking all these years, and now it had finally popped and the joy of living was pouring out of it.  

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**popular** /ˈpɒp.jʊ.lər/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** popularity  
**Adjectives:** popular, unpopular  

**ADJECTIVE**  

**GENERAL**  

[B2] **[ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]** for or involving ordinary people rather than specialists or very educated people  

**Dictionary examples:**  
popular entertainment/culture  
The issue was given full coverage in the popular press.  

**Learner example:**  
Due to his studies in Persian folklore and popular culture, he is the progenitor of anthropology in Iran.
MANY PEOPLE

[C2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] A popular belief, opinion, etc. is one that many people have.

Dictionary example:
The allegations are false, contrary to popular belief.

Learner example:
Contrary to popular belief, Italian cuisine is not restricted to spaghetti and pizza.

popularity /ˌpɒp.juˈlær.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: popularity
Adjectives: popular, unpopular

NOUN [u]

[B2] the quality of being liked by many people

Dictionary example:
the increasing popularity of organic food

Learner example:
We agreed that something had to be done to promote the popularity of local films.

populate /ˈpɒp.jə.leɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: population
Verbs: populate

VERB

be populated

[C1] If an area is populated by people or animals, they live in that area.

Dictionary examples:
The countryside is densely/sparsely populated.
The forest was populated by rare and colourful birds.

Learner example:
Hong Kong is a densely populated city.

population /ˌpɒp.juˈleɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: population
Verbs: populate

1748
NOUN

PEOPLE
[B2] [c + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] all the people living in a particular area, or all the people or animals of a particular type

Dictionary examples:
a 9% rise in the prison population
The dolphin population has been seriously affected by tuna fishing.

Learner example:
Their yellow and black stripe has a mysterious beauty (which is the main reason for the huge decrease [in the] tiger population).

portable /ˈpɔː.tə.bl/ ADJECTIVE
[C1] able to be carried

Dictionary example:
a portable computer

Learner example:
Laptops are indeed a portable office.

portion /ˈpɔː.ʃən/ NOUN [c]

FOOD
[B2] the amount of food served to one person, especially in a restaurant

Dictionary example:
The portions are very generous in this restaurant.

Learner example:
I think you should take [a] packed lunch with you, because the restaurant is far too expensive and the portions are too small.

PART
[C1] a part or share of something larger

Dictionary examples:
A large/major portion of the company’s profit goes straight back into new projects.
I accept my portion of the blame.
Learner example:
Such an event will probably attract publicity (TV, radio, newspapers) and since we are a new company, we will have the opportunity to become know[n] to a large portion of the population in a short amount of time.

portrait /ˈpɔː.trət/

Word family:
Nouns: portrait, portrayal
Verbs: portray

NOUN [C]
[B2] a painting, drawing, or photograph of someone

Dictionary examples:
a portrait painter
She’s commissioned an artist to paint her portrait/paint a portrait of her.

Learner example:
Downstairs we can find pictures [by] old masters and a great portrait of the Spanish King Charles the Third.

portray /pɔːˈtreɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: portrait, portrayal
Verbs: portray

VERB [T]
[C2] If a book or film portrays someone or something, it describes or shows them.

Dictionary examples:
Both novels portray the lives of professional athletes.
In the film he's portrayed as a hero.

Learner example:
As soon as Piggy appears in the novel he is portrayed as an outsider.

portrayal /poːˈtreɪ.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: portrait, portrayal
Verbs: portray

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] the way that someone or something is portrayed
Dictionary example:
He won several awards for his portrayal of the great artist.

Learner example:
While this film may be criticised on grounds that it is a Swiss director looking at his own country, Minger’s view proves to give an overly critical portrayal of Switzerland, showing that hindsight is indeed possible, even in such a small country.

**pose**  
/pəʊz/

**VERB**

**pose a danger/problem/threat, etc.**  
[C1] to cause a problem

*Dictionary example:*
A lot of these chemicals pose very real threats to our health.

*Learner example:*
I hope everyone agrees with me that the new types of communication do not pose a threat to face-to-face communication, but probably [reinforce] it.

**BE STILL**  
[C1] [I] to stay in a particular position so that someone can paint or photograph you

*Dictionary example:*
The two leaders posed for photographs outside the White House.

*Learner example:*
The tourists are allowed to touch the seals, and the seals are willing to pose for the photographs.

**pose a/the question** FORMAL  
[C2] to ask a question

*Dictionary example:*
It was left to Grazia to pose the question of how the project was to be funded.

*Learner example:*
For instance, you can pose a question concerning music to your listeners and the person who is going to call first to answer – correctly of course – will gain a small sum of money.

**posh**  
/pɒʃ/

**ADJECTIVE**

**EXPENSIVE**  
[B2] informal (of places and things) expensive and of high quality
Dictionary examples:
a posh hotel
He takes her to some really posh restaurants.

Learner example:
First of all, the 'Kaya' is quite [a] big, posh restaurant [whose] interiors are like [a] traditional Korean house.

HIGH CLASS

[C2] (of people and their voices) from a high social class

Dictionary example:
A woman with a very posh accent telephoned for him earlier.

Learner example:
Despite the fact of being a posh old lady, she is the kind of person that can make you commit a crime, so bad is her temper.

position /paˈzɪʃ.ən/

NOUN

RANK

[B2] [c] your level of importance in a company or society

Dictionary examples:
the position of women in society
Whether or not you’re given a car depends on your position in the company.

Learner example:
Perhaps the style of their dress will indicate their position in society too.

JOB

[B2] [c] formal a job

Dictionary example:
She applied for a position in the firm that I work for.

Learner example:
Dear Mr. Greenfield I am writing in response to the advertisement which I saw published in my local newspaper, as I would like to apply for the position you offer.

be in a position to do sth

[C1] to be able to do something because of your situation

Dictionary example:
I’m not in a position to talk about this at the moment.

Learner example:
But no one is in a position to know about it yet, since now it is just an option.
be in position
[C1] If someone or something is in position, they are in the place that they should be in.

Dictionary example:
The police were all in position.

Learner example:
Remember to stay calm when you are in the car with the instructor, wear your seatbelt and check that all your mirrors are in position.

put sb in a difficult position
[C1] to cause someone to be in a difficult situation

Dictionary example:
When two of your best friends argue it puts you in a very difficult position.

Learner example:
I know that I will put you in a difficult position with my absence but I must leave.

positive  /ˈpɒzə.tɪv/

Word family:
Adjectives: positive
Adverbs: positively

ADJECTIVE

GOOD
[B2] A positive effect is good and makes something better.

Dictionary example:
The improved diet has had a positive effect on his mood.

Learner example:
All the colours and the smell of fresh and dried flowers has such a positive effect on me that life feels great.

YES
[B2] expressing the answer yes

Dictionary example:
We received a positive answer/response from the minister.

Learner example:
I am looking forward to your positive response.

CERTAIN
[B2] [NEVER BEFORE NOUN] certain that something is true
Dictionary examples:
"Are you sure you saw him?" "Absolutely positive."
I'm positive that I switched it off.

Learner example:
I'm positive that my experience will be useful in another shop like yours.

MEDICAL TEST
[C2] If a medical test is positive, it shows that the person being tested has a disease or condition.

Dictionary example:
She did a pregnancy test and it was positive.

Learner example:
After some medical tests proved positive, she agreed with me.

positively /ˈpɒz.ə.tɪv.ly/

Word family:
Adjectives: positive
Adverbs: positively

ADVERB
[B2] in a good or hopeful way

Dictionary example:
I don't respond very positively to being bossed around – it just makes me angry.

Learner example:
Modern technology also affects [my life] positively in the lab I work for.

possess /pəˈzes/

Word family:
Nouns: possession
Verbs: possess
Adjectives: possessive

VERB
[C1] [T] formal to have or own something

Dictionary example:
He was found guilty of possessing an illegal weapon.

Learner example:
She was lucky to possess a single nice-looking long dress for special occasions, so there was no point in wasting time choosing the appropriate dress.

1754
possession /pəˈzeʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: possession
Verbs: possess
Adjectives: possessive

NOUN
[B2] [C USUALLY PLURAL] something that you own or that you are carrying with you at any time

Dictionary example:
Please remember to take all your personal possessions with you when you leave the aircraft.

Learner example:
Talking about using your possessions, can I use your electronic appliances such as computers [and] CD players while you are away?

HAVE
[C2] [U] FORMAL when you have or own something

Dictionary examples:
I have in my possession a photograph which may be of interest to you.
He was caught in possession of explosives.

Learner example:
After many hours of deliberation, the decision was taken to search every hut and if anyone was found in possession of the diary then they would be killed for having committed an act of theft.

possessive /pəˈzes.ɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: possession
Verbs: possess
Adjectives: possessive

ADJECTIVE

FEELINGS
[C2] wanting someone to love and spend time with you and no one else

Dictionary example:
She stopped seeing him because he was becoming too possessive.

Learner example:
It had never crossed her mind that Matt could ever be possessive, but after long discussions trying to persuade Matt, Alice won.
**possibility** /ˌpɒs.əˈbɪl.ə.ti/

Word family:

**Nouns:** possibility, impossibility
**Adjectives:** impossible, possible
**Adverbs:** possibly

**NOUN**

**OPTION**

[B2] [c] something that you can choose to do from a number of options

**Dictionary examples:**
We could take on extra staff - that's one possibility.
"Have you decided what to do?" "No, I'm still considering the various possibilities."

**Learner example:**
Another possibility is to go to the London Transport Museum, which is very close and free for students.

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**possible** /ˈpɒs.ə.bl/ 

Word family:

**Nouns:** possibility, impossibility
**Adjectives:** impossible, possible
**Adverbs:** possibly

**ADJECTIVE**

**whenever possible**

[B2] every time it is possible

**Dictionary example:**
I try to use olive oil whenever possible.

**Learner example:**
My friends have always regarded me as a cheerful, active girl, who is glad to help out whenever possible.

**wherever possible**

[B2] every time it is possible

**Dictionary examples:**
Wherever possible I use honey instead of sugar.
We try to sell local fruit and vegetables wherever possible.

**Learner example:**
We can work together [in a] number of ways, for e[example], we can plant trees wherever possible and we can place bins [i]n the necessary areas which will help the public to dispose [of] waste items.

1756
the best/cheapest/worst, etc. possible

[C1] the best/cheapest/worst, etc. that can happen or exist

**Dictionary example:**
We need to complete the work in the shortest possible time.

**Learner example:**
But I strongly believe that with good will and enough effort from both sides – our clubs members and you – we will work everything out in the best possible way!

**possibly /ˈpɒs.ə.bli/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** possibility, impossibility
**Adjectives:** impossible, possible
**Adverbs:** possibly

**ADVERB**

**EMPHASIS**

[B2] used with 'can' or 'could' for emphasis

**Dictionary examples:**
We'll do everything we possibly can to help.
I couldn't possibly ask you to do that.

**Learner example:**
My opinion is that everyone who possibly can go by bicycle should do that.

**post /pəʊst/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** post
**Verbs:** post
**Adjectives:** postal

**NOUN**

**JOB**

[B2] [c] a job in a company or organization

**Dictionary examples:**
Teaching posts are advertised in Tuesday's edition of the paper.
She's held the post for thirteen years.
They have several vacant posts.
Learner example:
In addition, I have worked [in] a similar job so I have already gained the experience needed for the post.

**VERB [t]**

**keep sb posted**
[C1] to make certain that someone always knows what is happening

**Dictionary example:**
Keep me posted on anything that happens while I'm away.

**Learner example:**
We will keep our members posted on the best eating places in town.

**be posted to France/London/Singapore, etc.**
[C2] to be sent to France/London/Singapore, etc. to work, usually for the government or army

**Dictionary example:**
He was posted to Germany for two years.

**Learner example:**
At the age of eleven, my father was posted to Montreal and, naturally, I had to go along.

---

**postal /ˈpəʊst.əl/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** post
**Verbs:** post
**Adjectives:** postal

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**
[C1] relating to the system of sending letters and parcels

**Dictionary example:**
the postal service/system

**Learner example:**
It’s just another strike that has affected our everyday life, and Polish postal services in particular.

---

**posture /ˈpɒs.tʃər/**

**Noun [u]**
[C1] the position of your back, shoulders, etc. when you are standing or sitting

**Dictionary example:**
She has very good posture.
As for the furniture, replacing old rickety chairs would result in better working conditions and prevent fatigue, stress, incapacity for work due to bad posture, therefore speeding up productivity and doing away with complaints about pain and poor health.

**potential** /pəˈtɛn.tʃəl/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** potential  
**Adjectives:** potential  
**Adverbs:** potentially  

**ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]**  
[B2] possible when the necessary conditions exist

**Dictionary examples:**  
A number of potential *buyers* have expressed interest in the company.  
Many potential *customers* are waiting for a fall in prices before buying.  
The accident is a reminder of the potential *dangers* involved in oil production.

**Learner example:**  
As a potential customer, I need some further information.

**NOUN [u]**  
[B2] someone's or something's ability to develop, achieve or succeed

**Dictionary examples:**  
The region has enormous *potential* for economic development.  
I don’t feel I’m *achieving* my *full* potential in my present job.  
You have the potential to reach the top of your profession.  
I think this room has got a lot of potential.

**Learner example:**  
The sheer potential for communication it offers is overwhelming.

**potentially** /pəˈtɛn.tʃəli/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** potential  
**Adjectives:** potential  
**Adverbs:** potentially  

**ADVERB**  
[B2] possibly
Dictionary examples:
Hepatitis is a potentially fatal disease.
This crisis is potentially the most serious in the organization's history.

Learner example:
One must not ignore [the fact] that mobile phones are potentially harmful: scientific experiments tend to show that microwaves produced by phones may cause cancers and tumours.

**pottery** /ˈpɒt.əri/  

**NOUN [u]**

**OBJECTS**  
[B2] plates, bowls, etc. that are made from clay

**Dictionary example:**
They sell pottery and other handmade goods.

**Learner example:**
You can see very precious pottery and take pictures [of] old goods in antique shops.

**ACTIVITY**
[B2] the activity or skill of making plates, bowls, etc. from clay

**Dictionary example:**
I am doing pottery evening classes.

**Learner example:**
So I suggest we should print new ones with the latest information, for example about our new pottery courses.

**pound** /paʊnd/  

**NOUN [c]**

**WEIGHT**
[B2] a unit for measuring weight

**Dictionary examples:**
One pound is approximately equal to 454 grams.
One kilogram is roughly the same as 2.2 lbs.
There are 16 ounces in one pound.
Ann's baby weighed eight and a half pounds at birth.
VERB [I or T]
[B2] to hit or beat repeatedly with a lot of force, or to crush something by hitting it repeatedly

Dictionary examples:
I could feel my heart pounding as I went on stage to collect the prize.
The city was pounded to rubble during the war.
He pounded on the door demanding to be let in.

Learner example:
Tina’s heart began to pound when suddenly, she heard her name being called out loud!

pour /ˈpɔːr/

VERB

pour into/out/from, etc.
[B2] to flow quickly and in large amounts

Dictionary example:
Blood was pouring from my leg.

Learner example:
He woke up and cleaned off the blood that poured from his injured eyebrow.

pour into/out/from, etc.
[C2] to enter or leave a place in large numbers

Dictionary example:
The crowd poured out into the street.

Learner example:
Those are the tourists, wh[о] pour out of the jumbo jet, wh[о] get gathered by a charming guide and wh[о] are driven to the next airconditioned luxury hotel.

PHRASAL VERB

pour sth out or pour out sth PHRASAL VERB
[B2] If you pour out your feelings or thoughts, you talk very honestly about what is making you sad.

Dictionary example:
She listened quietly while he poured out his troubles.

Learner example:
She let me pour out my feelings, a thing I did not do to anyone.
**poverty /ˈpɒv.ə.ti/**

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] the condition of being extremely poor

**Dictionary examples:**
Two million people in the city live in poverty.
He emigrated to Australia to escape the poverty of his birthplace.

**Learner example:**
First of all, I think that our grandparents lived in poverty without amenities.

**power /ˈpaʊə/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** power
**Adjectives:** powerful
**Adverbs:** powerfully

**NOUN**

**CONTROL**

[B2] [u] control or influence over people and events

**Dictionary example:**
I've no power over him – he does what he wants to.

**Learner example:**
People can't be trusted with power. They will always reach for more.

**POLITICS**

[C1] [u] political control in a country

**Dictionary examples:**
They have been in power too long.
When did this government come to power?

**Learner example:**
It happened in the November of 1973 and it is the University students' rebellion against the outlaw military government which had come to power in 1967 after a violent coup.

**do everything in your power to do sth**

[C1] to do everything that you are able and allowed to do in order to achieve something

**Dictionary example:**
I've done everything in my power to help him.
Learner example:
I think of myself as an open-minded and cheerful person and if I get the job I will do everything in my power to make sure your visitors will have a great time at the theme park.

COUNTRY
[C1] [c] a country that has a lot of influence over others

Dictionary example:
a major world power

Learner example:
Unfortunately this trend continues into adulthood and has become so bad that in a world power like the United States, one in every three people are considered clinically obese.

STRENGTH
[C1] [u] strength or force

Dictionary example:
economic/military power

Learner example:
We have enough population and economic power to set up a complete city.

powerful /ˈpaʊər.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: power
Adjectives: powerful
Adverbs: powerfully

ADJECTIVE

EFFECT
[B2] having a strong effect on people

Dictionary example:
a powerful effect/influence

Learner example:
The importance of this invention is that the information transmitted on it reaches a lot of people at the same time, so it’s a very powerful [method] of communication in our society.

powerfully /ˈpaʊər.fəli/
ADVERB

[B2] in a powerful way

Dictionary examples:
She kicked the ball so powerfully that it flew over the hedge.
Klaus is a very powerfully-built man.

Learner example:
Mary moved to her aunt's house, an inn, but she had got married to a strange, powerfully-built man.

practical /ˈpræk.trɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Adjectives: practical
Adverbs: practically

ADJECTIVE

REAL

[B2] relating to experience, real situations or actions rather than ideas or imagination

Dictionary examples:
Qualifications are important but practical experience is always an advantage.
The service offers young people practical advice on finding a job.
What's the use of theoretical knowledge that has no practical application?

Learner example:
Before making up my mind, I would like to gain some experience through practical activities.

POSSIBLE

[C1] able to be done successfully

Dictionary examples:
a practical solution
The plan is simply not practical.

Learner example:
This is not a very practical solution for the employees.

SUITEABLE

[C1] suitable or useful for a situation which may involve some difficulty

Dictionary examples:
practical clothes/shoes
Pale carpets just aren't practical if you have kids.

Learner example:
Instead of being practical, our clothes need to be extravagant.
GOOD AT PLANNING
[C2] Someone who is practical is good at planning things, making sensible decisions and dealing with problems.

Dictionary example:
She has a lot of interesting ideas but she's not very practical.

Learner example:
But Macon is a practical man, so he tries to find the advantages [of] living on his own.

practically /ˈpræk.tɪk.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: practical
Adverbs: practically

ADVERB
[B2] almost or very nearly

Dictionary examples:
She blamed me for practically every mistake in the report.
These changes would cost us practically nothing.
It's practically impossible for me to get home in less than an hour.
They used to argue all the time and now they've practically stopped talking to each other.

Learner example:
Today it is used [in] practically all spheres and its influence on people is not unnoticeable.

practice /ˈpræk.tɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: practice
Verbs: practise

NOUN
be out of practice
[B2] to not do something well because you have not done it recently

Dictionary example:
I didn't play very well today – I'm out of practice.

Learner example:
I think playing in the club will be a great opportunity for me so as not to be out of practice.

in practice
[B2] in a real situation
Dictionary example:
In practice, the new laws have had little effect.

Learner example:
When you leave school, you have knowledge but you do not know how to use it in practice.

**put something into practice**
[C1] to do something in reality that has been planned or talked about

**Dictionary examples:**
Next month we will have a chance to put these *ideas* into practice.
How do you intend to put these *proposals* into practice?

**Learner example:**
The doctors cannot really put all their skills into practice.

**ACTIVITY**
[C2] [c or u] what people do or how they do it

**Dictionary examples:**
the *illegal* practice of copying CDs
What can European companies learn from Japanese *business* practices?
It is *common* practice to bury waste in landfills.
What is *standard* practice in a situation like this?

**Learner example:**
Chancellors as well as men in the king's court were known to be corrupt and dishonest, who made bribery a common practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>practise</th>
<th>ˈpræk.tɪs/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** practice
**Verbs:** practise

**VERB [I or T]**

**WORK**
[C1] to work as a doctor or a lawyer

**Dictionary example:**
to practise medicine/law

**Learner example:**
Many wom[e]n practise law and become judges.
practitioner /ˈpræk.trɪnər/  
NOUN [C] FORMAL  
[C2] someone who works in a profession such as medicine or law  
Dictionary example:  
a medical practitioner  
Learner example:  
Another measure is to encourage people to do some forms of exercise and this is where health care practitioners come in.

pragmatic /ˈpræg.mæt.ɪk/  
ADJECTIVE  
[C2] doing things in a practical and realistic way and not using only ideas  
Dictionary example:  
a pragmatic approach to a problem  
Learner example:  
Analyzing such opinions, it is not hard to conclude that the younger generation, which is traditionally regarded as romantic and idealistic, has become rather pragmatic and down-to-earth and got used to associating success in life with affluence.

praise /preɪz/  
VERB [T]  
[B2] to express admiration or approval about the achievements or characteristics of a person or thing  
Dictionary examples:  
He should be praised for his honesty.  
My parents always praised me when I did well at school.  
He was highly praised for his research on heart disease.  
Learner example:  
In fact, my grade was the best in the class and my Math teacher praised me for being so careful and correct.

NOUN [U]  
[C1] words you say to show that you admire someone or something
Dictionary examples:
They deserve praise for their achievements.
Her first novel won a lot of praise from the critics.

Learner example:
This may sound like glowing praise, but Michael really deserves it.

prawn /prɔːn/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a small sea animal which you can eat, and which has a shell and ten legs

Dictionary example:
a prawn sandwich

Learner example:
Li-Chuong's specialities are sweet and sour pork, prawns and .. rice!

pray /preɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: prayer
Verbs: pray

VERB [i]

HOPE
[B2] to hope for something very much

Dictionary example:
We're praying for good weather for tomorrow's cricket match.

Learner example:
I am very di[sa]ppointed with this event and praying that it will happen again next year.

precaution /prɪˈkəʊʃən/

NOUN [c]
[C1] something that you do to prevent bad things happening in the future

Dictionary examples:
Driving alone at night can be dangerous, so always take precautions.
They called the doctor as a precaution.
He took the precaution of locking the door.
Learner example:
The dancing and the horse shows were indeed cancelled, as a precaution out of fear of the weather becoming even worse.

**precede** /priːˈsiːd/

Word family:
Nouns: precedent
Verbs: precede
Adjectives: unprecedented

**VERB [T]** FORMAL
[C2] to happen or exist before something else

Dictionary example:
The formal ceremony was preceded by a parade.

Learner example:
Second, guest appearances should be preceded by the reading and discussion of those writers' works, otherwise students may profit and benefit little from meeting and talking to them [at] such events.

**precedent** /ˈpres.ɪ.dənt/

Word family:
Nouns: precedent
Verbs: precede
Adjectives: unprecedented

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C2] an action or decision that is used as an example when someone wants to do a similar thing in the future

Dictionary example:
This decision has set an important legal precedent for other countries.

Learner example:
Although it definitely sounds rather optimistic, this precedent might be used to improve one aspect of life in the future: safety and peace.
precious /ˈpreʃ.əs/

ADJECTIVE

VALUABLE

[B2] rare and very valuable

Dictionary examples:
- a precious vase
- a precious gift
- a precious metal/stone

Learner example:
I am so sorry because I broke a precious vase you had in your bedroom.

IMPORTANT

[B2] very important to you

Dictionary examples:
- a precious moment/memory

His books are his most precious possessions.

Time is precious – don’t waste it.

Learner example:
Love is something precious which we all want to have.

precise /prɪˈsaɪs/

Word family:
Adjectives: precise
Adverbs: precisely

ADJECTIVE

EXACT

[B2] exact and accurate

Dictionary examples:
The precise location of the house is a secret.
He caught me at the precise moment that I fainted.

Learner example:
I would appreciate [it] if you were more precise next time with your report.

to be precise

[B2] used to give exact details about something
Dictionary examples:
We met in 1994 – on October 1st to be precise.
There was a good turnout for the meeting – twelve of us to be precise.

Learner example:
It's in Central London, to be precise.

precisely /prɪˈsaɪ.sli/

Word family:
Adjectives: precise
Adverbs: precisely

ADVERB

EXACT
[B2] exactly

Dictionary examples:
The fireworks begin at eight o’clock precisely.
What do you think the problem is, precisely?

Learner example:
He was born in the countryside, more precisely in Bourgogne, and he had always lived there.

FOR EMPHASIS
[B2] used to emphasize what you are saying

Dictionary examples:
"You look tired – you should go home and rest." – "I’m going to do precisely that."
But it’s precisely because of the noise that they’re thinking of moving.

Learner example:
Books may not be interactive, but that’s precisely where their advantage is.

AGREEMENT
[C1] used to agree with what someone else says

Dictionary example:
"It’s not the shape I dislike, it’s the colour." – "Precisely!"

predator /ˈprɛd.ə.tə/

NOUN [C]
[C1] an animal that kills and eats other animals

Dictionary example:
These animals have remarkably few predators.
Learner example:
Ferocious animals, such as tigers, lions and snakes (anacondas) can be seen in these areas, but for those who are not used to forests, these predators may only become visible once they are attacked.

**predecessor** /ˈpriː.dɪˌses.ər/  

**NOUN [C]**  
[C2] the person who was in a job or position before  

**Dictionary example:**  
He seems a lot better than his predecessor.  

**Learner example:**  
In the light of the above-mentioned arguments it remains [all] the more [odd] why my predecessor has chosen decisions concerning friendship and leisure activities as examples of his thesis.

**predictable** /prɪˈdɪk.tə.bl/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** prediction  
**Verbs:** predict  
**Adjectives:** predictable, unpredictable  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] happening or behaving in a way you expect and not unusual or interesting  

**Dictionary example:**  
Comets appear at predictable times.  

**Learner example:**  
When I was younger I read many books. I prefer[r]ed m[y]stery stories, but now [they] are very predictable for me.

**prediction** /prɪˈdɪk.ʃən/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** prediction  
**Verbs:** predict  
**Adjectives:** predictable, unpredictable  

**NOUN [C or U]**  
[B2] when you say what will happen in the future
Dictionary examples:
Please don't ask me to make any predictions about tomorrow's meeting.
No one believed her prediction that the world would end on November 12.

Learner example:
But in case my predictions are right, maybe you should buy a new pair of shorts?

**predominant** /prɪˈdɒm.ɪ.nənt/

Word family:
Nouns: dominance, domination
Verbs: dominate
Adjectives: dominant, predominant
Adverbs: predominantly

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] more important or noticeable than others

Dictionary example:
He has played a predominant role in these talks.

Learner example:
As far as I know, the predominant wish of students leaving school is to enjoy life.

**predominantly** /prɪˈdɒm.ɪ.nənt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: dominance, domination
Verbs: dominate
Adjectives: dominant, predominant
Adverbs: predominantly

**ADVERB**

[C2] mostly or mainly

Dictionary example:
a predominantly Asian community

Learner example:
Nevertheless the Japanese scientist refutes the latter argument on basis of his famous theory, according to which the predominantly masculine pleasure of driving is caused by a 'hidden dictator's syndrome'.
**preferable** /ˈpref.ər.ə.bl/  

Word family:
- Nouns: preference
- Verbs: prefer
- Adjectives: preferable
- Adverbs: preferably

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] better or more suitable

Dictionary examples:
Staying at home is preferable to going out with someone you don’t like.
Surely a diplomatic solution is preferable to war.

Learner example:
I think it would be preferable to do it in July, which is a holiday period.

**preferably** /ˈpref.ər.ə.bli/  

Word family:
- Nouns: preference
- Verbs: prefer
- Adjectives: preferable
- Adverbs: preferably

**ADVERB**

[B2] if possible

Dictionary example:
Water the plants twice a week, preferably in the morning.

Learner example:
I think you should spend more time with your friends, preferably in the fresh country air.

**preference** /ˈpref.ər.ənts/  

Word family:
- Nouns: preference
- Verbs: prefer
- Adjectives: preferable
- Adverbs: preferably

**NOUN**

[B2] [c or u] when you like something or someone more than another person or thing
Dictionary examples:
We have white and brown bread. Do you **have** a preference?  
Her preference is **for** comfortable rather than stylish clothes.  
I have a preference **for** sweet food over spicy.  
Choosing furniture is largely a matter of **personal** preference.

Learner example:  
On the other hand, those who are in favour of keeping on with traditional education argue that no free [choice] of preferences can be made until one has rec[e]ived a [basic education] involving the study of different fields of knowledge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>prefix</strong></th>
<th>/ˈpriː.fɪks/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOUN [C]</td>
<td>[B2] a letter or group of letters added to the beginning of a word to make a new word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary example:</td>
<td>In the word 'unimportant', 'un-' is a prefix.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th><strong>pregnancy</strong></th>
<th>/ˈpreg.nən.si/</th>
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<tr>
<td>Word family:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nouns: pregnancy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjectives: pregnant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOUN [C or U]</td>
<td>[C1] when a woman is pregnant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary example:</td>
<td>a teenage pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learner example:</td>
<td>The reduced risk of further pregnancies in conjunction with less remuneration for their work makes these women seem more attractive to employers.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOUN [C or U]

[B2] an unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling, especially when formed without enough thought or knowledge

Dictionary examples:
Laws against racial prejudice must be strictly enforced.
He claims that prejudice against homosexuals would cease overnight if all the gay stars in the country were honest about their sexuality.

Learner example:
What is really amazing is that Biko, who is banned but 'free' of any prejudice, who doesn’t discriminate against anybody, 'frees' Mr Woods (who is not banned) from his narrow-minded and intolerant views and gives another aim to Woods' life.

prejudiced  /ˈpredʒ.ə.dɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: prejudice
Adjectives: prejudiced

ADJECTIVE

[C1] feeling dislike for a group of people or treating them unfairly because they are a different race, sex, religion, etc.

Dictionary example:
Are the police prejudiced against black people?

Learner example:
Men have been very prejudiced against women in this sector, so it has been hard to prove the opposite.

preliminary /prɪˈlɪm.ɪ.nər.i/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

[C1] done or happening in order to prepare for the main event or activity

Dictionary example:
a preliminary discussion/meeting

Learner example:
Picasso would start with a lot of preliminary sketches and then go on to paint his final picture, where the main figures – a woman and a horse – are screaming in despair.
premises /ˈprem.ɪ.sɪz/

NOUN [PLURAL]
[C1] the land and buildings owned by someone, especially by a company or organization

Dictionary examples:
The company is moving to new premises.
The ice cream is made on the premises.
The security guards escorted the protesters off the premises.

Learner example:
The staff will have more space to work in as our local branch is moving to larger premises, and better work conditions will be provided to them.

premium /ˈpriː.mi.əm/

NOUN
be at a premium
[C2] If something useful is at a premium, there is not enough of it.

Dictionary example:
Time is at a premium just before the start of exams.

Learner example:
Honesty and accuracy are very good virtues to strive for, but having friendship [and a] fair and caring relationship to your friend or partner have to be rated at a premium as well.

PAYMENT
[C2] an amount of money you pay for insurance

Dictionary example:
How much is the monthly premium?

Learner example:
They also had to pay a premium to the government and [on] turn[ing] sixty-five, their pension would be paid from this fund.

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] A premium product is of a higher quality or value than others.

Dictionary example:
premium beer

Learner example:
You can get Fondue or Raclette made of premium Swiss cheese, going with fresh salads with whatever dressing you want.

1777
preparation /ˌprep.əˈreɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: preparation
Verbs: prepare
Adjectives: prepared

NOUN

preparations
[B2] plans or arrangements that you make to prepare for something

Dictionary examples:
wedding preparations
We are making preparations to fly Mr Goodall to the nearest hospital.
Preparations for the opening ceremony are well under way.

Learner example:
I would really like to help you with the preparations the day before but it's impossible for me to come.

prepared /prəˈpeəd/

Word family:
Nouns: preparation
Verbs: prepare
Adjectives: prepared

ADJECTIVE

be prepared to do sth
[B2] to be willing, or happy to agree to do something

Dictionary examples:
Would you be prepared to help me get things ready for the party?
People are not really prepared to talk about these kinds of personal problems.

Learner example:
I'm prepared to offer quite a lot in order to give the animals a better life.

MADE EARLIER
[B2] done or made earlier

Dictionary example:
The spokesperson read a prepared statement.

Learner example:
More fast-food and prepared meals are available than a few years ago.
**prescribe**  /prɪˈskraɪb/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** prescription
- **Verbs:** prescribe

**VERB [T]**
- [C2] to say what medical treatment someone needs

**Dictionary example:**
Painkillers are the most common drugs prescribed by doctors in Britain.

**Learner example:**
I visited my doctor a few weeks ago in order to ask him if I could get tranquillizers as a remedy, but he refused to prescribe them as they wouldn't fight the real reason for my problems.

**presence**  /ˈprez.ənts/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** presence, present
- **Verbs:** present
- **Adjectives:** present
- **Adverbs:** presently

**NOUN**

**IN A PLACE**
- [B2] [NO PLURAL] when someone or something is in a place

**Dictionary examples:**
She was anxious about the presence of so many people.
The presence of pollen in the atmosphere causes hay fever in some people.
He's usually quite polite in my presence.
The document was signed in the presence of two witnesses.

**Learner example:**
Your presence here at the club would be really beneficial for the students.

**QUALITY**
- [C2] [u] a quality that makes people notice and admire you

**Dictionary example:**
She's only small, but she has real presence.

**Learner example:**
He derived great benefit from her soothing presence, but otherwise was too duty-bound to notice their relationship went haywire.
make your presence felt
[C2] to have a strong effect on other people

Dictionary example:
The new police chief has really made his presence felt.

Learner example:
Before long a local bicycle gang was formed which would ride all over the village, through fields and gardens, making our presence felt.

POLICE/SOLDIERS
[C2] [NO PLURAL] a group of police or soldiers who are watching or controlling a situation

Dictionary example:
a strong police presence

Learner example:
People residing in [the] countryside find themselves living in fear, claiming that the lack of police presence and protection has resulted in great insecurity.

FEELING
[C2] [USUALLY NO PLURAL] a feeling that someone is still in a place although they are not there or are dead

Dictionary example:
His daughter’s presence seemed to fill the empty bedroom.

Learner example:
There was something there that disturbed him, he felt a strange presence but couldn't describe what it was.

presence of mind
[C2] the ability to deal with a difficult situation quickly and effectively

Dictionary example:
She had the presence of mind to press the alarm.

Learner example:
Frank tried to hide a bag behind his back with great presence of mind.

---

present

Word family:
Nouns: presence, present
Verbs: present
Adjectives: present
Adverbs: presently
VERB [r] /prɪˈzent/

GIVE
[B2] to give, provide or make known

Dictionary examples:
The winners were presented with medals.
The documentary presented us with a balanced view of the issue.
He presented the report to his colleagues at the meeting.

Learner example:
It had to be realistic, so when we finished we presented it to the directors of my school.

TV/RADIO
[B2] to introduce a television or radio show

Dictionary example:
She presents the late-night news.

PLAY/FILM
[B2] to show a new play or film

Dictionary example:
The school is presenting 'West Side Story' this term.

Learner example:
I am writing to complain about the organization of the musical show that the Circle Theatre presented.

present a danger/difficulty/problem, etc.
[C1] to cause a danger/difficulty/problem, etc.

Dictionary examples:
The interview didn't present her with any difficulty.
The final exam may present some problems.

Learner example:
Medical services do not present any serious problem at the moment.

INFORMATION
[C2] to give people information in a formal way

Dictionary example:
He presented the report to his colleagues.

Learner example:
By presenting their findings to the public, they try to teach us how to behave in order to prevent this period of history from repeating itself.

OPPORTUNITY
[C2] If an opportunity presents itself, it becomes possible.
Dictionary example:
I'd be happy to go to New York, if the opportunity presented itself.

Learner example:
I would say that was a fairly good education since they knew how to reward us when the opportunity presented itself.

presentation /ˌprez.ˈnər.iˈteɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: present, presentation, presenter
Verbs: present

NOUN

CEREMONY
[B2] [c or u] an occasion when prizes, qualifications, etc. are formally given to those who have won or achieved them or the act of giving them

Dictionary example:
The presentation of prizes and certificates will take place in the main hall.

APPEARANCE
[C2] [u] the way something is arranged or shown to people

Dictionary example:
Presentation is important if you want people to buy your products.

Learner example:
While the surroundings are very elegant, this is one restaurant where the food and its presentation is of paramount importance.

presenter /prɪˈzen.tər/

Word family:
Nouns: present, presentation, presenter
Verbs: present

NOUN [c]
[B2] someone who introduces a television or radio show

Dictionary examples:
a news/sports presenter
children’s television presenters

Learner example:
Suddenly, a news presenter came on with a unusual message.
presently /ˈprez.ənt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: presence, present
Verbs: present
Adjectives: present
Adverbs: presently

ADVERB
[C1] FORMAL NOW

Dictionary example:
He's presently living with his parents.

Learner example:
I am presently working as [a] sales assistant in "La Suze," a lingerie shop in the city.

preservation /ˌprez.əˈver.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: preservation
Verbs: preserve

NOUN [u]
[C1] when you keep something the same or prevent it from being damaged or destroyed

Dictionary examples:
the preservation of peace
the preservation of wildlife

Learner example:
I was asked to investigate the current situation in my area, concerning the efforts to cut down on the use of energy and natural resources, in order to contribute to the preservation of the environment.

preserve /prɪˈzɜːv/

Word family:
Nouns: preservation
Verbs: preserve

VERB [T]
[B2] to keep something the same or prevent it from being damaged or destroyed
Dictionary examples:
to preserve the environment
We want to preserve the character of the town while improving the facilities.

Learner example:
It is a fundamental necessity for everybody to try to do something in order to preserve the health of our planet.

**presidency** /ˈprez.i.dənt.sɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: presidency, president
Adjectives: presidential

NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL]
[B2] the job of being president, or the period when someone is a president

Dictionary examples:
He has announced that he is running for the presidency.
She **won** the presidency by a wide margin.

Learner example:
His presidency finished in 1384 (2005), but Iranians will never forget him.

**presidential** /ˌprez.ɪˈden.tʃəl/

Word family:
Nouns: presidency, president
Adjectives: presidential

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] relating to the president of a country

Dictionary example:
a presidential candidate

Learner example:
Anyway, now Laura was counting to 10 as her brother was putting a bomb in the presidential car.

**press** /pres/

VERB

PERSUADE

[C2] [T] to try hard to persuade someone to do something
Dictionary examples:
The committee pressed him to reveal more information.
We pressed him for an answer but he refused.

Learner example:
A year later, the press, publishers and film-makers and directors pressed me to make a film on Stella.

press charges
[C2] to complain officially about someone in a court of law

Dictionary example:
The family decided not to press charges against him.

Learner example:
He decided on the spot that if Paul was to return all the money he wouldn't press charges so he called his parents and asked them to find out where he was.

PHRASAL VERB

press on
[C2] to continue to do something or go somewhere in a determined way

Dictionary example:
It was pouring with rain but we pressed on towards the village.

Learner example:
However, she had decided to press on and pursue her obligations to a more motivating goal: she wanted to report the untold, the unsaid.

NOUN

the press
[B2] newspapers and magazines, or the people who write them

Dictionary examples:
the local/national press
press reports

Learner example:
I helped them with most of the practical arrangements, [such] as meetings with the press, dinners and so on.

good/bad press
[C1] praise or criticism from newspapers, magazines, television, etc.

Dictionary example:
She's had a lot of bad press recently.

Learner example:
I also insist that you write a note of apology to the organisers, for bad press won't help either the charity or the hospital.
pressure /ˈpreʃər/

NOUN

MAKE SOMEONE DO

[B2] [u] when someone tries to make someone else do something by arguing, persuading, etc.

Dictionary examples:
public/political pressure
Teachers are under pressure to work longer hours.
Pressure to abandon the new motorway is increasing.
The government is facing pressure from environmental campaigners.
He only asked her under pressure from his wife.

Learner example:
I understand that you must work a lot because of the pressure from your boss, but I will in spite of that warn you and ask you to think over the situation.

put pressure on sb

[B2] to try to force someone to do something

Dictionary example:
They're putting pressure on me to make a decision.

Learner example:
She puts a lot of pressure on me and beli[es]ves that I can do it in the same way as she did.

PROBLEMS

[B2] [c or u] a difficult situation that makes you feel worried or unhappy

Dictionary examples:
She's got a lot of pressure on her at work just now.
Be nice to him – he's been under a lot of pressure recently.
Can you work well under pressure?
the pressures of work

Learner example:
I have two younger sisters so I think I can cope with the pressure of helping out in the summer camps.

LIQUID/GAS

[C1] [c or u] the force that a liquid or gas produces when it presses against an area

Dictionary example:
water pressure
Learner example:
The process of hydro-electric power generation is using the water pressure from the reservoir to generate the power, which is then transported to [a] transformer station through high voltage cables.

FORCE

[C2] [U] the force you produce when you press something

Dictionary examples:
He put too much pressure on the door handle and it snapped.
You can stop bleeding by applying pressure close to the injured area.

---

**prestige**  /presˈtiːʒ/

Word family:
Nouns: prestige
Adjectives: prestigious

**NOUN [U]**

[C1] when people feel respect and admiration for you, often because you are successful

Dictionary example:
His company has gained international prestige.

Learner example:
Many companies nowadays are organising some cultural or sports events in order to strengthen the company's prestige.

---

**prestigious**  /presˈtiːdʒ.əs/

Word family:
Nouns: prestige
Adjectives: prestigious

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] respected and admired, usually because of being important

Dictionary example:
a prestigious award

Learner example:
The jobs that were prestigious in the past seem to be the opposite now.
presumably /prɪˈzjuː.mə.bli/

Word family:
Nouns: presumption
Verbs: presume
Adverbs: presumably

ADVERB
[B2] used to say what you think is the likely situation

Dictionary examples:
They can presumably afford to buy a bigger apartment.
Presumably he just forgot to send the letter.

Learner example:
First of all, I would recommend departing at 8 o'clock because it will presumably be less crowded than at 10 o'clock.

presume /prɪˈzjuːm/

Word family:
Nouns: presumption
Verbs: presume
Adverbs: presumably

VERB
[C1] [t] to believe something to be true because it is very likely, although you are not certain

Dictionary examples:
I presume (that) they're not coming, since they haven't replied to the invitation.
You are Dr Smith, I presume?
"Are we walking to the hotel?" "I presume not/so."
The universe is presumed to contain many other planets with some form of life.

Learner example:
I presume the students are keen on doing some exercise or even competitive sports.

presumption /prɪˈzʌmp.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: presumption
Verbs: presume
Adverbs: presumably
NOUN

[C2] [c] when you believe that something is true without any proof

Dictionary example:
I object to the presumption that young people are only interested in pop music.

Learner example:
All positive effects of the [higher] average age of people have the presumption that their health allows them to live like younger ones.

pretend /prɪˈtend/

VERB [i]

[B2] to behave as if something is true when it is not

Dictionary examples:
She's not really hurt – she's only pretending.
He pretended (that) he didn't mind, but I knew that he did.
Were you just pretending to be interested?
Of course I was angry – I can't pretend otherwise.

Learner example:
Be calm or at least pretend you are.

pretty /ˈprɪt.i/

ADVERB INFORMAL

pretty much/well
[B2] almost

Dictionary examples:
I've pretty much finished here.
She knows pretty well everything there is to know on the subject.

Learner example:
You can pretty much tell your mother any problem you have and she'll try her best to help you out.

prevail /prɪˈveɪl/

VERB [i] FORMAL

[C2] to get control or influence
Dictionary example:
We can only hope that common sense will prevail.

Learner example:
This saying reflects an attitude that prevailed in the European countries of the 19th century when the people were no longer confined to only a basic education and the authority of the church.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>prevention  /prɪˈventʃən/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Word family:
| Nouns: prevention |
| Verbs: prevent |
| Adjectives: preventive |

NOUN [u]
[B2] when you stop something from happening or stop someone from doing something

Dictionary examples:
crime prevention
The organization is committed to disease prevention and education.

Learner example:
I think prevention is the best medicine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>preventive  /prɪˈven.trɪv/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Word family:
| Nouns: prevention |
| Verbs: prevent |
| Adjectives: preventive |

ADJECTIVE (ALSO preventative) [C2] Preventive action is intended to stop something before it happens.

Dictionary examples:
preventive measures
preventive medicine

Learner example:
There are many causes to these problems and certain preventive measures should be enforced to solve them.
prey /ˈpreɪ/

NOUN [u]
[C2] an animal that is hunted and killed by another animal

**Dictionary example:**
The camera follows the owl swooping down on its prey.

**Learner example:**
Like a tiger who looks [at] the prey he has just hunted, Martha looked at the dead body of the boy.

fall prey to *sth*
[C2] to be hurt or deceived by something or someone bad

**Dictionary example:**
He fell prey to a gang of criminals pretending to be council officials.

**Learner example:**
As young people do not have experience in living independently in society and are not fully aware of social problems such as drugs and violence, they may easily fall prey to adults who would like to exploit them.

price /praɪs/

**Word family:**
Nouns: price
Verbs: price
Adjectives: priceless

**NOUN**
RESULT
[C1] [NO PLURAL] the unpleasant results that you must accept or experience for getting or doing something

**Dictionary example:**
Suspension from the club was a high/small price to pay for his mistake.

**Learner example:**
What really characterizes Michael is his love for life, his continuous joy, which sometimes can become rather annoying, but this is just a small price to pay for all his success.

at any price
[C2] If you want something at any price, you will do anything to get it.

**Dictionary example:**
She wanted the job at any price.
Learner example:
They wanted to be parents at any price.

**pay the price**
[C2] to accept the unpleasant results of what you have done

Dictionary example:
If you abuse your body now, you'll pay the price when you're older.

Learner example:
When all is said and done, do contemporary sports events pose an advantage to athletes pursuing their physical excellence? I would dare to say no, unless he, or increasingly she, is prepared to pay the price in becoming a ready-made product for public consumption.

**VERB** [T OFTEN PASSIVE]
[C1] to say what the price of something is

Dictionary examples:
The car is priced at £28 000.
There is a lack of reasonably priced housing for rent.

Learner example:
Both games are priced at approximately £30.

---

**priceless** /ˈpraɪs.ləs/

Word family:
Nouns: price
Verbs: price
Adjectives: priceless

**ADJECTIVE**

**valuable**
[B2] very valuable

Dictionary example:
a priceless antique/painting

Learner example:
She had five unique paintings [by] Van Gogh which were priceless.

**important**
[C1] very important or useful

Dictionary example:
A trip round the world is a priceless opportunity.

Learner example:
It would [be] sad if not unfair for my friend to [miss] this unique and priceless opportunity.
pride /prɑːrd/

NOUN [u]

SATISFACTION

[B2] a feeling of satisfaction at your achievements or the achievements of your family or friends

Dictionary examples:
She felt a great sense of pride as she watched him accept the award.
The whole community takes pride in the school.

Learner example:
I take pride in you and your patience.

RESPECT FOR YOURSELF

[B2] the respect that you feel for yourself

Dictionary example:
She has too much pride to accept any help.

Learner example:
Not only did I lose £50, but also some pride and self-respect.

swallow your pride

[C2] to decide to do something although it will shame or embarrass you

Dictionary example:
He swallowed his pride and asked if he could have his old job back.

Learner example:
She has had to put up with all the psychological harm that her husband has put her through and at the same time, she has had to keep on struggling for her children, never giving in; holding back her tears, swallowing her pride just for the benefit of her daughters.

primarily /prəˈmer.ə.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: primary
Adverbs: primarily

ADVERB

[B2] mainly

Dictionary example:
She's known primarily as a novelist but she also writes poetry.

Learner example:
"The Vagabond Dog" – one of his best short stories – is primarily naturalistic.
primary /ˈpraɪ.mə.ri/
Word family:
Adjectives: primary
Adverbs: primarily

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

[B2] most important
Dictionary example:
Her primary responsibility is to train new employees.
Learner example:
You can listen to music and generally use it for fun but the primary reason that computer[s] were
invented was for communication.

prime /praɪm/
ADJECTIVE [BEFORE NOUN]
MAIN

[C2] main or most important
Dictionary examples:

the prime suspect in a murder investigation
a prime source of evidence

The president is a prime target for the assassin's bullet.
Learner example:

It is of prime importance to find out about culture and history.

a/the prime example
[C2] a very good example of something
Dictionary example:

This is a prime example of what happens when communication is poor.
Learner example:

In this context in the analyses of Piggy's character, it strikes me as a first spontaneous impression
that he personifies the typical proper schoolboy who will later on undoubtedly grow up to be the
prime example of a good and responsible citizen.

prime minister /ˌpraɪmˈmɪn.ɪ.stər/
NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL]

[B2] the leader of the government in some countries

1794


Learner example:
Yesterday I heard that animal rights activists have met the prime minister: maybe the situation will change.

**primitive** /ˈprɪm.i.tɪv/

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT DEVELOPED**
[C1] relating to human society at a very early stage of development, with people living in a simple way without machines or a writing system

**Dictionary examples:**
primitive man
primitive societies

**Learner example:**
Young people nowadays are more exposed to the world news, whereas primitive societies were rather isolated and had nothing to do with the outside world.

**BASIC**
[C1] DISAPPROVING very basic or old-fashioned

**Dictionary example:**
The conditions at the campsite were rather primitive.

**Learner example:**
Students will not appreciate their primitive meals at any cost, even a low one.

**principal** /ˈprɪn.təp.əl/

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] the person in charge of a school or college

**Dictionary example:**
She is principal of a London school.

**Learner example:**
Another thing you need to be aware of is that the teachers, the Principal and the whole class will be invited and we want this party to be a success because we deeply respect Mr Brown.
principle /ˈprɪn.tə.pl/  

NOUN  

IDEA  
[C1] [c] a basic idea or rule that explains or controls how something happens or works  

Dictionary examples:  
the principles of the criminal justice system  
The country is run on socialist principles.  
The organization works on the principle that all members have the same rights.  

Learner example:  
Many laws in our legislation have been created according to his principles and beliefs.  

on principle  
[C2] If you refuse to do something on principle, you refuse to do it because you think it is morally wrong.  

Dictionary example:  
She doesn’t wear fur on principle.  

Learner example:  
They granted themselves a little celebration: it was time to keep the promise made four years before; so they bought some bottles of wine and got drunk (the[y] who, on principle, never drank alcohol).  

in principle  
[C2] If you agree with something in principle, you agree with the idea or plan although you do not know the details or you do not know if it will be possible.  

Dictionary example:  
They have approved the changes in principle.  

Learner example:  
In principle, one can agree with both positions pointed out in this statement.  

MORAL RULE  
[C2] [c or u] a rule or belief which influences your behaviour and which is based on what you think is right  

Dictionary example:  
He must be punished – it’s a matter of principle.  

Learner example:  
He cheated every time he had the slightest opportunity to, even when it wasn’t necessary at all. It was a matter of principle to him.
print  /prɪnt/

Word family:
Nouns: printer, print
Verbs: print

NOUN

PICTURE
[C1] [c] a copy of a picture made using photography or by pressing paper onto a design covered in ink

Dictionary example:
a print of Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers'

Learner example:
MI5 operates two computers, one for word processing and another for scanning and reproducing prints, drawings and photos.

LETTERS
[C2] [U] words, letters, or numbers that are produced on paper by a machine

Dictionary example:
The print's so small in this book that I can hardly read it.

in/out of print
[C2] If a book is in print, it is possible to buy a new copy of it, and if it is out of print, it is not now possible.

Dictionary example:
The novel was first published in 1880 and has been in print ever since.

Learner example:
There are books that you would never find again because they are out of print.

VERB [t]

BOOKS/NEWSPAPERS
[B2] to produce books, newspapers, magazines, etc., usually in large quantities, using machines

Dictionary example:
Fifty thousand booklets have been printed for the exhibition.

Learner example:
We should also have a more efficient tourist service – it [is] years since we last printed brochures of our town!

INCLUDE WRITING
[B2] to include a piece of writing in a newspaper or magazine
Dictionary example:
They printed his letter in Tuesday's paper.

Learner example:
Please take this into consideration and print a corrected version of the article.

dictionary

prior /prərə/ ADJECTIVE
BEFORE
[C1] existing or happening before something else

Dictionary example:
The course requires no prior knowledge of Spanish.

Learner example:
Referring to our prior correspondence I would like to inform you that I accept your friendly offer for being once again your interpreter on your one-week-tour through our country.

prior to sth
[C1] before a particular time or event

Dictionary example:
the weeks prior to her death

Learner example:
I'd like to tell you about my expectations prior to the conference.

priority /prərˈər.ti/ NOUN [C or U]
[B2] something that is very important and must be dealt with before other things

Dictionary examples:
The management did not seem to consider office safety to be a priority.
My first/top priority is to find somewhere to live.
You have to learn to get your priorities right/straight.
Banks normally give priority to large businesses when deciding on loans.
Official business requirements obviously take/have priority over personal requests.

Learner example:
We need to show films [that are] enjoyable for all kinds of people, always giving priority to the quality.
**prisoner** /ˈprɪznər/

Word family:

Nouns: prison, prisoner, imprisonment

Verbs: imprison

**NOUN [c]**

hold/keep/take sb prisoner

[C2] to catch someone and guard them so that they cannot escape

**Dictionary example:**
He was taken prisoner by a group of armed soldiers.

**Learner example:**
The ant princess was held prisoner by the evil beetle and the fly prince was on his way to save her.

**privacy** /ˈprɪv.ə.si/

Word family:

Nouns: privacy

Verbs: privatize

Adjectives: private

Adverbs: privately

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] the right to be alone and do things without other people seeing or hearing you

**Dictionary examples:**
I hate sharing a bedroom – I never get any privacy.
The new law is designed to protect people's privacy.

**Learner example:**
Well, it seems that a young, modern and successful man can have no privacy at all.

**invade sb's privacy**

[C2] to become involved in someone's private life when they do not want you to

**Dictionary example:**
They were fed up with journalists invading their privacy.

**Learner example:**
He would never invade our privacy or force us to talk about our problems.

**an invasion of privacy**

[C2] becoming involved in someone's private life when they do not want you to

**Dictionary example:**
These phone calls to my home are an invasion of my privacy.

1799
private /ˈpraɪ.vət/  

Word family:  
Nouns: privacy  
Verbs: privatize  
Adjectives: private  
Adverbs: privately  

ADJECTIVE  

NOT OFFICIAL  
[B2] controlled or paid for by a person or company and not by the government

Dictionary examples:  
private education/healthcare  
a private doctor/dentist  

Learner example:  
I have been working as an English teacher for small children at a private school for three years.  

in private  
[B2] in a place where nobody else can hear you or see what you are doing  

Dictionary example:  
The meeting was held in private.  

Learner example:  
I agree that th[is] should be in private.  

privately /ˈpraɪ.vət.li/  

Word family:  
Nouns: privacy  
Verbs: privatize  
Adjectives: private  
Adverbs: privately  

ADVERB  

[B2] in secret, or with only one or two other people present  

Dictionary examples:  
She spoke privately with the manager.  
Despite his public support, privately he was worried.  

Learner example:  
I'll pick you up from the station so we will have the op[p]ortunity to chat privately.
privatize /ˈprɑːtəˌraɪz/  

Word family:
Nouns: privacy
Verbs: privatize
Adjectives: private
Adverbs: privately

VERB [T] (also uk privatise)
[C1] If an industry or organization owned by the government is privatized, it is sold to private companies.

Dictionary example:
The government plans to privatize many aspects of health care.

Learner example:
The companies were privatised or closed down.

privilege /ˈprɪv.ə.lɪdʒ/  

Word family:
Nouns: privilege
Adjectives: privileged

NOUN

ADVANTAGE
[C1] [c or u] an advantage that only one person or group has, usually because of their position or because they are rich

Dictionary example:
She was born into a life of privilege.

Learner example:
There are only a few things that have been worrying me a bit: firstly I would like to enjoy the privilege of having my own parking [place].

OPPORTUNITY
[C1] [c] an opportunity to do something special or enjoyable

Dictionary example:
I had the privilege of meeting the Queen.

Learner example:
I have attended several events in benefit of The Foundation but this one was particularly special and memorable as I had the pleasure and the privilege of meeting Elton again – it is really a great privilege to be friendly with someone so special as he is.
privileged /'prɪv.əlɪd/  

Word family:
Nouns: privilege
Adjectives: privileged

ADJECTIVE

ADVANTAGE
[C1] having an advantage that only one person or group has, usually because of their position or because they are rich

Dictionary examples:
a privileged upbringing
As an ambassador, she enjoys a very privileged status.

Learner example:
Today we [are] so privileged, life has become so easy in many ways.

OPPORTUNITY
[C2] having an opportunity to do something special or enjoyable

Dictionary example:
I was privileged to see her sing in Milan.

pro /prəʊ/

NOUN [C] (PLURAL pros)

the pros and cons
[B2] the advantages and disadvantages of something

Dictionary example:
We discussed the pros and cons of buying a bigger house.

Learner example:
But balancing the pros and cons, music is good.

probability /ˌprɒb.əˈbil.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: probability
Adjectives: probable
Adverbs: probably

NOUN
[C1] [C or U] how likely it is that something will happen

1802
Dictionary examples:
What’s the probability of winning?
There’s a high probability that he’ll get the job.

Learner example:
The statistics say that if one woman gets married to one man, the probability that they will get divorced is 50 percent.

in all probability
[C2] used to mean that something is very likely

Dictionary example:
She will, in all probability, have left before we arrive.

Learner example:
Anybody who can fulfill the above conditions will in all probability be successful.

probable /ˈprɑːbləb/  

Word family:
Nouns: probability
Adjectives: probable
Adverbs: probably

ADJECTIVE
[B2] likely to be true or likely to happen

Dictionary examples:
The probable cause of death was heart failure.
An election in June seems increasingly probable.
It is probable that share prices will fall still further.

Learner example:
Surely the older you are, the less probable it is that you’ll choose a bike.

problematic /ˌprɑːb.ləˈmæt.ɪk/  

Word family:
Nouns: problem
Adjectives: problematic

ADJECTIVE
[C1] full of problems or difficulties

Dictionary example:
He has a very problematic relationship with his father.

Learner example:
On the other hand, there were some problematic issues.
procedure /prəˈsiːdər/  

Word family: 
Nouns: procedure, process 
Verbs: process

NOUN [C or U] 
[B2] the official or usual way of doing something 

Dictionary examples: 
The company has new procedures for dealing with complaints. 
You must follow correct procedure at all times.

Learner example: 
Despite being a disorganised procedure, it was successful and many people wanted to attend next year’s festival.

proceed /prəˈsiːd/  

Word family: 
Nouns: proceedings 
Verbs: proceed

VERB [I] FORMAL 
CONTINUE 
[C1] to continue to happen 

Dictionary example: 
His lawyers have decided not to proceed with the case.

Learner example: 
I am not sure which is the best way to proceed with this problem.

proceed to do sth 
[C2] to do something after you have done something else 

Dictionary example: 
She sat down and proceeded to tell me about her skiing trip.

Learner example: 
Ku wagged her finger in approval and proceeded to explain her plan.

proceedings /prəˈsiː.dɪŋz/  

Word family: 
Nouns: proceedings 
Verbs: proceed
LEGAL

[C2] legal action against someone

Dictionary example:
The bank is threatening to start legal proceedings against him.

Learner example:
I happened to know that Diana Robinson, a 13-year-old girl, had started legal proceedings against Mr Thomson and Mr Ketzo, another teacher.

WRITTEN RECORD

[C2] a written record of what is said or done in a meeting

Dictionary example:
I read the proceedings of the previous meeting.

Learner example:
Moreover, I would like to [do] some research [on] Spain's transition to democracy from dictatorship by accessing primary materials such as parliamentary proceedings, newspapers and other main sources available.

process ˈprəʊ.ses/

Word family:
Nouns: procedure, process
Verbs: process

NOUN [C]

ACTIONS

[B2] a series of actions that you take in order to achieve a result

Dictionary examples:
the peace process
Increasing the number of women in top management jobs will be a slow process.
This decision may delay the process of European unification.
The party has begun the painful process of rethinking its policies and strategy.
Going to court to obtain compensation is a long process.

Learner example:
But the situation is getting worse because of the decisions of the European Union, which is trying to unif[y] the education of Europe without respecting the wishes of the students who are trying to stop this process.

CHANGES

[B2] a series of changes that happen naturally
Dictionary examples:
the ageing process
It's all part of the learning process.

Learner example:
These events are not only to entertain students, but they are also a part of the learning process, as by communicating with each other students learn the language.

in the process
[C2] If something is being done, and something else happens in the process, the second thing happens as a result of doing the first thing.

Dictionary examples:
She stood up to say hello and spilled her drink in the process.
The tunnel was built, but many lives were lost in the process.

Learner example:
If an attempt is made to move them to another location they will probably die in the process.

be in the process of doing sth
[C2] to have started doing something

Dictionary example:
We're in the process of painting our apartment.

Learner example:
This feeling of affinity is especially important for young people and teenagers who are in the process of creating their own identity and I also believe that sportsmen and sportswomen make great role models.

VERB [T]
[B2] to deal with documents in an official way

Dictionary example:
Visa applications take 28 days to process.

procession /prəˈseʃn/

NOUN [c]
[C2] a line of people or vehicles that moves forward slowly as part of a ceremony or public event

Dictionary example:
a funeral procession

Learner example:
As Tom was leading the procession, he saw at once the black, forbidding scene.
produce

Word family:
Nouns: producer, product, production, productivity, reproduction
Verbs: produce, reproduce
Adjectives: productive, unproductive

VERB [T] /prəˈdjuːs/
CAUSE
[B2] to cause a reaction or result

Dictionary examples:
The prime minister's speech produced an angry response from the opposition.
Her remarks produced an awkward silence.
If used on delicate skin, this cream may produce a stinging sensation.

Learner example:
I was fascinated by the perfection of the classic[al] sculptures: they were perfectly proportioned,
every part was functional to the beauty of the whole sculpture. It's really different [to] looking at
them in a book! I suggest everybody [should go and] look at them: it produces a magic effect!

SHOW
[C1] to show or offer something to someone

Dictionary example:
One of the men suddenly produced a gun from his pocket.

Learner example:
Robert had produced a bottle of champagne, which they had em[p]tied to the last drop.

NOUN /ˈprə.ˌdjuːs/
[C2] food that is grown or made in large quantities to be sold

Dictionary example:
dairy produce

Learner example:
On Saturdays, I usually walk up to Mr Fall's farm at the far end of the village in order to buy some
fresh produce like butter, eggs and milk.

producer /prəˈdjuːsər/

Word family:
Nouns: producer, product, production, productivity, reproduction
Verbs: produce, reproduce
Adjectives: productive, unproductive
NOUN [C]

FILM, ETC.
[B2] someone who controls how a film, play, programme, or musical recording is made

Dictionary example:
a film/Hollywood/movie/record producer

Learner example:
I'm sure they are going to be very interested in your first steps as an actor, but also in your later career as a film producer.

GOODS/FOOD
[C1] a company, country, or person that makes goods or grows food

Dictionary example:
Australia is one of the world's main producers of wool.

Learner example:
For example, in several countries people who live in the countryside actually are the main producers of wheat and also the meat that people need in their daily life.

production /prəˈdʌk.ʃn/

Word family:
Nouns: producer, product, production, productivity, reproduction
Verbs: produce, reproduce
Adjectives: productive, unproductive

NOUN

MAKING
[B2] [u] when you make or grow something

Dictionary examples:
Sand is used in the production of glass.
The company's new model will be going into production early next year.

Learner example:
More people can enjoy music than before, because of [the] mass production of recorded music.

AMOUNT
[B2] [u] the amount of something that is made or grown by a country or a company

Dictionary examples:
We need to increase production by 20%.
Swedish industrial production has fallen steadily this year.
Wheat production has risen over the years.
Learner example:
He became famous because he did a lot of things in this country in a year, like giv[ing] them a good education, [and] increas[ing] their production.

FILM/MUSIC
[B2] [c or u] when someone controls how a film, play, programme, or musical recording is made

Dictionary example:
She's hoping to get into television production.

Learner example:
Indeed, Northwood cinema enables people to discover films from all over the world – from a small Brazilian production to a 3 hour Bollywood movie.

productive /prə'dʌktɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: producer, product, production, productivity, reproduction
Verbs: produce, reproduce
Adjectives: productive, unproductive

USEFUL
[B2] producing a good or useful result

Dictionary example:
We had a very productive meeting and sorted out a lot of problems.

Learner example:
Some people think that by keeping animals in [a] zoo we can observe them, and try to understand the way they [live]; of course, you can learn things, but it would be more productive to observe them when they are free.

LARGE AMOUNT
[B2] producing a large amount of goods, food, work, etc.

Dictionary examples:
productive land
a productive worker

Learner example:
When the weather is good, I am in the appropriate mood to be productive at work.
**productivity** /ˌprɒd.ʌkˈtɪv.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: producer, product, production, *productivity*, reproduction
Verbs: produce, reproduce
Adjectives: productive, unproductive

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] the rate at which goods are produced or work is done

**Dictionary example:**
We need to increase productivity by 50%.

**Learner example:**
Though time-consuming, these staff would need to undergo re-training to be able to achieve the highest level of productivity, besides getting accustomed to the nick-nacks of the Production Department.

---

**profession** /prəˈfeʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: profession, professional
Adjectives: professional, unprofessional

**NOUN**

[PEOPLE]

[B2] [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] the people who do a type of work considered as a group

**Dictionary example:**
The medical profession has expressed concern about the new drug.

**Learner example:**
One day, [when] I had an exam, the examiner asked me questions about the legal profession.

---

**professional** /prəˈfeʃ.ən.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: profession, professional
Adjectives: professional, unprofessional

**ADJECTIVE**

[JOB]

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] relating to a job that needs special training or education
Dictionary examples:
Chris, you're a nurse, so can I ask your professional opinion on bandaging ankles?
You should get some professional advice about your finances.

Learner example:
I want to play safe by saying that I am not an architect, therefore I am not able to give professional advice.

NOUN [c]

PAID
[B2] someone who earns money for doing a sport or activity which most other people do as a hobby

Dictionary example:
a rugby professional

Learner example:
Finally, I wondered whether it would be possible to explain how long it take[s] an amateur to become a professional. Despite knowing almost nothing about tennis I would like to win a championship in the future.

TRAINED
[C1] someone who does a job that needs special training or education

Dictionary example:
health professionals

Learner example:
Computer skills and knowledge are really important for researchers and media professionals.

profile /ˈprəʊ.fəl/

NOUN [c]

DESCRIPTION
[B2] a short description of a person, organization, etc., giving the main details about them

Dictionary examples:
He's updated his Facebook profile.
We include a photograph and short profile of all the candidates.

Learner example:
I hope [the] above information suits the profile of [the] person you are looking for [for] the job.

PUBLIC IMAGE
[C1] the amount of public attention that someone or something receives
Dictionary examples:
The firm has a **high** profile due to the recent media coverage.
The advertising campaign aims to **raise** the profile of the company.

**Learner example:**
I believe that this is a great idea, as it will help raise the profile of our club in our college, and therefore may help increase interest in the club and possibly its membership.

**keep a low profile**
[C1] to try not to be noticed

**Dictionary example:**
She has kept a low profile since the divorce.

**Learner example:**
Finally, I believe that the best way to handle these issues is to try to keep a low profile at all times and to remain indifferent to gossip.

---

**profit** /ˈprɒf.ɪt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** profit
**Adjectives:** profitable

**NOUN [c or u]**

[B2] money that you get from selling goods or services for more than they cost to produce or provide

**Dictionary examples:**
She **makes** a big profit from selling waste material to textile companies.
Company profits are **down** on last year’s figures.
He sold his house at a **huge** profit.

**Learner example:**
Also, supermarket owners have put in a vast amount of money to find out the best way to [display] goods in order to get the most profit.

---

**profitable** /ˈprɒf.ɪ.tə.bl/
Dictionary example:
Over the years it has developed into a highly profitable business.

Learner example:
It is [a] very profitable business.

USEFUL

[C1] useful or likely to give you an advantage

Dictionary examples:
a profitable discussion
I made profitable use of my time, mixing with a lot of different people and practising my Spanish.

Learner example:
The 'language-shower', as it is called, can sometimes be more productive, efficient and profitable in terms of assimilating knowledge than any course given by highly est[eem]ed professors.

---

profound /prəˈfaʊnd/

Word family:
Adjectives: profound
Adverbs: profoundly

ADJECTIVE

a profound effect/impact/influence, etc.

[C2] If an effect, impact, influence, etc. is profound, it is extreme.

Dictionary example:
The war had a profound impact on people's lives.

Learner example:
This stimulation is essential in our quest for spiritual and emotional well-being and exerts a profound effect on our psyche.

VERY GREAT

[C2] very great or serious

Dictionary example:
The internal market is bringing about profound changes in the health system.

Learner example:
Generally speaking, a history of economic and political dependency leads the country to a narrow wealth distribution and profound social differences.

FEELING

[C2] If a feeling is profound, you feel it very strongly.

Dictionary example:
a profound sense of sadness
Learner example:
Apparently the prologue to an adventure book, praising the pragmatism and profound sense of democracy of the British culture, the novel will reveal the most savage aspects of human nature through the analysis of the boys’ behaviour.

UNDERSTANDING
[C2] If an idea or piece of work is profound, it shows intelligence or a great ability to understand.

Dictionary examples:
a profound question
His theories were simple, but profound.

Learner example:
His professional knowledge is profound and respected by students and other lecturers alike.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>profoundly</strong></td>
<td>/prəˈfaʊnd.li/</td>
<td>Adverb</td>
<td>in a profound way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dictionary examples:</td>
<td>I think this approach is profoundly misguided.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Her recent songs have been profoundly influenced by current events.</td>
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<td>Learner example:</td>
<td>In my opinion the reason why Olivia left Douglas was not so much that she didn’t love him as the fact that she was profoundly bored by the life she conducted in India.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>programme</strong></td>
<td>/ˈprəʊˌgræm/</td>
<td>Noun</td>
<td>a plan of events or activities with a particular purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dictionary example:</td>
<td>The college offers an excellent social programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Learner example:</td>
<td>First of all I have to say that the school social programme was the best and I really enjoyed it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
programmer /ˈprəʊ.græ.mə/

Word family:
Nouns: program, programming, programmer

NOUN [C]
[C1] someone who writes computer programs as a job

Dictionary example:
We employ six programmers on the project.

Learner example:
I'm a 35-year old programmer in a small company.

programming /ˈprəʊ.græ.mɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: program, programming, programmer

NOUN [U]
[B2] when someone writes computer programs

Dictionary example:
We learned how to do programming.

Learner example:
I'm very keen on programming and I have made a lot of small utility programs for both Mac and PC.

progress

Word family:
Nouns: progress, progression
Verbs: progress
Adjectives: progressive

NOUN [U] /ˈprəʊ.gres/

in progress
[B2] happening or being done now

Dictionary example:
Repair work is in progress on the south-bound lane of the motorway and will continue until June.

Learner example:
[In] the lower part of your advertisement, it also said there was a theatre restaurant, [but] in fact, it was closed because internal decoration was in progress.

1815
VERB [i] /prəˈgres/

IMPROVE
[B2] to improve or develop in skills, knowledge, etc.

Dictionary example:
My Spanish never really progressed beyond the stage of being able to order drinks at the bar.

Learner example:
I have to warn you than I'm not an expert in terms of musical basics, but I'm eager to learn them because I know no–one can progress without learning them; so the main job will be to do that.

CONTINUE
[C2] to continue gradually

Dictionary example:
I began to feel more relaxed as the evening progressed.

Learner example:
As the evening progressed we got to see some of the local dances as well as [a] play performed by a band of gypsies.

progression /prəˈgres.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: progress, progression
Verbs: progress
Adjectives: progressive

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] when something or someone changes to the next stage of development

Dictionary examples:
a logical/natural progression
Drugs can stop the progression of the disease.

Learner example:
Sharing information between people is a crucial point of peoples’ education and it can help in their career progression.

progressive /prəˈgres.ɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: progress, progression
Verbs: progress
Adjectives: progressive
ADJECTIVE

MODERN
[B2] thinking or behaving in a new or modern way

Dictionary examples:
progressive ideas/attitudes
a progressive school

Learner example:
I hear [that] some progressive companies don't really approve of company cars and are trying to
keep them to [a] minimum.

GRADUAL
[C1] developing or happening gradually

Dictionary examples:
There's been a progressive decline in the standard of living over the past few years.
a progressive disease

Learner example:
It was not a quick change, on the contrary it was a progressive change which was accelerated by
some factors during the last two decades.

prohibit /prəˈhɪb.ɪt/

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]
[B2] to officially forbid something

Dictionary examples:
Motor vehicles are prohibited from driving in the town centre.
The government introduced a law prohibiting tobacco advertisements on TV.
Parking is strictly prohibited between these gates.

Learner example:
Perhaps we should prohibit the traffic and create a new cheap bus service for the inhabitants and
the tourists.

project /ˈprɒdʒekt/

NOUN [C]

WORK
[B2] a carefully planned piece of work that has a particular purpose
Dictionary examples:
a scientific research project
My next project is decorating the kitchen.
Her latest project is a film based on the life of a nineteenth-century artist.

Learner example:
It is also related to my research project.

projection /prəˈdʒek.tʃən/

NOUN

CALCULATION
[C1] [c] a calculation or guess about the future based on information that you have

Dictionary example:
government projections of population growth

Learner example:
The line graph shows the Cinema attendance between 1990 and the present, with projections to 2010.

IMAGE
[C1] [u] when a film or an image is projected onto a screen or wall

Dictionary example:
the projection of moving images

Learner example:
Talks and slide projection could be interesting for older people but not so exciting for younger people, who would prefer some more "active" entertainment like visits to discos, barbecues, quiz night, karaoke nights, fancy-dress parties and other similar happenings.

prolong /prəˈlɒŋ/

Word family:
Verbs: prolong
Adjectives: prolonged

VERB [T]
[C1] to make something last longer

Dictionary example:
Eating a good diet can prolong your life.

Learner example:
However, nobody expects the strike to be prolonged for more than a week.
prolonged /prəˈlɒŋd/

Word family:
Verbs: prolong
Adjectives: prolonged

ADJECTIVE
[C1] continuing for a long time

Dictionary examples:
a prolonged illness
Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun.

Learner example:
What surprised us was the prolonged delay we had to suffer during our departure from Heathrow.

prominent /ˈprɒm.ɪ.nənt/

ADJECTIVE

IMPORTANT
[C1] important or famous

Dictionary example:
a prominent figure

Learner example:
It starts with two very important works of Albrecht Durer, one of the most prominent painters of his time, not only in Germany.

EASY TO SEE
[C2] very easy to see or notice

Dictionary example:
New books are displayed in a prominent position at the front of the shop.

Learner example:
A large map of Cyprus holds a prominent place in his store.

promise /ˈprɒm.rs/

Word family:
Nouns: promise
Verbs: promise
Adjectives: promising
VERB

promise to be *sth*

[B2] If something promises to be good, exciting, etc., people expect that it will be good, exciting, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
It promises to be a really exciting game.

**Learner example:**
I'm looking forward to start[ing] this trip with you and Chris. It promises to be very exciting!

NOUN [C]

keep/break a promise

[B2] to do/not do what you said that you would do

**Dictionary example:**
If I make a promise, I like to keep it.

**Learner example:**
In addition, you didn't keep your promise.

promising /ˈprɒ.m.i.sɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: promise
Verbs: promise
Adjectives: promising

ADJECTIVE

[C1] likely to be very good or successful in the future

**Dictionary examples:**
a promising student
a promising start to the game

**Learner example:**
Once a promising football player starts his career he becomes an attractive "thing" to sponsors and football clubs.

promote /prəˈmaʊt/

Word family:
Nouns: promotion
Verbs: promote

1820
VERB [7]

ADVERTISE
[B2] to advertise something

Dictionary example:
The band is promoting their new album.

Learner example:
At that moment I and a large number of people behind me discovered that I was talking to a person made out of wax. [It] was there to promote the museum.

ENCOURAGE
[C1] to encourage something to happen or develop

Dictionary examples:
to promote peace
It has long been known that regular exercise promotes all-round good health.
Greenpeace works to promote awareness of the dangers that threaten our planet today.

Learner example:
A notable exception is the advertising of so-called "slow-food" restaurants, which promote [a] healthy lifestyle.

promotion  /praˈmeɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:
Nouns: promotion
Verbs: promote

NOUN

ADVERTISEMENT
[B2] [c or u] activities to advertise something

Dictionary examples:
a sales promotion
They're giving away free T-shirts as a special promotion.
Obviously as sales manager he'll be very involved in the promotion and marketing of the product.

Learner example:
There are different kinds of jobs people do during the festival, e.g. some organisational work, doing promotion for the different events or sell[ing] tickets for the concerts.

JOB
[B2] [c or u] when someone is given a more important job in the same organization

Dictionary examples:
Did Steve get the promotion he wanted?
The job offers excellent promotion prospects.
Learner example:
I would like to congratulate you on your promotion.

**ENCOURAGE**

[C1] [U NO PLURAL] when you encourage something to happen or develop

**Dictionary example:**
the promotion of a healthy lifestyle

**Learner example:**
I would like an education more based on the needs of the country, but not only on the economic ones but also on the spiritual ones, such as the development of a cultural identity, the promotion of the arts, and the encouragement of an ecologically friendly way of producing wealth for the country as a whole.

---

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** prompt

**Adverbs:** promptly

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] done or acting quickly and without waiting, or arriving at the correct time

**Dictionary examples:**
prompt payment
a prompt reply
His prompt action certainly saved my life.

**Learner example:**
I look forward to your prompt reply.

**VERB [T]**

**prompt sb to do sth**

[C2] to make someone decide to say or do something

**Dictionary examples:**
What prompted you to say that?
I don't know what prompted him to leave.

**Learner example:**
What really touched my heart and prompted me to write this letter was the recently published series of articles about favourite possessions.
**promptly** /ˈprɒmpt.li/  

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:** prompt  
**Adverbs:** promptly  

**ADVERB**  
[B2] quickly, without delay, or at the arranged time  

**Dictionary examples:**  
We'll have to leave fairly promptly if we want to catch that train.  
We try to answer readers' letters as promptly as we can.  
She promised she'd keep it secret and promptly went and told Ben!  

**Learner example:**  
It provides a business lunch which is not very expensive and is served promptly.

---

**prone** /prəʊn/  

**ADJECTIVE**  

be prone to *sth/doing sth*  
[C2] to often do something or suffer from something, especially something bad  

**Dictionary example:**  
I'm prone to headaches.  

**Learner example:**  
They are prone to making lots of mistakes which they later learn from.

**accident-/injury-, etc. prone**  
[C2] often having accidents/injuries, etc.  

**Dictionary example:**  
My son is very accident-prone.  

**Learner example:**  
Why not take advantage of their mistakes if it will mean that our lives will become less accident-prone?

---

**proof** /pruːf/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** proof  
**Verbs:** prove
**NOUN [u]**

[B2] a fact or a piece of information that shows something exists or is true

**Dictionary examples:**
She showed us her passport as proof of her identity.
Do they have any proof that it was Hampson who stole the goods?
Keep your receipt as proof of purchase.

**Learner example:**
The smile of a child is the best proof of the utility of zoos.

---

**propaganda /ˌprɒp.əˈgæn.də/**

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] information or ideas, which are often false, that an organization prints or broadcasts to make people agree with what it is saying

**Dictionary example:**
political propaganda

**Learner example:**
It is clear that photographs, just as TV, can show the truth while at the same time concealing it. [...] It is a sign of the degree of democracy in a society, whether they act as reliable witnesses or as tools of propaganda.

---

**proper noun /ˈprɒp.əˌnaʊn/**

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a word or group of words that is the name of a person or place and always begins with a capital letter

**Dictionary example:**
'London' is a proper noun.

---

**property /ˈprɒp.ə.ti/**

**NOUN**

[B2] [c or u] a building or area of land
**Dictionary examples:**
He owns a number of properties in the centre of London.
The notice said *Private Property, Keep Off.*

**Learner example:**
Every shopkeeper and houseowner should maintain their property, looking after gardens and plants that surround it, trying to keep rubbish out of sight.

---

**proportion /prəˈpɔːr.tʃən/**

**NOUN**

**PART OF TOTAL**

[C1] [c] a part of a total number or amount

**Dictionary examples:**
Children make up a large proportion of the world's population.
The class consists of men and women in roughly equal proportions.

**Learner example:**
A significant proportion of the respondents (80%) said that they are not pleased with dangerous roads and the queues during the rush-hours and they also encounter difficulties in finding a safe house to rent.

**out of proportion**

[C2] If something is out of proportion, it is much bigger or smaller than it should be, when compared to other things.

**Dictionary example:**
The punishment is completely out of proportion to the crime.

**Learner example:**
If you were doing it to make a profit, I could understand, but for a library it is just out of proportion and I even believe more people could be attracted if the prices decrease.

**in proportion to**

[C2] If something changes in proportion to another thing, it changes to the same degree as that thing.

**Dictionary example:**
Your tax payment increases in proportion to your salary.

**Learner example:**
One aspect of the question is the fact that a sportsman's salary is supposedly not in proportion to the number of hours he works.
proposal /prəˈpəʊ.zəl/

Word family:
Nouns: proposal, proposition
Verbs: propose
Adjectives: proposed

NOUN [C]

PLAN
[B2] a suggestion for a plan

Dictionary examples:
a proposal to raise taxes
The proposal for a new sports hall has been rejected.
There has been an angry reaction to the government’s proposal to reduce unemployment benefit.
There was anger at the proposal that a UN peacekeeping force should be sent to the area.

Learner example:
I would like you to consider my proposal [and] give me [your] response as soon as possible.

MARRY
[B2] when someone asks someone to marry them

Dictionary example:
As a young woman, she received several proposals.

Learner example:
After this, things went perfectly well, and Mary accepted his proposal to marry him.

propose /prəˈpəʊz/

Word family:
Nouns: proposal, proposition
Verbs: propose
Adjectives: proposed

VERB

SUGGEST
[B2] [t] to suggest a plan or action

Dictionary examples:
I propose that we delay our decision until we have more information.
proposed changes

Learner example:
I think [the] most important [thing] is that you understand our language. So I propose that you [attend] a school for the first two month[s].
**propose to do sth**
[B2] to intend to do something

**Dictionary example:**
They propose to cycle across Europe.

**Learner example:**
I propose to build a new hotel following the traditional architecture of the village.

**MARRY**
[B2] [I] to ask someone to marry you

**Dictionary example:**
He proposed to me on my birthday.

**Learner example:**
First he caught everybody's attention and straightaway he proposed marriage to her.

---

**proposed** /prəˈpəʊzd/

**Word family:**
Nouns: proposal, proposition
Verbs: propose
Adjectives: proposed

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] suggested as an idea or plan

**Dictionary example:**
The proposed road would cut right through the forest.

**Learner example:**
I will need information about the price of the proposed vacation.

---

**proposition** /ˌprɒpəˈzɪʃ.ən/

**Word family:**
Nouns: proposal, proposition
Verbs: propose
Adjectives: proposed

**NOUN [c]**
[C1] an offer or suggestion, usually in business

**Dictionary example:**
an attractively interesting proposition
Learner example:
If you will consider this proposition positively, then we w[ould] like to produce a deal for you to become our only importer in Britain.

**prosecute** /ˈprɔs.ɪ.kjuːt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** prosecution, prosecutor
**Verbs:** prosecute

**VERB**
[C2] [I or T] to officially accuse someone of committing a crime in a court of law, or (of a lawyer) to try to prove that a person accused of committing a crime is guilty of that crime

**Dictionary examples:**
Shoplifters will be prosecuted.
He was prosecuted for fraud.
The victim has said that she will not prosecute.

Learner example:
Moreover, if our only worry is making money, we could be tempted to get involved in black [market] business, [but] that way we would run the risk of being prosecuted and brought to justice.

**prosecution** /ˌprɔs.ɪˈkjuːʃ.ən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** prosecution, prosecutor
**Verbs:** prosecute

**NOUN**
the prosecution
[C2] [GROUP] the lawyers who are prosecuting someone in a court of law

**Dictionary example:**
The prosecution will begin presenting evidence today.

**Learner example:**
As [the] counsel for the prosecution insisted on [a] severe punishment, John was sent to serve his sentence in one of the worst jails in the country.

[C2] [c or u] when someone is prosecuted

**Dictionary example:**
The incident resulted in a number of prosecutions.
**Learner example:**
Most experts in the field agree that travelling may help to overcome nationalistic tendencies, which are present in many countries, far better than such short-term measures as prosecution by law.

**prosecutor /ˈprɔs.i.kjuː.tə/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** prosecution, prosecutor  
**Verbs:** prosecute

**NOUN [c]**
[C2] a lawyer who prosecutes people

**Dictionary example:**
Prosecutors allege that she knew about the plan.

**Learner example:**
However, it was after her graduation that her life began to change: she sat for a Public Examination in order to become a prosecutor.

**prospect /ˈprɔs.pekt/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** prospect  
**Adjectives:** prospective

**NOUN**

**POSSIBILITY**
[B2] [c or u] the possibility that something good might happen in the future

**Dictionary examples:**
Is there any prospect of the weather improving?  
Job prospects for graduates in the sciences are good.  
We've been warned that there is a prospect of flooding due to the heavy rains.

**Learner example:**
With our effort, I am sure things will be realized and the prospect is bright.

**sb's prospects**
[B2] the possibility of being successful

**Dictionary example:**
The course will improve his career prospects.

**Learner example:**
I could learn many things from picking fruit and vegetables and improve my job prospects.
IDEA
[C2] [NO PLURAL] the idea of something that will happen in the future

Dictionary examples:
We face the prospect of having to start all over again.
I'm very excited at the prospect of seeing her again.

Learner example:
They were bewildered at the prospect of beginning a new life there.

prospective /prəˈspek.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: prospect
Adjectives: prospective

ADJECTIVE

prospective buyers/employers/parents, etc.
[C1] Prospective buyers, employers, parents, etc., are not yet buyers, employers, parents, etc., but are expected to be in the future.

Dictionary example:
We hold an open day for prospective students.

Learner example:
The page is useful for prospective students as well as for people who are already studying and plan to go abroad.

prosper /ˈprɒs.pər/

Word family:
Nouns: prosperity
Verbs: prosper
Adjectives: prosperous

VERB [i]
[C2] If a person or business prospers, they do well, especially financially.

Dictionary example:
The government needs to create conditions where trade can prosper.

Learner example:
The standards have to be readjusted to give the old and experienced members of society a new role in which they can prosper and still contribute to the benefit of all.
### prosperity  /prɒsˈper.ə.ti/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** prosperity
- **Verbs:** prosper
- **Adjectives:** prosperous

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] when a person or group of people is successful, usually by earning a lot of money

**Dictionary example:**
Our nation's prosperity comes from oil.

**Learner example:**
It is a typical tradition and the rice means prosperity for the couple.

### prosperous  /ˈprɒs.pərəs/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** prosperity
- **Verbs:** prosper
- **Adjectives:** prosperous

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] successful, usually by earning a lot of money

**Dictionary example:**
He is a prosperous car dealer.

**Learner example:**
Of course our employees will also benefit from the company becoming more prosperous.

### prostitute  /ˈprɒs.trɪ.tjuːt/

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] someone whose job is having sex with people

**Dictionary example:**
There were a lot of prostitutes working in the area.

**Learner example:**
Some people say they are prostitutes while others deny it.
protagonist /prəˈtæɡ.ənɪst/

**NOUN [C]** **FORMAL**

[C2] the main character in a play, film, or story

Dictionary example:
The protagonist is a singer named 'Jed'.

Learner example:
The male protagonist, Anatolij Wonoseltsen, a divorcee with two children, abandoned by his wife, is hoping to get a promotion to be able to provide for the family.

protection /prəˈtek.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** protection
**Verbs:** protect
**Adjectives:** protective

**NOUN [U]**

[B2] the act of protecting or state of being protected

Dictionary examples:
This coat doesn’t provide any protection against the rain.
Their tent gave/offered little protection against the severe storm.
New legislation still does not offer adequate protection for many endangered species.

Learner example:
I prefer to be accommodated in a log cabin because it gives better protection against the weather and I can sleep much better in it.

protective /prəˈtek.tɪv/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** protection
**Verbs:** protect
**Adjectives:** protective

**ADJECTIVE**

GIVING PROTECTION

[B2] giving protection

Dictionary examples:
protective clothing
a protective mask
Learner example:
Besides, I don't want to wear any protective head-gear, which all the riders are obliged to wear.

WANTING TO PROTECT

[C1] wanting to protect someone from criticism, hurt, danger, etc. because you like them

Dictionary examples:
It's easy to be too protective towards/of your children.
She's fiercely protective of the man she married 29 years ago.

Learner example:
She is very protective with children [in] her custody and can get very aggressive to protect them from strangers or dogs.

protein /ˈprəʊ.tiːn/

NOUN [U]

[C1] food such as meat, cheese, fish, or eggs that is necessary for the body to grow and be strong

Dictionary example:
Nuts and fish both contain protein.

Learner example:
In miso soup, a lot of ingredients which have protein are used, and protein is a useful element to keep our body healthy.

protest /ˈprəʊtest/

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] when people show that they disagree with something by standing somewhere, shouting, carrying signs, etc.

Dictionary examples:
a public protest against the war
a peaceful/violent protest

Learner example:
I believe that we could force the authorities to do something for us by joining [together] in a very big protest.
VERB /prəˈtest/

protest (about/against/at sth)
[B2] to show that you disagree with something by standing somewhere, shouting, carrying signs, etc.

Dictionary examples:
They're on strike to protest against job losses.
Students were protesting about cuts to the education budget.

Learner example:
Undoubtedly, the human rights’ defenders would protest.

COMPLAIN
[B2] [t or ɪ] to say something forcefully or complain about something

Dictionary examples:
A lot of people protested about the new working hours.
They protested bitterly to their employers, but they wouldn't listen.
A young girl was crying, protesting that she didn't want to leave her mother.

Learner example:
I'd also like to point out that although the service is pleasant, it's a bit slow, which often makes the customers impatient and leads them to protest.

proud /praʊd/

Word family:
Adjectives: proud
Adverbs: proudly

ADJECTIVE

be too proud (to do sth)
[B2] to not be able to do something, especially ask for help, because you are too embarrassed

Dictionary example:
He's too proud to ask you for any money.

Learner example:
She didn't want people to see her like this. She was too proud, too proud...

proudly /ˈpraʊd.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: proud
Adverbs: proudly
**ADVERB**

[B2] in a way that shows you are pleased about something you have done, something you own, or someone you know

**Dictionary examples:**
He proudly held out his trophy for us to admire.
There were photographs of all her children proudly displayed on the mantelpiece.

**Learner example:**
"Congratulations Alison!" her mum said proudly.

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**prove /pruːv/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** proof
**Verbs:** prove

**VERB [T]**

**RESULT**
[B2] to show a particular result or quality after a period of time

**Dictionary examples:**
The operation proved a complete success.
The new treatment has proved to be very effective.

**Learner example:**
John proved to be a good friend and I really thank him for what he did for me.

**prove yourself**
[C2] to show that you are good at something

**Dictionary example:**
I wish he'd stop trying to prove himself all the time.

**Learner example:**
Two weeks ago his coach had told him: "Morisson, you're going to play No.9 on Saturday against United, and it's going to be your last chance to prove yourself."

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**proverb /ˈprɒv.ər/**

**NOUN [C]**
[C2] a famous phrase or sentence which gives you advice

**Dictionary example:**
an ancient Chinese proverb
Learner example:
A well-known proverb says: "You should eat to live and not live to eat".

provide /prəˈvaɪrd/

Word family:
Nouns: provider, provision
Verbs: provide

VERB [r]

provide for sth PHRASAL VERB

MAKE PLANS
[C2] to make plans in order to deal with a possible event in the future

Dictionary example:
We must provide for depreciation when calculating the costs.

Learner example:
It is difficult to tell what or who should provide for retired workers in the future.

provided (that) /prəˈvaɪrd.ɪd.ðet/ (also providing (that))

CONJUNCTION
[B2] if, or only if

Dictionary example:
He's welcome to come along, provided that he behaves himself.

Learner example:
Finally, provided that you have some money to spend, you can always have a great time strolling through shopping halls.

provider /prəˈvaɪ.ər/  

Word family:
Nouns: provider, provision
Verbs: provide

NOUN [c]
[C1] someone who provides something
Dictionary examples:
an Internet service provider
The bank is now a major provider of financial services to industry.
Until her illness she was the main provider in the family.

Learner example:
I would like to complain about my gas and electricity provider Energy Plus.

province /ˈprɒv.ɪns/

Word family:
Nouns: province
Adjectives: provincial

NOUN
[C2] one of the large areas which some countries are divided into because of the type of government they have

Dictionary example:
the Canadian province of Alberta

Learner example:
Actually, it was never my intention to cross North America from coast to coast, but to travel around some cities in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

provincial /prəˈvɪnʃəl/

Word family:
Nouns: province
Adjectives: provincial

ADJECTIVE
[C2] relating to or typical of the provinces

Dictionary examples:
a provincial town
provincial attitudes

Learner example:
Tolerance and affection were there to[o], but living in a provincial part of France, I remember quite a number of old–fasion[ed] thoughts that I disliked strongly.
**provision** /prəˈvɪʒ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: provider, provision
Verbs: provide

NOUN

[C1] [c or u] when something is provided

Dictionary examples:
The provision of good public transport will be essential for developing the area.
Of course there's provision in the plan for population increase.
When designing buildings in this area, you have to make provision against earthquakes.

Learner example:
Following serious complaints from students, I have read through the three proposals given to me regarding provision of food in the institute.

**provocation** /ˌprɒv.əˈkeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: provocation
Verbs: provoke

NOUN [c or u]

[C2] when someone makes you angry

Dictionary example:
He'll start a fight at the slightest provocation.

Learner example:
He carried out his professional duties with dignity and under the most severe provocation.

**provoke** /prəˈvəʊk/

Word family:
Nouns: provocation
Verbs: provoke

VERB [1]

[C2] to cause a strong and usually angry reaction

Dictionary examples:
to provoke an argument
Her statement has provoked a public outcry.
Learner example:
On their coming back, they show these pictures to their neighbours to provoke the feelings of jealousy mixed with admiration.

proximity /prəˈsɪm.ə.ti/  
NOUN [U] FORMAL  
[C2] when something is near to something else  
Dictionary example:  
What's good about this hotel is its proximity to the airport.

Learner example:  
In conclusion it can be said that the Schelde is a very interesting river which gives its surrounding citizens quite a few positive and negative reasons for living in its proximity.

psychiatrist /saɪˈkæ.ɪ.trɪst/  
NOUN [C]  
[C2] a doctor who is trained in psychiatry  
Dictionary example:  
He was referred to a psychiatrist.

Learner example:  
He is a psychiatrist, she is doing her degree in geology.

psychological /ˌsaɪ.kəˈlɔdʒ.ɪ.kəl/  
Word family:  
Nouns: psychologist, psychology  
Adjectives: psychological  
Adverbs: psychologically  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] relating to the human mind and feelings  
Dictionary examples:  
psychological problems  
He claims that the constant aircraft noise has a bad psychological effect on the residents.  
We are concerned with the physical and psychological well-being of our employees.

Learner example:  
To sum up, taking up team sports [is important] for school children as they are provided with important psychological and social [experiences] vital for their lives.
psychologically /ˌsaɪ.kəˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: psychologist, psychology
Adjectives: psychological
Adverbs: psychologically

ADVERB
[B2] in a way that is connected to a person's psychological state

Dictionary example:
psychologically disturbed

Learner example:
It makes us like robots and [we] feel bad psychologically, because we want to be different and free [to wear what we want].

psychologist /ˌsaɪˈkɒl.ə.dʒɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: psychologist, psychology
Adjectives: psychological
Adverbs: psychologically

NOUN [c]
[B2] someone who studies the human mind and human emotions and behaviour, and how different situations have an effect on them

Dictionary examples:
a child psychologist
an educational psychologist

Learner example:
Some psychologists claim that forcing pupils to study subjects they don't like can be frustrating for them or even reduce their intellectual potential.

psychology /ˌsaɪˈkɒl.ə.dʒi/

Word family:
Nouns: psychologist, psychology
Adjectives: psychological
Adverbs: psychologically

NOUN [u]
[B2] the scientific study of the way the human mind works and how it influences behaviour, or the influence of a particular person's character on their behaviour
Dictionary examples:
She studied psychology at Harvard.
a lecturer in psychology
child psychology
the psychology of the soldier

Learner example:
I think it would be a nice experience for me because I am studying psychology.

public /ˈpʌb.lɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: publicity
Adjectives: public
Adverbs: publicly

ADJECTIVE

PEOPLE
[B2] relating to or involving people in general, rather than being limited to a particular group of people

Dictionary examples:
Public opinion has turned against him.
Is it really in the public interest to publish this information?
We need to increase public awareness of the disease.
The results will not be made public until tomorrow.
We will not go public with the results until tomorrow.

Learner example:
I would like to add that when it comes to public opinion there is a great variety of different points of view – that is why this article, which asserts that "performers were second-rate" seems to be unfair.

a public announcement/appearance/statement, etc.
[C2] an announcement/appearance/statement, etc. that can be seen or heard or known by everyone

Dictionary example:
The Prime Minister is due to make a public statement later today.

Learner example:
Therefore, Gonzalo never attempted to make a public statement to defend himself and underestimated the harm it could cause to his public image.

make sth public
[C2] to allow everyone to know about something
**Dictionary example:**
The government does not plan to make its findings public.

**Learner example:**
According to the scientific method of research, one should only make a discovery or conclusion public after deep testing and, even after that, this fact should never be taken as the most complete and definitive truth about any given subject.

**NOUN**

**in public**
[B2] in a place where other people, especially people you do not know, can hear you and see what you are doing

**Dictionary example:**
He shouldn't behave like that in public.

**Learner example:**
This shyness makes it hard for me to speak in public, or even to go out with my friends as often as I should.

**be in the public eye**
[C1] to be famous and often featured in the media

**Dictionary example:**
Her new role means that she will be in the public eye.

**Learner example:**
But being famous also means that you are always in the public eye, which is a major drawback.

**publication** /ˌpʌb.ˈliːkər.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** publication, publisher
**Verbs:** publish

**NOUN**

**BOOK, ETC.**
[B2] [c] a book, magazine, newspaper or document in which information or stories are published

**Dictionary example:**
Our latest publication is a magazine for surfers.

**Learner example:**
Dear Sir, I am taking the opportunity to write to you [as] I used your publication "The Student Tourist Guidebook" during my last trip to Lampton.
PRINTING

[B2] [U] the act of making information or stories available to people in a printed form

**Dictionary examples:**
The brochure will be ready for publication in September.
Will you arrange the publication of the names of the winners?
When is the publication date?

**Learner example:**
First, I would like to thank you for the publication of [this] article.

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**publicity /ˈpʌblɪs.tɪ/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** publicity
**Adjectives:** public
**Adverbs:** publicly

**NOUN [U]**
[B2] advertising or information about someone or something in the newspaper, on television, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
bad/good publicity
We’ve planned an exciting publicity campaign with our advertisers.
The pop group's arrival by hot-air balloon was just a publicity stunt.

**Learner example:**
We could also prepare a special publicity campaign because we want all the people in Britain [to] know how wonderful our town is.

---

**publicly /ˈpʌblɪ.kli/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** publicity
**Adjectives:** public
**Adverbs:** publicly

**ADVERB**
[C1] If something is done publicly, it is done so that everyone can know about it

**Dictionary example:**
The company publicly apologized and agreed to contribute some money to charity.
**Learner example:**
It would be a sound opportunity for our singers to perform their new albums and make their work publicly known.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>publisher</strong> /ˈpʌb.ɪˌʃər/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> publication, publisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Verbs:</strong> publish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN [c]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] a company or person who prepares and prints books, newspapers, magazines, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He works for a publisher in Edinburgh.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I suggest that the music publisher should organise more concerts for us and give us more chances to listen [to] &quot;real music&quot; not just tapes.</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>pudding</strong> /ˈpʊd.ɪŋ/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN [c or u]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] a sweet dish that is usually eaten as the last part of a meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary examples:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We've got apple pie for pudding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a sticky toffee pudding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pudding was delicious.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>pull</strong> /pʊl/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VERB</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>pull yourself along/up, etc.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] to take hold of something and use effort to move your body forwards or up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She pulled herself up the stairs, holding onto the rail.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learner example:
Rollo and the police ran after him and then Rollo fired wounding Harry, who started to pull himself up the stairs to a manhole above his head and then he died.

pull a muscle
[C2] to injure a muscle by stretching it too much

Dictionary example:
I've pulled a muscle in my leg.

pull your weight
[C2] to work as hard as other people in a group

Dictionary example:
The rest of the team complained that Sarah wasn't pulling her weight.

Learner example:
For instance, before your kin get all nice and comfortable, you could ask them to pull their weight around the house by doing a few jobs.

pull strings
[C2] to secretly use the influence that you have over important people to get something or to help someone

Dictionary example:
I may be able to pull a few strings, if you need the money urgently.

Learner example:
This isn't secret: I thought some of these ideas might be of interest and perhaps an article about them [i]n your newspaper would pull the necessary strings at the City Hall to produce some very much needed changes.

pulse /pʌls/

NOUN [C]
[C1] the regular movement of blood through your body when your heart is beating

Dictionary examples:
She put her fingers on my wrist to take my pulse (=count the number of beats per minute).
My pulse rate is 70.

Learner example:
Nowadays, stressful things are all around you. They have bad effects on your work, private life or education, as well as sometimes causing you health problems such as high blood pressure, an irregular pulse, etc.

have/keep your finger on the pulse
[C2] to be/stay familiar with the most recent changes or improvements

1845
Dictionary example:
The situation changes daily, so you've got to keep your finger on the pulse.

Learner example:
It wouldn't be clever to hire people who are completely ignorant about music and they must constantly keep their finger on the pulse of the music industry.

**punch /pʌntʃ/**

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] when you hit someone or something with your fist

Dictionary example:
a punch on the nose

Learner example:
He gave me a punch and we started to fight.

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to hit someone or something with your fist

Dictionary example:
He punched him in the stomach.

Learner example:
She started crying and she punched me!

**punishment /ˈpʌn.ɪʃ.mənt/**

Word family:
**Nouns:** punishment
**Verbs:** punish

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] when someone is punished

Dictionary examples:
He had to stay in his bedroom as a punishment for fighting.
Many people think that the death penalty is too severe a punishment for any crime.

Learner example:
I was punished, nearly expelled, but Pat didn't receive any punishment.
purchase /ˈpɜː.tʃəs/ FORMAL

VERB [v]
[B2] to buy

Dictionary examples:
Tickets must be purchased two weeks in advance.
She purchased her first house with the money.

Learner example:
Of course I was able to purchase a second-hand one but I thought that it was a good investment to have a new computer with up-to-date software.

NOUN

THING BOUGHT
[B2] [c] something that you buy

Dictionary examples:
How do you wish to pay for your purchases?
a major purchase

Learner example:
The other day I was standing in a large department store waiting to pay for a couple of films for my camera when the assistant announced that the computer which controlled the till had stopped working. So there we were: a shop full of customers, money at the ready, waiting to make our purchases.

ACT OF BUYING
[B2] [c or u] the act of buying something

Dictionary examples:
New restrictions have been placed on the purchase of guns.
A house is the most expensive purchase that most people ever make.
No purchase is necessary for you to enter this competition.
This product may be frozen. If required, freeze on day of purchase.

Learner example:
Report on the purchase of English videos

pure /pjuər/ 1847

Word family:
Nouns: purity
Adjectives: pure
Adverbs: purely
ADJECTIVE

EMPHASIS

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] used to emphasize that a feeling, quality, or state is completely and only that thing

Dictionary examples:
pure coincidence
Her face had a look of pure delight.

Learner example:
It switches your mind off and stretches all your muscles at the same time. It's pure refreshment!

purely /ˈpjʊə.li/

Word family:
Nouns: purity
Adjectives: pure
Adverbs: purely

ADVERB

[C1] only

Dictionary example:
She married him purely for his money.

Learner example:
And we had to arrange our social programme purely by ourselves.

purity /ˈpjʊə.rə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: purity
Adjectives: pure
Adverbs: purely

NOUN [u]

[C1] the quality of being pure

Dictionary example:
air purity

Learner example:
The beauty, purity and power of Chinese poems is hard to resist.
**purpose /ˈpɜː.pəs/**

**NOUN**

**serve a/the purpose**

[C2] to have a use

**Dictionary example:**
These small village shops serve a very useful purpose.

**Learner example:**
They introduced meetings at Miss Kenton's parlour which were held every evening and served [the] purpose of discussing house running.

**INTENTION**

[C2] [u] the feeling of knowing what you want to do

**Dictionary example:**
He seems to have lost all sense of purpose.

**Learner example:**
Emotional stability, a sense of purpose and direction in life, true and deep relationships with the people around us, all these issues are equally, if not more, important than economic security.

**to all intents and purposes**

[C2] in all the most important ways

**Dictionary example:**
To all intents and purposes, the project was a disaster.

**Learner example:**
To all intents and purposes, the qualities needed to achieve success are based on the same ideas.

**pursue /pəˈsjuː/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** pursue
**Verbs:** pursue

**VERB [T]**

[C1] If you pursue a plan, activity, or situation, you try to do it or achieve it, usually over a long period of time.

**Dictionary examples:**
She decided to pursue a career in television.
We suspect that our boss is pursuing a hidden agenda.
Learner example:
I will be shortly pursuing a degree course in computing and I would like to obtain first the entry qualification that is required for the degree course.

pursuit /pəˈsjuːt/

Word family:
Nouns: pursuit
Verbs: pursue

NOUN [u]
[C2] when you try to achieve a plan, activity, or situation, usually over a long period of time

Dictionary examples:
the pursuit of pleasure
He left his native country in pursuit of freedom.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, despite these claims, the primary motivation for any self–respecting athlete is the pursuit of excellence, attaining cutting-edge skills in their sport.

push /pʊʃ/

Word family:
Nouns: push
Verbs: push
Adjectives: pushy

VERB

push (sb) for sth/to do sth
[B2] to try hard to achieve something or to make someone do something

Dictionary examples:
Local residents are pushing for the road to be made wider.
We had to push them to accept our terms, but they finally agreed to the deal.

Learner example:
Governments should push young artists to get involve[d] in their work.

push yourself
[B2] to make yourself work very hard in order to achieve something

Dictionary example:
She really pushed herself when she was at school.
Learner example:
Don't push yourself too hard and remember to drink more water.

**ENCOURAGE**

[C1] [ɪ] to try to make someone do something that they do not want to do

**Dictionary example:**
My mother pushed me into having ballet lessons.

**Learner example:**
The biggest help though was my parents who were really understan[ding] and didn't push me too hard into learning English and that why I succe[e]ded.

**NOUN**

**ENCOURAGEMENT**

[C1] [ɛnˈkə ruptɪm] encouragement to make someone do something

**Dictionary example:**
I'm sure he'll go, he just needs a little push that's all.

**Learner example:**
I knew before what I was capable of doing but I really needed a push.

**if/when push comes to shove** INFORMAL

[C2] If you say that something can be done if push comes to shove, you mean that it can be done if the situation becomes so bad that you have to do it.

**Dictionary example:**
If push comes to shove, we'll just have to sell the car.

**Learner example:**
There are several option[s] you can choose from when push comes to shove.

---

**pushy** /ˈpʊʃ.ɪ/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** push
- **Verbs:** push
- **Adjectives:** pushy

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] behaving in an unpleasant way by trying too much to get something or to make someone do something

**Dictionary example:**
a pushy salesman
Learner example:
It's bad enough that pushy parents try to turn their children into sports or music stars for the only reason to fulfil their own, never-achieved ambitions.

**put** /put/

VERB [T] (putting, put, put)

**CAUSE**

[B2] to cause someone or something to be in a particular condition or situation

**Dictionary examples:**
What's put you in such a bad mood?
I'm not prepared to put my children at risk.
I'm looking forward to putting my ideas into practice.
He's putting me under pressure to change my mind.
The terrorists were put on trial six years after the bombing.

**Learner example:**
If we put my plan into practice, we can help to resolve the city's financial problems and reduce local taxes.

**put an end to** *sth*

[B2] to cause something to stop

**Dictionary example:**
We must put an end to this violence.

**Learner example:**
That is all I can say about [what] I have seen [o]n my last visit to the zoo, and in my opinion the authorities have to do something in order to put an end to it.

**put pressure on** *sb*

[B2] to try to force someone to do something

**Dictionary example:**
They're putting pressure on me to make a decision.

**Learner example:**
She puts a lot of pressure on me and beli[e]ves that I can do it in the same way as she did.

**put** *sb* in a difficult position

[C1] to cause someone to be in a difficult situation

**Dictionary example:**
When two of your best friends argue it puts you in a very difficult position.

**Learner example:**
I know that I will put you in a difficult position with my absence but I must leave.
put your mind to *sth*
[C1] to give your full attention to something and try very hard to do it

**Dictionary example:**
You could win if you put your mind to it.

**Learner example:**
With all the technology available, the task is actually quite simple if you put your mind to it.

**put something into practice**
[C1] to do something in reality that has been planned or talked about

**Dictionary examples:**
Next month we will have a chance to put these *ideas* into practice.
How do you intend to put these *proposals* into practice?

**Learner example:**
The doctors cannot really put all their skills into practice.

**put a stop to *sth***
[C1] to end something unpleasant

**Dictionary example:**
We must put a stop to the violence.

**Learner example:**
Maybe these new activities (video – videogames), which are quite distracting, are at the same time so addictive that youngsters find it hard to put a stop to it.

**SAY**
[C2] to say something using particular words

**Dictionary example:**
I need to tell him I don’t like it but I don’t know how to put it.

**Learner example:**
Although I agree that there are awful programs on, I think a total ban would be, how shall I put it, exaggerated.

**put sb to death**
[C2] to kill someone as a punishment

**Dictionary example:**
She was put to death for her beliefs.

**Learner example:**
He has become dangerous for Jack and must thus be eliminated, put to death.

**put your finger on *sth***
[C2] to understand exactly why a situation is the way it is

**Dictionary example:**
Something was wrong, but I couldn’t put my finger on it.
Learner example:
Something sinister about the picture, he felt, but he couldn't put his finger on what made him [think this].

**put sb/sth first**
[C2] to consider someone or something to be the most important thing

**Dictionary example:**
Most couples put their children first when sorting out their problems.

**Learner example:**
On the other hand, we forget about our personality and the worth that we have as individuals; we put our wishes first, [rather] than what we really need in life.

**put your foot down**
[C2] to tell someone in a strong way that they must do something or must stop doing something

**Dictionary example:**
I decided to put my foot down with my staff and insist that they do not send personal emails in work time.

**Learner example:**
Finally, I would like to appeal to other readers of the 'Cyprus Weekly', who might even be living near my area, to put your foot down and apply any pressure you can on people who can do something about the situation.

**put your foot in it**
[C2] to say something silly or embarrassing, without intending to

**Dictionary example:**
I really put my foot in it with your mum – I didn't know she was a teacher herself.

**Learner example:**
I had really put my foot in it by telling Richard that it would better for him not to come to the party.

**put your feet up**
[C2] to relax, especially by sitting with your feet supported above the ground

**Dictionary example:**
Put your feet up for half an hour before the kids get home.

**Learner example:**
You have done your work and now you can put your feet up.

**put sb in their place**
[C2] to let someone know that they are not as important as they think they are

**Dictionary example:**
He was rather arrogant, but the other kids soon put him in his place.
**put sth to one side**
[C2] to not use or deal with something now, but keep it for a later time

**Dictionary example:**
She put the papers to one side, intending to read them later.

**put sb on the spot**
[C2] to ask someone a question which is difficult or embarrassing to answer at that time

**Dictionary example:**
Sorry to put you on the spot, but I really need an answer.

---

**puzzle /ˈpʌz.əl/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** puzzle
**Verbs:** puzzle
**Adjectives:** puzzled

**NOUN [C]**
[C2] a situation which is very difficult to understand

**Dictionary example:**
Scientists have been trying to solve this puzzle for years.

**Learner example:**
As I watched the slow, emerging awareness of humanity, by a chthonic spirit (that of Death itself), coming to terms with the vast contradictions and the harsh, but also bliss-endowed human nature, the soft piano melody internalizing both a child's curiosity before the unknown, as well as an adult's awakening to what his life amounts to, I was thrilled, but also deeply saddened, for I felt that from worthy, meaning-filled fragments of the puzzle that life is, my own piecing together was incomplete: I could not prevent a small sob, which was, almost simultaneously, echoed.

**VERB**
[C1] to make someone confused because they do not understand something

**Dictionary example:**
I was puzzled by what he said.

**Learner example:**
Dear Fiona, I was really touched by your concern regarding our daily life at the moment but I was also quite puzzled.
### puzzled /ˈpʌz.ld/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** puzzle
- **Verbs:** puzzle
- **Adjectives:** puzzled

#### ADJECTIVE

**[B2]** confused because you do not understand something

**Dictionary examples:**
- He had a puzzled look on his face.
- I’m a bit puzzled that I haven’t heard from Liz for so long.

**Learner example:**
To the editor, I am puzzled by the report which appeared on yesterday’s page 2, concerning the Westfield Music Festival.

### pyjamas /paˈdʒə.məz/

**Noun [Plural]**

**[B2]** soft loose clothing which is worn in bed and consists of trousers and a type of shirt

**Dictionary example:**
- I need a new pair of pyjamas.

**Learner example:**
- The horrible embarrassing moment was about to happen. Smiling, the clerk said :”Sorry madams, you are in pyjamas”

### pyramid /ˈpir.ə.mɪd/

**Noun [C]**

**[C1]** a shape with a square base and four triangular sides that meet to form a point at the top

**Dictionary example:**
- The stones were shaped into a pyramid.

**Learner example:**
- The King was living in his great palace with a view [of] the biggest pyramid in the village, smaller ones were [situated] around it.
quaint /ˈkwɛɪnt/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] attractive or unusual in an old-fashioned way

Dictionary example:
a quaint little village

Learner example:
The quaint cafes would be replaced by McDonald's and the charm of the place would be lost.

qualification /ˌkwɒl.ɪ.fəˈkeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: qualification
Verbs: qualify, disqualify
Adjectives: qualified, unqualified

NOUN

COMPETITION
[C1] [u] success in getting into a competition

Dictionary example:
England's qualification for the World Cup.

Learner example:
The video tells how particular national teams got through their qualification for finals and then presents the most interesting games that took place in Italy '92.

SKILLS
[C2] [C OFTEN PLURAL] a skill, quality, etc. that you need in order to be able to do something, especially a job

Dictionary example:
The main qualification for this job is the ability to get on with people.

Learner example:
An international profile is one of the most emphasized qualifications.
qualified /ˈkwɒl.i.fai̯d/

Word family:
Nouns: qualification
Verbs: qualify, disqualify
Adjectives: qualified, unqualified

ADJECTIVE

HAVING SKILLS
[B2] having the skills, qualities or experience that you need in order to do something

Dictionary examples:
John is really the best qualified to make that decision.
I'm not really qualified to give advice on the subject.

Learner example:
I don't think that anyone else in my country is qualified to take over his seat.

qualify /ˈkwɒl.i.fai̯/  

Word family:
Nouns: qualification
Verbs: qualify, disqualify
Adjectives: qualified, unqualified

VERB

PASS EXAMS
[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] to pass the exams that allow you to do a particular job

Dictionary examples:
She hopes to qualify as a lawyer at the end of the year.
He qualified in medicine in 1992.
This course qualifies you to teach in any secondary school.

BE ALLOWED
[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] If you qualify for something, you are allowed to do it or have it.

Dictionary examples:
To qualify for the competition you need to be over 18.
She doesn't qualify for maternity leave because she hasn't been in her job long enough.

Learner example:
If you think I qualify for the job, you can contact me [at] the a[d]dress written above.
SPORT
[B2] [I] to succeed in getting into a competition or in reaching a particular stage in a competition

Dictionary examples:
Nigeria were the first team to qualify for the World Cup.
Both sides failed to qualify.

Learner example:
I left the stadium disappointed, fearing that Portugal would not qualify for the World Championships once more.

quality /ˈkwɒl.ə.ti/

NOUN

CHARACTER
[B2] [c] a part of someone's character

Dictionary examples:
leadership qualities
He has a lot of good qualities but being organized isn't one of them.
She's a woman of great personal qualities.
I don't think he has the right qualities to be a teacher.

Learner example:
Moreover, I have other qualities such as politeness, and I feel pleased when helping people, thus I am capable of looking after members of the public.

quantity /ˈkwɒn.tə.ti/

NOUN [c or u]

LARGE AMOUNT
[B2] a lot of something

Dictionary example:
I'm just amazed at the quantity of food that gets eaten.

Learner example:
What surprised me was the quantity of incorrect figures reported in your article.

an unknown quantity
[C2] someone or something that you do not know and so you cannot be certain about
Dictionary example:
The road conditions in that area are a bit of an unknown quantity.

Learner example:
As mentioned above, [the] laser [beam] was an unknown quantity even to its inventor and those who contributed to its enhancement.

quarrel  /ˈkwɔːrl/  

NOUN [c]  
[B2] an argument  

Dictionary examples:  
She had a quarrel with her neighbour.  
They had a quarrel about/over money a few months back.  

Learner example:  
Sometimes, we can have quarrels with our parents who refuse to support our ideas.

VERB [i]  
[B2] to argue  

Dictionary example:  
I was always quarrelling with my brother.  

Learner example:  
In spite of that, I found it difficult to forgive her as she had hurt my feelings; that's why the only thing I could tell her since we had quarrelled was: "It serves you right, I'll hate you for the rest of your life!"

quarter  /ˈkwɔː.tə/  

NOUN  
PART OF TOWN  
[C2] [c] a part of a town, often where people from a particular country or religion live  

Dictionary example:  
the Jewish quarter  

Learner example:  
It will surely add to the development of the Podgoize quarter but also will sustain the development of all the little shops in this area.
**query** /ˈkwɪri/  

**NOUN [c]**  
[B2] a question  

**Dictionary example:**  
If you have any queries **about** your treatment, the doctor will answer them.  

**Learner example:**  
If you have any further queries, please contact me [on] 01–234567.

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**quest** /ˈkwes.t/  

**NOUN [c] FORMAL LITERARY**  
[C2] an attempt to get something or do something difficult  

**Dictionary examples:**  
the quest **for** truth  
He has begun his quest to become the Conservative Party’s first Asian MP.  

**Learner example:**  
This stimulation is essential in our quest for spiritual and emotional well-being and exerts a profound effect on our psyche.

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**question** /ˈkwes.tʃən/  

**Word family:**  
Nouns: question  
Verbs: question  
Adjectives: questionable  

**NOUN**  

**PROBLEM**  
[B2] [c] a situation or problem that needs to be dealt with or considered  

**Dictionary examples:**  
This **raises** the question of teacher pay.  
Two important questions **arise** from this debate.  

**Learner example:**  
Then it raises an important question: "[Do] museums provide enough to interest young people?"

**DOUBT**  
[B2] [u] doubt or uncertainty
Dictionary examples:
There's no question that this was an accidental fire.
There's no question about whose fault it is.
Whether children are reading fewer books is open to question.
This latest report calls into question the safety of the drug.
His ability has never been in question.

Learner example:
There's no question that it was absolutely great!

be a question of
[C1] used for saying what the most important issue is in a situation

Dictionary example:
Someone needs to be here – it's a question of who would be the best person.

Learner example:
The choice is a question of price.

sb/sth in question
[C2] the person or thing that is being discussed

Dictionary example:
He claims that he was in the pub with his girlfriend on the night in question.

Learner example:
While this is not necessarily false, it should be borne in mind that the events in question are by no means boring or uninteresting.

be out of the question
[C2] If something is out of the question, it is not possible or not allowed.

Dictionary example:
Providing more money is out of the question.

Learner example:
Walking home was out of the question since that would have taken even longer.

pose a/the question FORMAL
[C2] to ask a question

Dictionary example:
It was left to Grazia to pose the question of how the project was to be funded.

Learner example:
For instance, you can pose a question concerning music to your listeners and the person who is going to call first to answer – correctly of course – will gain a small sum of money.

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]

ASK
[B2] to ask a person about something, especially officially
Dictionary examples:
Several men were questioned by police yesterday about the burglary. 68% of those questioned in the survey thought noise levels had increased.

Learner example:
A total of 60 per cent of those questioned suggested that we should find sponsorship for all activities. 30 per cent of those questioned said that there are not enough seats in the reception area.

EXPRESS DOUBT
[B2] to feel or express doubt about something

Dictionary examples:
I'm not for a moment questioning your decision.
I'm just questioning whether we need the extra staff.

Learner example:
It may sound funny, but mud, gravel and snow lying on the school's floors is not a nice sight, so we change our shoes without questioning that rule.

questionable /ˈkwes.tʃən.ə.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: question
Verbs: question
Adjectives: questionable

ADJECTIVE

NOT CERTAIN
[C2] possibly not true or correct

Dictionary example:
It is highly questionable whether this drug has any benefits at all.

Learner example:
However, it is questionable whether this is possible.

NOT HONEST
[C2] not honest or not legal

Dictionary example:
He's being investigated for questionable business practices.

Learner example:
I am a policeman, in fact, [or rather] I used to be one until I was ejected [from] the department because of questionable procedures to enforce the law.
**queue /ˈkjuː/**

**VERB [v] (also queue up)**

[B2] to wait in a line of people, often to buy something

**Dictionary examples:**
We had to queue for three hours to get in.
Dozens of people were queueing up to get tickets.

**Learner example:**
I queued for at least an hour because the ticket machine broke down.

---

**quiet /ˈkwaɪət/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** quiet
**Adjectives:** quiet
**Adverbs:** quietly

**ADJECTIVE**

**keep (sth) quiet**

[C2] to not talk about something that is secret

**Dictionary example:**
It might be wise to keep this quiet for a while.

**Learner example:**
They tried to keep it quiet but, somehow, half the village knew about the news in a few days.

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] when there is little or no noise

**Dictionary example:**
She needs a bit of peace and quiet.

**Learner example:**
At least if you were working in a museum, you would probably have some peace and quiet.

---

**quite /ˈkwaiət/**

**ADVERB**

**not quite**

[B2] almost but not completely
Dictionary examples:
I'm not quite sure that I understand this.
The colours almost match but not quite.
He didn't get quite enough votes to win.

Learner example:
The student cafe has a welcoming atmosphere and most people said it was nice to sit and to drink coffee [there]. [T]he only problem is that there are not quite enough tables and chairs for everyone at busy times.

quotation /ˈkwəʊtərən/

Word family:
Nouns: quotation, quote
Verbs: quote

NOUN [C]

PHRASE
[C2] a sentence or phrase that is taken out of a book, poem, or play

Dictionary example:
a quotation from Shakespeare

Learner example:
Women also played an important role in his life, so it might also be a good idea to show pictures of his "muses" framed by quotations from his novels.

COST
[C2] the amount that a piece of work will probably cost

Dictionary example:
Make sure you get a quotation for all the work before they start.

Learner example:
I have attached a current quotation from the retailer who supplies that dining table.

quote /kwəut/

Word family:
Nouns: quotation, quote
Verbs: quote

VERB [I or T]

REPEAT
[C1] to repeat the words that someone else has said or written
Dictionary examples:
I was quoting from Marx.
Can I quote you on that?
"If they're flexible, we're flexible", the official was quoted as saying.

Learner example:
Let me quote another sentence: "...carefully selected host families".

GIVE EXAMPLE
[C1] to give a fact or example to support what you are saying

Dictionary example:
The minister quoted recent unemployment figures.

Learner example:
We would like to quote some facts to support our points of view.

COST
[C2] to say how much a piece of work will cost before you do it

Dictionary example:
He quoted for replacing the whole roof.

Learner example:
I have spoken to the service department at IKEA and they have quoted me £400 to fix the whole thing back to its original shape.

NOUN [C]

REPEAT
[C2] the repeat of words that someone else has said or written

Dictionary example:
Use plenty of quotes from her poems in your essay.

Learner example:
My beloved diary [included] hundreds of quotes and drawings, illustrating my most intimate thoughts.

COST
[C2] a document or statement saying how much a piece of work will cost

Dictionary example:
I got three quotes for the work.

Learner example:
I have already obtained a quote to have [the] damage repaired.
race /reɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: race, racism, racist
Adjectives: racial, racist
Adverbs: racially

NOUN

PEOPLE
[C1] [c or u] one of the groups that people are divided into according to physical characteristics such as colour of skin

Dictionary examples:
people of many different races
Discrimination on grounds of race will not be tolerated.
An increasing number of people in the country are of mixed race.

Learner example:
A student was taught how to lead negotiations with a business partner regardless of their age, nationality, race and culture.

FOR POWER
[C1] [c] a situation in which people compete against each other for power, control or success

Dictionary example:
the race for governor

Learner example:
The race for sponsors and TV-minutes has begun.

VERB

race along/down/over, etc.
[C1] to move somewhere very quickly

Dictionary example:
I raced over to see what was the matter.

Learner example:
Crying, she raced back to William and together they went home.
**racial** /ˈreɪ.ʃəl/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** race, racism, racist  
**Adjectives:** racial, racist  
**Adverbs:** racially  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] relating to people's race  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a racial minority  
racial discrimination/prejudice  
racial conflict/tension  
racial equality  

**Learner example:**  
It also prevent[s] us from pre-judging foreign people, which is very important in a community where racial discrimination is common.

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**racially** /ˈreɪ.ʃəl.i/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** race, racism, racist  
**Adjectives:** racial, racist  
**Adverbs:** racially  

**ADVERB**  
[C1] in a way that is connected to someone's race  

**Dictionary example:**  
racially motivated attacks  

**Learner example:**  
He respects people's values and rights and can easily integrate and assert himself in a multi-cultural or racially diversified environment.

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**racism** /ˈreɪ.si.zəm/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** race, racism, racist  
**Adjectives:** racial, racist  
**Adverbs:** racially  

**NOUN [u]**  
[B2] the belief that other races of people are not as good as your own, or the unfair treatment of people because they belong to a particular race
**Dictionary example:**
The authorities are taking steps to **fight/tackle** racism in schools.

**Learner example:**
If we were all tolerant, racial segregation wouldn't exist. Hopefully racism is tending to disappear [now].

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**r A**
**ist /ˈrɛs.ɪst/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** race, racism, racist
**Adjectives:** racial, racist
**Adverbs:** racially

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] **DISAPPROVING** someone who believes that other races of people are not as good as their own

**Dictionary example:**
Their boss was a racist.

**Learner example:**
That's something we should keep in mind, the next time you meet a racist.

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] **DISAPPROVING** believing that other races are not as good as your own and therefore treating them unfairly

**Dictionary example:**
a racist attack

**Learner example:**
It's even getting worse because of immigration and serious incidents like racist attacks in Germany against Turks or Asian people.

---

**r A**
**cket /ˈræk.i t/**

**NOUN**

**NOISE**

[C2] **[NO PLURAL]** **INFORMAL** a loud noise

**Dictionary example:**
The neighbours were **making** such a racket that we couldn't sleep.
Learner example:
However, my blissful thoughts were suddenly and rudely interrupted by the racket going on next door.

radiation /ˌreɪ.dɪˈeɪ.ʃən/

NOUN [u]
[C1] a form of energy that comes from a nuclear reaction and that in large amounts can be very dangerous

Dictionary examples:
dangerously high levels of radiation
radiation sickness

Learner example:
It's true that in the last few years we have actually polluted much of our air with smoke or radiation from power plants, but we're working on that.

radical /ˈræd.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: radical
Adjectives: radical
Adverbs: radically

ADJECTIVE

CHANGE
[C1] A radical change is very big and important.

Dictionary example:
radical reform

Learner example:
Have you ever wondered if tourism can bring radical changes in an area?

BELIEFS
[C2] believing that there should be big social and political changes

Dictionary examples:
a radical group/movement
a radical proposal
Learner example:
What [...] also seem[s] to prevent Lucy from admitting her true feelings towards George is the inhibit[ed] and pretentious society within [which] the characters live, [which] will not accept a marriage between a middle-class 'lady' and a man from the lower classes, who moreover seems to have what they consider to be radical political views.

NOUN [c]
[C2] someone who supports the idea that there should be big social and political changes

Dictionary example:
There are several radicals in the government.

Learner example:
While in College, Josephine got involved with a group of radicals who became in a way her second family.

radically /ˈræd.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: radical
Adjectives: radical
Adverbs: radically

ADVERB
[C1] in a way that shows radical change or beliefs

Dictionary examples:
The company has changed radically in recent years.
Barker introduced some radically new ideas.

Learner example:
During the last decades our eating habits have changed radically in Sweden.

rage /rædʒ/

NOUN [c or u]

ANGER
[B2] very strong anger that you cannot control

Dictionary examples:
My main feeling was one of rage.
I was frightened because I had never seen him in such a rage before.
He flew into a rage over the smallest mistake.
Learner example:
However, they flew into [a] rage when one of Paul's friends was poisoned by [the] food, after having dinner in the hotel restaurant.

VERB [i]

SPEAK
[C2] to speak or behave in a very angry way

Dictionary example:
He raged at us for forgetting to order a replacement.

Learner example:
Sobbing and raging she stomped into the bedroom, briskly opened the drawer and flung the framed picture showing them both at sunset [on] the coast of Fiji into it.

CONTINUE
[C2] to continue with great force or violence

Dictionary example:
The battle raged well into the night.

Learner example:
It narrates the story of a group of children evacuated on an island somewhere in the Pacific Ocean while a war is raging elsewhere in Europe.

raid /reɪd/

NOUN [c]

SOLDIERS
[C2] a sudden attack on a place by soldiers

Dictionary examples:
an air raid
a dawn raid

Learner example:
Back in England, he provided valuable information to the SAS to make the air raids more effective.

POLICE
[C2] a sudden visit to a place by police in order to find someone or something

Dictionary example:
a police raid to recover illegal weapons

VERB [r]

SOLDIERS
[C2] If soldiers raid a place, they suddenly attack it.
Dictionary example:
Armed soldiers raided the village.

Learner example:
She had started doing this 15 years ago, when mounted warriors, clad in black armour, had raided the farm she, along with her parents and three older brothers, had lived on.

POLICE

[C2] If the police raid a place, they suddenly visit it in order to find someone or something.

Dictionary example:
Police raided nine properties in search of the documents.

---

rail /reɪl/

NOUN

FOR SUPPORTING

[C2] [c] a bar around or along something which you can hold to stop you from falling

Dictionary example:
a hand rail

Learner example:
However it could be much more comfortable if there were hand rails in the bathroom and a lower bed.

---

rainbow /ˈreɪn.bəʊ/

NOUN [c]

[B2] a half circle of seven colours that you see in the sky when rain is falling and the sun is shining

Dictionary examples:
We could see a rainbow.
The butterfly’s wings were shimmering with all the colours of the rainbow.

Learner example:
[In the future,] clothes design will be comfortable, practical, nice to look at and in all the colours of the rainbow because people will move [around] a lot and be happy and therefore require practical and colourful clothing.
raise /reɪz/

VERB [V]

raise a question/subject, etc.
[B2] to start talking about a subject that you want other people to consider

Dictionary examples:
I’d like to raise the subject of staffing levels.
I thought I’d raise the issue with Sally at the meeting.

Learner example:
Then it raises an important question: "[Do] museums provide enough to interest young people?"

MONEY
[B2] to collect money from different people in order to do a particular thing

Dictionary example:
They were raising money for charity.

Learner example:
What I liked the most about it is not the fact that we raised a lot of money, but that we enjoyed an amazing show in which I took [an] active part.

CHILD
[B2] [OFTEN PASSIVE] to take care of a child until he or she is completely grown

Dictionary examples:
Her parents died when she was a baby so she was raised by her grandparents.
She raised the family on her own.

Learner example:
I was born and raised on a Greek island called Evia.

raise your voice
[C1] to speak loudly and angrily to someone

Dictionary example:
He never raised his voice at the children.

Learner example:
Not every au-pair family is pleasant. And believe me, mine was giving me hell on earth. [...] After I returned home I took some time to learn not to freak out when someone raised his voice and eventually I started to see my time in Germany as a great [lesson in] life.

raise hopes/fears/doubts, etc.
[C2] to cause emotions or thoughts

Dictionary example:
Her answers raised doubts in my mind.

1874
Learner example:
I was particularly interested in a part of this article which raised doubts about how useful the knowledge people gain from school is.

**raise the alarm**
[C2] to warn someone of a dangerous situation

**Dictionary examples:**
Her parents raised the alarm when she failed to return home.
A local doctor was the first to raise the alarm about this latest virus.

**Learner example:**
For them, raising the alarm because of five percent unemployment is an example of so-called 'loony-left thinking'.

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**rally /ˈræl.i/**

NOUN [C]

**MEETING**
[C2] a large public meeting in support of something

**Dictionary example:**
an election/campaign rally

**Learner example:**
I am prepared to take part in a rally against this decision and join other concerned readers of your newspaper on the steps of the Town Hall to show full support for retaining the local hospital to serve our community.

**RACE**
[C2] a car or motorcycle race

**Dictionary example:**
a rally driver

**Learner example:**
Indeed, it didn't look at all like the vehicles that we see on TV during the Paris–Dakkar rally.

---

**random /ˈræn.dəm/**

Word family:
Adjectives: random
Adverbs: randomly
CHANCE
[C1] happening, done or chosen by chance rather than according to a plan

Dictionary examples:
random checks/tests/attacks
We asked a random sample/selection of people what they thought.

Learner example:
I will put my remarks in random order.

at random
[C1] chosen by chance

Dictionary example:
Winners will be chosen at random.

Learner example:
The rooms suggested to be [filmed] have not been chosen at random.

randomly /ˈræn.dəm.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: random
Adverbs: randomly

ADVERB
[C1] in a random way

Dictionary example:
The books were randomly arranged on the shelves.

Learner example:
It is based on the survey of the Language Institute's students, who were randomly selected.

range /reɪndʒ/

NOUN
AMOUNT
[B2] [C] the amount or number between a particular set of limits

Dictionary examples:
The price range is from $100 to $200.
The product is aimed at young people in the 18–25 age range.
Learner example:
The age range of the club is from eighteen to thirty years old and our club has different nationalities.

MOUNTAINS
[B2] [c] a line of hills or mountains

Dictionary example:
The country is divided by a huge mountain range.

Learner example:
I wish I knew more about the volcanoes, earthquakes, and mountain ranges all over the world.

DISTANCE
[C2] [u] the distance from which things can be seen, heard, or reached

Dictionary examples:
The soldiers came within firing range.
He was shot at close range.

Learner example:
The radio doesn't work, as you know, and even if it had worked we would be out of range of the nearest radio station.

VERB
range from sth to sth/between sth and sth
[B2] to have an upper and a lower limit in amount, number, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Dress sizes range from petite to extra large.
Prices range between $50 and $250.

Learner example:
It offers lots of fabulous things ranging from drinks to modern music.

rank /ræŋk/

NOUN [c or u]
[C1] a position in an organization, such as the army, showing someone's importance

Dictionary examples:
senior/high/junior/low rank
He has just been promoted to the rank of captain.

Learner example:
Women were denied [a] higher rank and their job was limited to [mundane] tasks.
VERB [I or T]

[C1] to have a position in a list which shows things or people in order of importance, or to give someone or something a position on such a list

Dictionary examples:
He ranked number one in the world at the start of the competition.
The city's canals now rank among the world's dirtiest.

Learner example:
From being [in] an amat[e]r league to ranked top 3 in the world is a considerable achievement.

rapet /ræp/  

VERB [T]

[B2] I to force someone to have sex when they do not want to

Dictionary example:
She was pulled from the car and raped.

Learner example:
I thought that they wanted to rape me.

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] I the crime of forcing someone to have sex when they do not want to

Dictionary examples:
He had committed several rapes.
He was convicted of rape.

Learner example:
Last month the police caught a man for rape and he confessed [to] several other crimes.

rapid /ˈræp.id/  

Word family:
Adjectives: rapid
Adverbs: rapidly

ADJECTIVE

[B2] fast or sudden

Dictionary example:
The 1990s were a period of rapid change/growth.

Learner example:
With the rapid development of technology, shopping [on] the Internet is becoming very popular.
rapidly /ˈræp.i.d.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: rapid
Adverbs: rapidly

ADVERB

[B2] quickly or suddenly

Dictionary example:
Prices have increased rapidly in the last few months.

rare /reə/ /ˈreə/ /ˈreə\rə/ /ˈreə.ri/ /ˈreə.ri.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: rarity
Adjectives: rare
Adverbs: rarely

ADJECTIVE

MEAT

[C1] If meat is rare, it is still red because it has only been cooked for a short time.

Dictionary example:
a rare steak

be a rarity

[C1] to be unusual

Dictionary example:
Genuine enthusiasm is a rarity.

Learner example:
Hot meals were a rarity.

[C1] [U] the fact that something is not common

Dictionary example:
Precious stones are valued for their rarity.
Learner example:
Another group of objects would be those that are valuable – or even priceless – because of their rarity.

rash /ræʃ/

NOUN
[C2] [c] a group of small, red spots on the skin

Dictionary examples:
an itchy rash
Certain foods give him a rash.

Learner example:
Indeed, everything had worked out very well since I had woken up, not only for the little things such as having your breakfast without spilling your tea on your new suit but also for more serious matters [like] getting up with a dreadful face or a rash of spots!

ADJECTIVE
[C2] done suddenly and without thinking carefully

Dictionary example:
a rash decision/promise

Learner example:
They had reconciled only some days ago and had made a rash decision to go on holiday with us.

rate /reɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: rate, rating

NOUN [c]

HOW MANY
[B2] how often something happens, or how many people something happens to

Dictionary examples:
the rate of unemployment
The birth rate has fallen.
The drug has a high success/failure rate.

Learner example:
The topic[s] we have in mind are – why people commit a crime, why the crime rate has risen in Britain, [and] of course [some discussion] about your latest novel.
PAYMENT

[B2] a fixed amount of money given for something

Dictionary examples:
the interest rate
Rates of pay are very low.

Learner example:
I think it would be a good thing to help the [restaurant] by either giving them a subsidy or lending [them] money at a low rate.

SPEED

[C1] the speed at which something happens

Dictionary examples:
the patient's heart rate
Our rate of progress is too slow.
The disease was spreading at an alarming rate.

Learner example:
The actual rate of our company's growth demands increasing quality and productivity.

first-/second-/third-rate

[C1] very good, bad, or very bad

Dictionary example:
a first-rate hotel

Learner example:
For example, our town is famous for its first-rate tennis team, so he could continue his training in tennis here and also do other sports like volleyball and baseball.

at this rate

[C2] used before saying what will happen if a situation continues in the same way

Dictionary example:
At this rate we're not going to be there till midnight.

at any rate

[C2] used before saying one fact that is certain in a situation that you are generally not certain about

Dictionary example:
Well, at any rate we need her to be there.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, at any rate, we would like to see a society with [a] full and strong workforce working towards stronger economic power.

VERB [T]

[C1] to judge the quality or ability of someone or something
Dictionary example:
How do you rate her as a singer?

Learner example:
We [did] a survey among our members that rated value for money, cost, staff, and the like.

rather /ˈrɑː.ðə/ ADVERB
MORE EXACTLY [B2] used to change something you have just said and make it more correct

Dictionary example:
She'll go to London on Thursday, or rather, she will if she has to.

Learner example:
The food – or rather, leftovers – that she gave him was barely enough to feed a baby.

rating /ˈreɪ.tɪŋ/ Word family:
Nouns: rate, rating

NOUN
[C1] a measurement of how good or popular something or someone is

Dictionary example:
A high percentage of Americans gave the President a positive rating.

Learner example:
Overall your rating was excellent!

the ratings
[C2] a list of television and radio programmes showing how popular they are

Dictionary example:
His show did well in the ratings.

Learner example:
Sports would not appear on TV if it was not for a majority of the population wanting to watch it, in fact some sports programmes have the highest ratings of all TV shows.
ratio /ˈreɪ.ʃi.əʊ/ (plural ratios)

Noun [c]
[C1] the relationship between two groups or amounts, which expresses how much bigger one is than the other

Dictionary examples:
The ratio of men to women at the conference was ten to one/10:1.
The school is trying to improve its pupil–teacher ratio.

Learner example:
First, the ratio between cost and the perceived value has become better since 2004, i.e., the guests are more satisfied now and believe that your service is worth the money.

rational /ˈræʃ.ən.əl/

Word family:
Adjectives: irrational, rational

Adjective
[C1] showing clear thought and reason

Dictionary examples:
He was too upset to be rational.
a rational argument/debate/explanation

Learner example:
Be as rational as you can and you will pass your driving test the first time.

raw /rɔː/

Adjective
Natural
[B2] in the natural state

Dictionary examples:
raw sugar
raw materials

Learner example:
Finally, I think the designers will make use of the raw materials and create an innovative look for all of us.
ray /reɪ/

NOUN [C]

BEAM
[B2] a narrow beam of light, heat, etc. travelling in a straight line from its place of origin

Dictionary examples:
A ray of sunshine shone through a gap in the clouds.
Light rays bend as they pass from air to water.

Learner example:
She just couldn't see any way of finding her camping equipment in the basement, where there was not even a single ray of light to guide her.

a ray of comfort/hope, etc.
[C2] a small amount of a feeling that makes you feel happier or more hopeful

Dictionary example:
There's still a ray of hope that the missing child will be found alive.

Learner example:
For some readers my story may feel boring and meaningless but for [others] it [might] be a ray of hope that best friends can be found where we least expect them.

razor /ˈreɪ.zər/

NOUN [C]

[B2] a piece of equipment with a sharp blade used for removing hair from the face, legs, etc.

Dictionary example:
Did you pack a razor?

Learner example:
Oh yes, she could vividly remember the last time he hurt her, only then it was with a razor.

reach /riːtʃ/

VERB

reach a decision/agreement/conclusion, etc.
[B2] to make a decision/agreement/conclusion, etc. about something
**Dictionary examples:**
She reached the conclusion that there was no more she could do.
We'll inform you when a decision has been reached.

**Learner example:**
After having thought about this video, I reached the following conclusions: we must film the lessons which are the most important and the activities which take a great part [of the] day at school.

**LEVEL**

[B2] [T] to get to a particular level, situation, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
The temperature is expected to reach 30°C today.
He's just reached the grand age of 95.
They easily reached their target/goal of raising £100,000.
I've reached the point where I can't take any more.

**Learner example:**
My dad had already reached the age of 60.

**STRETCH**

[B2] [I or T] to stretch out your arm in order to get or touch something

**Dictionary examples:**
He reached for the phone and knocked over a glass.
The child reached down/out/over and picked up the kitten.
He reached out and grabbed her arm.
Can you reach me (down) that book?

**Learner example:**
So when I reached out my hand, I suddenly felt another hand.

**can/can't/could, etc. reach (sth)**

[B2] to be able to touch or take something with your hand

**Dictionary examples:**
Could you get that book down for me – I can't reach.
She's grown so tall that she can reach the door handle now.

**Learner example:**
Then I looked around my car and saw my handbag. I could hardly reach it but after some effort I got it.

**TELEPHONE**

[B2] [T] to speak to someone on the telephone

**Dictionary example:**
You can reach him at home.

**Learner example:**
I have been trying to reach him the whole day but I didn't get any answer.
DISTANCE
[B2] the distance that can be travelled, especially easily

Dictionary example:
We live (easy) reach of the station.

Learner example:
Our city, Sardab, is located just two kilometers from [the] Caspian Sea, [and] it is within easy reach [of] the capital of our province.

TOUCH
[B2] Someone's reach is the distance within which they can stretch out their arm and touch something.

Dictionary examples:
I like to keep a notebook and pencil within reach.
The top shelf is out of reach.
Make sure that you keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

beyond (sb's) reach
[C2] not possible for someone to have

Dictionary example:
With all this money we can buy things previously beyond our reach.

Learner example:
She was always yearning for things beyond her reach.

within (sb's) reach
[C2] possible for someone to achieve

Dictionary example:
Winning the championship suddenly seemed within their reach.

Learner example:
We have decided to take action to prevent further damage being inflicted, and are convinced the task is fully within our reach.

react /riˈækt/

Word family:
Nouns: reaction
Verbs: react
VERB [i]

SAY OR DO

[B2] to say, do, or feel something because of something else that has been said or done

Dictionary examples:
He reacted angrily to her comments.
She called him all sorts of names, but he didn’t react.

Learner example:
I reacted quickly and without panic.

BAD EFFECT

[C1] to become ill because something that you have eaten or used on your body has had a bad effect on you

Dictionary examples:
My skin reacts to most perfumes.
Many people react to penicillin.

Learner example:
One of her weaknesses is that she reacts [badly to] bird feathers, so it would be nice to find a family without birds.

reaction /riˈækʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: reaction
Verbs: react

NOUN [C]

CAUSED BY SOMETHING

[B2] something you say, feel, or do because of something that has happened

Dictionary examples:
What was his reaction to the news?
Reactions to the proposal have been mixed.
I love to watch people’s reactions when I say who I am.
There has been a widespread reaction against the government’s proposed tax increases.

Learner example:
Her reaction made it all worthwhile. She burst into tears and thanked us. That was an experience that I’ll never forget.

BAD EFFECT

[B2] an unpleasant effect resulting from eating particular things or taking particular drugs
Dictionary examples:
A number of people have had a bad reaction to this drug.
Some people have an allergic reaction to seafood.

Learner example:
There is one more thing that you have to note: two girls have an allergic reaction to nuts, so please make sure that our lunch is nut-free!

read /riːd/

Word family:
Nouns: reader, reading, read, readership
Verbs: read

VERB (read, read)

SIGNS
[C2] [r] to look at signs and be able to understand them

Dictionary example:
Can you read music?

Learner example:
He learnt how to read music and how to read at the same time, when he was four.

read between the lines
[C2] If you read between the lines, you understand what someone really means, or what is really happening in a situation.

Dictionary example:
Reading between the lines, it was obvious that something was wrong.

Learner example:
Having powerful [in]sight, [being] able to read between the lines of even an unwritten story and exhibiting an interdisciplinary background are, again, qualities that perfectly describe the friends that [there have been] in my life.

NOUN

a good/easy, etc. read
[C2] something that is enjoyable, easy, etc. to read

Dictionary example:
His history of Stalingrad isn't exactly an easy read.

Learner example:
In spite of these few criti[c]isms, I found your article to be an interesting read, which reflects most accurat[e]ly on the way most young people see the world.

[C2] [NO PLURAL] the act of reading something
Dictionary example:
It's not brilliant but it's worth a read.

Learner example:
This can be achieved by providing areas with sofas, bean-bags or comfortable armchairs which invite you to sit down and have a good read.

readership /ˈriːdəˌʃɪp/

Word family:
Nouns: reader, reading, read, readership
Verbs: read

NOUN [NO PLURAL]
[C1] the number and type of people who read a particular newspaper, magazine, etc

Dictionary example:
These magazines have a very young readership.

Learner example:
The first one is an issue that has become one of the main subjects of the last ten years and affects the whole world, [so] it will interest your readership.

readily /ˈred.ə.li/

Word family:
Nouns: readiness
Adjectives: ready
Adverbs: readily

ADVERB

EASILY
[B2] quickly and easily

Dictionary example:
Information is readily available on the Internet.

WILLINGLY
[B2] willingly and without stopping to think

Dictionary examples:
He readily admits to having problems himself.
He readily agreed to help.
**Learner example:**
Drinking alcohol won't do you any good. There are a lot of friends who [would] readily help you if you decided to give it up.

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**readiness**  /ˈred.i.nəs/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** readiness 
- **Adjectives:** ready 
- **Adverbs:** readily 

**NOUN [u]**

**WILLING**
[C1] when someone is willing to do something 

**Dictionary example:**
They expressed a readiness to accept our demands.

**Learner example:**
Usually, the clients appreciate his readiness to use their language and this has often been a significant factor in closing a deal.

**PREPARED**
[C2] when someone is prepared for something 

**Dictionary example:**
It was time to repair their shelters in readiness for the winter.

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**reading**  /ˈriː.dɪŋ/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** reader, reading, read, readership 
- **Verbs:** read 

**NOUN**

**EVENT**
[C2] [c] an event at which someone reads something to an audience 

**Dictionary example:**
a poetry reading 

**Learner example:**
There is also [a] need [for] human interaction such as reading clubs, poetry readings or children’s activities.
**readjust** /ˌriː.əˈdʒʌst/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** adjustment  
**Verbs:** adjust, readjust  

**VERB**  

**SMALL CHANGE**  
[C1] [ɪ] to move something slightly or make a small change to something  

**Dictionary example:**  
He readjusted his tie.  

**Learner example:**  
Because the air conditioning was not working properly or because your unfriendly coach driver refused to readjust it, I got a cold from that day.  

**CHANGE BEHAVIOUR**  
[C2] [ɪ] to change in order to deal with a new situation, such as a new job or home  

**Dictionary example:**  
The children will have to readjust to a new school.  

**Learner example:**  
For the last couple of days she had gradually readjusted to her normal mode of life, no longer suddenly finding herself attuned to Morgan's odd modality of perceptions and unable to interface properly with her surroundings.

**real** /riːl/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** reality  
**Adjectives:** real, realistic, unrealistic, unreal  
**Adverbs:** really, realistically  

**ADJECTIVE**  

**IMPORTANT**  
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] being the most important or the main thing  

**Dictionary examples:**  
The real problem, of course, is money.  
The real difficulty was the language, because my children don't speak English.  

**Learner example:**  
Nowadays people work most of the time with their computers, and the internet give[s] them the opportunity to download whatever they want, even books, but the real problem is that they do not have the time to read them.
FOR EMPHASIS

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] used to emphasize a noun

Dictionary examples:
She was a real help.
It’s a real pain he’s not available tomorrow.

Learner example:
In the advertisement it says "your perfect evening out", but it was a real disappointment.

for real

[B2] taken seriously, not pretended

Dictionary example:
I thought it was just a practice, but apparently it was for real.

Learner example:
You know I am a Casanova, but this time I know [it] is for real.

realistic /ˌrɪəˈlɪs.tɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: reality
Adjectives: real, realistic, unrealistic, unreal
Adverbs: really, realistically

ADJECTIVE

ACCEPTING SITUATION

[B2] accepting the true facts of a situation and not basing decisions on things that will not happen

Dictionary examples:
Let’s be realistic – we’re not going to finish this by Friday.
We have to be realistic about how much we can afford to pay.
It isn’t realistic to expect people to work for so little money.

Learner example:
We must be realistic, my friend. Eighty kilometres is a pretty long distance.

realistically /ˌrɪəˈlɪs.tɪk.lij/
ADVERB

SEEM REAL
[C1] in a way that shows things and people as they really are, or that makes them seem real

Dictionary example:
The characters are portrayed very realistically.

Learner example:
It was realistically captured in the TV reports you have seen.

ACCEPTING FACTS
[C2] in a way that shows that you accept the true facts of a situation

Dictionary example:
Realistically, we cannot expect to have finished by the weekend.

Learner example:
Realistically, separate schools will probably be with us for a long time to come, but it will remain the least used form of the two.

reality /riˈæl.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: reality
Adjectives: real, realistic, unrealistic, unreal
Adverbs: really, realistically

NOUN

FACTS
[B2] [u] the way things or situations really are and not the way you would like them to be

Dictionary examples:
Listening to music is my escape from reality.
Sooner or later you have to face up to reality.
He may seem charming but in reality he’s actually an unpleasant person.

Learner example:
Finally, your report talks about an audience of less than 2,000 although we were in reality more than 5,000.

the reality/realities of sth
[B2] the truth about an unpleasant situation

Dictionary example:
the harsh realities of life
Learner example:
Besides we all know the realities of the modern world.

**become a reality**
[B2] to start to happen or exist

Dictionary example:
New jobs could become a reality by next month.

Learner example:
You have made my dream become a reality.

---

**realization** /ˌrɪ.ə.laɪˈzeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: realization
Verbs: realize

**NOTICING**
[C1] [NO PLURAL] when you notice or understand something that you did not notice or understand before

Dictionary example:
There is a growing realization that education has benefits at many levels.

Learner example:
I suppose it is only when one starts to think about it that the realization comes about the fact that fashion is part of our everyday life.

**ACHIEVING**
[C2] [u] when you achieve something that you wanted

Dictionary example:
the realization of an ambition

Learner example:
I am certain that the realization of such a project would not only be of benefit to me, but also contribute to an enhanced cultural understanding of both the host country and Switzerland.

---

**realize (ALSO UK realise)** /ˈrɪə.laɪz/

Word family:
Nouns: realization
Verbs: realize
realize an ambition/dream/goal, etc.
[C1] to achieve something that you have wanted for a long time

**Dictionary example:**
He had realized all his ambitions by the age of 30.

**Learner example:**
It's rather difficult for people to be able to realize their ambition.

realm /relm/

noun [c]
[C2] formal an area of knowledge, interest, experience or activity

**Dictionary examples:**
successes in the realm of foreign policy
Unfortunately, this area is not within my realm of experience.

**Learner example:**
Reading literature, in particular, as a pastime is the path which leads you to the magic realm of other worlds shaped by a magnificent combination of words, phrases and sentences composing anew and in a totally different way what you experience in your everyday life.

reap /riːp/

verb
reap the benefits/profits/rewards
[C2] to get something good by working hard for it

**Dictionary example:**
Sometimes, this approach can reap tremendous rewards.

**Learner example:**
Again this is going to cost the library but it will be able to reap the benefits in the end.

rear /rɪə/
Learner example:
In his rear mirror he saw that all [the] lights on the airfield [were] on again.

NOUN

the rear
[C1] the back part of something

Dictionary examples:
First class accommodation is towards the rear of the train.
We walked round to the rear of the house.

Learner example:
The damage seems to be at the rear of the fridge where the motor is situated.

VERB

[C1] [T] If you rear children or young animals, you care for them until they are adults.

Dictionary example:
In these waters they breed and rear their young.

Learner example:
But still the main role of the wom[a]n is to rear her children and be a good assistant to her husband and take care of her home.

rearrange /ˌrɛəˈreɪndʒ/

Word family:
Nouns: arrangement
Verbs: arrange, rearrange

VERB [T]
[B2] to change the order or position of things

Dictionary example:
I've rearranged the furniture in my office.

Learner example:
Maybe you could rearrange the café to be more classical.

reason /ˈriː.zən/

Word family:
Nouns: reason, reasoning
Adjectives: reasonable, unreasonable
Adverbs: reasonably, unreasonably
NOUN

RIGHT

[B2] [u] something that makes it right for you to think or do something

Dictionary examples:
I think we have reason to be concerned.
There is every reason to believe the project will be finished on time.
She suddenly hit him for no reason.

Learner example:
Animals in zoos are in captivity and not in their natural habitat. They live captured there for no reason, as we could learn about them from books or documentaries [instead].

within reason

[C2] If something is within reason, it is acceptable and possible.

Dictionary example:
We can wear what we like to the office, within reason.

Learner example:
Although this view may seem too harsh and hard-hearted, I believe it is within reason.

it stands to reason

[C2] If it stands to reason that something happens or is true, it is what you would expect.

Dictionary example:
It stands to reason that a child who is constantly criticized will have little self-confidence.

Learner example:
So it stands to reason that there is no place for Piggy in Jack's world.

reasonable /ˈriː.zən.ə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: reason, reasoning
Adjectives: reasonable, unreasonable
Adverbs: reasonably, unreasonably

ADJECTIVE

FAIR

[B2] fair and showing good judgment

Dictionary examples:
It's not reasonable to expect people to work such long hours.
If you tell him what happened, I'm sure he'll understand – he's a reasonable man.
Learner example:
In my opinion, reasonable rules are important for us but being too strict will bring stress, which causes kids [to] be afraid of many things.

BASED ON FACTS

[B2] based on facts that can be explained

Dictionary example:
There will be a reasonable explanation for all of this.

Learner example:
I hope you will be able to offer me [a] reasonable explanation [for] these mistakes and report correct information in your newspaper.

reasonably /ˈriː.zənəbli/

Word family:
Nouns: reason, reasoning
Adjectives: reasonable, unreasonable
Adverbs: reasonably, unreasonably

ADVERB
reasonably good/successful/well, etc.
[B2] good/successful/well, etc. enough but not very good or very well

Dictionary example:
I did reasonably well at school but not as well as my sister.

Learner example:
I noticed the sound system wasn’t perfect, but it was reasonably good.

GOOD JUDGMENT

[B2] in a fair way, showing good judgment

Dictionary example:
Stop shouting and let’s discuss this reasonably.

reasoning /ˈriː.zən.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: reason, reasoning
Adjectives: reasonable, unreasonable
Adverbs: reasonably, unreasonably

NOUN [u]

[C2] the process of thinking about something in order to make a decision
Dictionary example:
I don't understand the reasoning **behind** this decision.

Learner example:
According to this line of reasoning, its supporters believe that although sports people sacrifice a lot [of] their time, the huge amounts of money that they earn are illogical in comparison with the job they are doing.

**reassurance**  /ˌriːˌəˈʃʊə.rənts/

Word family:
Nouns: assurance, reassurance, self-assurance
Verbs: assure, reassure
Adjectives: reassuring, self-assured

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] something that you say to make someone stop worrying

Dictionary example:
Despite my reassurances that she was welcome, she wouldn't come.

Learner example:
I very much like being around people and need the reassurance of being well liked.

**reassure**  /ˌriː.əˈʃʊər/

Word family:
Nouns: assurance, reassurance, self-assurance
Verbs: assure, reassure
Adjectives: reassuring, self-assured

VERB [T]
[C1] to say something to stop someone from worrying

Dictionary example:
He reassured me that I would be paid soon.

Learner example:
Making my own decisions gives me much stress because I am always so scared of the results and I need to be reassured that I am doing the right thing all the time.
**reassuring /ˌriː.əˈʃʊə.rɪŋ/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** assurance, reassurance, self-assurance
- **Verbs:** assure, reassure
- **Adjectives:** reassuring, self-assured

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] making you feel less worried

**Dictionary example:**
a reassuring smile/voice

**Learner example:**
It was a reassuring feeling.

---

**rebel**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** rebel, rebellion
- **Verbs:** rebel
- **Adjectives:** rebellious

**NOUN [c] /ˈreb.əl/**

[B2] A someone who fights against the government in their country, especially a soldier

**Dictionary examples:**
The rebels took over the capital and set up a new government.
Rebels seized control of the airport.

**Learner example:**
Suddenly, the police came onto the train, and killed all the rebels.

**VERB [i] /rɪˈbel/ (-ll-)**

[B2] to refuse to obey rules that you disagree with or do not like

**Dictionary example:**
Children often rebel against eating certain foods – Rory won’t eat vegetables.

**Learner example:**
His brother was never kind with her and she always wanted to rebel.
rebellion  /ˈrɪˈbel.i.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: rebel, rebellion
Verbs: rebel
Adjectives: rebellious

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] I when people fight against the government in their country

Dictionary example:
Government troops defeated an armed rebellion in the south.

Learner example:
The rebellion of the students not only led to the freedom of Greece but it also inspired the local people and the people worldwide to fight for their freedom.

rebellious  /ˈrɪˈbel.i.əs/

Word family:
Nouns: rebel, rebellion
Verbs: rebel
Adjectives: rebellious

ADJECTIVE
[C1] refusing to obey rules because you do not like authority

Dictionary example:
a rebellious teenager

Learner example:
"It was impossible for me to become submissive – I must have been rebellious from my very birth", she recalls.

rebuild  /ˌriːˈbɪld/

Word family:
Nouns: builder, building
Verbs: build, rebuild

VERB [T] (rebuilt, rebuilt)

IMPROVE
[B2] to make a situation succeed again after something bad caused it to fail

Dictionary examples:
The country was still struggling to rebuild its economy after the war.
They had to rebuild their lives after the accident.
Learner example:
Since more and more people in our modern society have been living in a [highly] urbanized environment and they are isolated from the rest of nature, I think it is vital to make every effort to rebuild healthy relationships with nature.

**recall** /rɪˈkɔːl/

**VERB** [T or TI]

[B2] to remember something

**Dictionary examples:**
I don't recall arranging a time to meet.
Can you recall what happened that night?
I recall that he promised to send the document.

Learner example:
Right now, I can't recall much of that phone call.

**receipt** /rɪˈsiːt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** receipt, reception, receptionist

**Verbs:** receive

**Adjectives:** receptive

**NOUN**

**RECEIVING**

[B2] [U] FORMAL the act of receiving something

**Dictionary example:**
Items must be returned within fourteen days of receipt.

**receive** /rɪˈsiːv/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** receipt, reception, receptionist

**Verbs:** receive

**Adjectives:** receptive

**VERB** [T]

**REACT**

[C1] to react to a suggestion or piece of work in a particular way
Dictionary example:
His first book was not **well** received.

**Learner example:**
The English lessons in the mornings were well received but I wonder if it is possible to get more variety?

---

**reception** /riˈsepʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** receipt, reception, receptionist
**Verbs:** receive
**Adjectives:** receptive

**NOUN**

**PARTY**

[B2] [C] a formal party that is given to celebrate a special event or to welcome someone

**Dictionary example:**
a **wedding** reception

**Learner example:**
Next month, I have to fly to London to attend a friend’s wedding reception.

**REACTION**

[C1] [NO PLURAL] the way people react to something or someone

**Dictionary example:**
We were given a very **warm** reception.

**Learner example:**
Although we were given a very nice reception, problems began to appear already at the start.

---

**receptive** /riˈsep.tv/ 

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** receipt, reception, receptionist
**Verbs:** receive
**Adjectives:** receptive

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] willing to think about and accept new ideas

**Dictionary example:**
She's generally very receptive to ideas and suggestions.
Learner example:
As we are very receptive to new ideas, this interaction [will] help us improve our city and take a step forward in making it a nicer place to live or visit.

recession /rɪˈsɛʃ.ən/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a period when the economy of a country is not successful and conditions for business are bad

Dictionary examples:
The latest report confirms that the economy is in recession.
The country is now in the deepest recession for over 40 years.

Learner example:
Now in Japan the recession is getting worse and unemployment [is] increasing.

recharge /ˌriːˈtʃɑːd/

VERB [T]
[C1] to fill a battery with electricity so that it can work again

Dictionary example:
You can recharge these batteries.

Learner example:
After buying your mobile phone, it is important to know that it can't be used for an unlimited time. It will have to be recharged and, in the end, it will let you down when most needed.

recharge your batteries
[C2] to have a period of rest and relaxation so that you feel energetic again

Dictionary example:
She took a trip to the south of France to recharge her batteries.

Learner example:
It is [a] very effective way in which we could rejuvenate ourselves and recharge our batteries in order to face the difficulties [of] the daily routine.
recipe /ˈres.ə.pi/

NOUN [C]

be a recipe for disaster/success/trouble, etc.
[C2] to be very likely to become a disaster, a success, etc.

Dictionary example:
Living with your in-laws is a recipe for disaster.

Learner example:
Lack of love, rais[ing] children in a hostile environment, being oblivious to their emotional and psychological needs... all are a recipe for disaster, which is the exact case in the book as far as the tragic end is concerned.

reckless /ˈrek.ləs/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] doing something dangerous and not caring about what might happen

Dictionary example:
reckless driving

Learner example:
And, not to mention all the litter they leave behind, they also damage valuable r[ock] formations or cliff faces through reckless climbing attempts.

reckon /ˈrek.ən/

VERB [I or T]

THINK
[B2] to think that something is probably true

Dictionary examples:
I reckon he's going to leave.
How much do you reckon it's going to cost?
He reckons that he earns more in a week than I do in a month.

Learner example:
What do you reckon about the idea?
recognition /ˌrekəˈnɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: recognition
Verbs: recognize

NOUN

ACCEPT
[C2] [U no plural] when you accept that something is true or real

Dictionary example:
There is a growing recognition of the scale of the problem.

Learner example:
We easily become seduced by the false image of a perfect world of ads that makes us a part of it as long as we purchase more things with no sense of recognition between a real and a false need.

HONOUR
[C2] [u] when someone gets praise, respect or thanks for something good they have done

Dictionary example:
Ellen gained recognition for her outstanding work.

Learner example:
What they are after, is recognition in their work but not so much for the work itself, but [for] what comes after recognition, which is a rise in the salary!

KNOW
[C2] [u] when you know something or someone because you have seen or experienced them before

Dictionary example:
I waved at her, but she showed no sign of recognition.

Learner example:
Everything had changed out of all recognition and bore no resemblance to the house he had entered a few minutes ago.

recognize (also uk recognise) /ˈrekəzn/
VERB [T]

ACCEPT

[B2] to accept that something is legal, true or important

Dictionary examples:
She recognized that she had been partly to blame.
The international community has refused to recognize the newly independent nation state.
Smoking is recognised as a leading cause of lung cancer.

Learner example:
Martins hero-worshipped Lime until the moment when he was forced to recognize that his best friend was the worst racketeer imaginable.

SHOW RESPECT

[C1] to officially show respect for someone for an achievement

Dictionary example:
He was recognized by the governor for his work with teenagers.

Learner example:
To sum up, Peter Smith deserves to be recognised for his efforts.

recollect /ˌrek.əˈlɛkt/

Word family:
Nouns: recollection
Verbs: recollect

VERB [T]

[C2] to remember something

Dictionary example:
I didn't recollect having seen him.

Learner example:
I am able to recollect only one single family gathering I did not especially take to.

recollection /ˌrek.əˈlekJ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: recollection
Verbs: recollect

NOUN [C or U]

[C2] when you remember something
Dictionary example:
He had no recollection of the incident.

Learner example:
I have [a] very vague recollection of my childhood but, of course, there are some things that [have] stayed in my memory.

recommend /ˌrek.əˈmend/

Word family:
Nouns: recommendation
Verbs: recommend

VERB [ɪ]

ADVISE
[B2] to advise someone that something should be done

Dictionary examples:
The report recommended that tourists avoid the region.
I recommend writing your feelings down on paper.
She has been recommended for promotion.

Learner example:
I recommend that you apply to work [at the festival] and you will have a great time!

recommendation /ˌrek.ə.menˈdeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: recommendation
Verbs: recommend

NOUN

ADVICE
[B2] [c] a piece of advice about what to do in a particular situation

Dictionary examples:
The report makes the recommendation that more prisons should be built.
It’s my recommendation that this factory be closed immediately.

Learner example:
I hope my recommendations are helpful, and I [hope] you have a great time!

SUITABLE
[B2] [c or u] a suggestion that someone or something is good or suitable for a particular purpose
**Dictionary example:**
I bought this book on Andy’s recommendation.

**Learner example:**
The Chef’s recommendation is Bulgogi made by beef.

**reconcile /ˈrek.ənˌsaɪl/**

**VERB [T]**

MAKE AGREE

[C2] to make two different ideas, beliefs, or situations agree or able to exist together

**Dictionary examples:**
It is sometimes difficult to reconcile science and religion.
How can you reconcile your love of animals with your habit of eating them?

**Learner example:**
When this is the case, the families caring for them are faced with an uphill struggle, as it is difficult to reconcile the need for earning a living with the care of their relatives.

**reconsider /ˌriː.kənˈsɪd.ər/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** consideration

**Verbs:** consider, reconsider

**Adjectives:** considerate, inconsiderate

**VERB [I or T]**

[C1] to think again about a decision or opinion and decide if you want to change it

**Dictionary example:**
We’ve been asked to reconsider the proposal.

**Learner example:**
We invite your newspaper to reconsider its position, hoping that the council will think about our proposals.

**reconstruct /ˌriː.kənˈstrʌkt/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** construction, reconstruction

**Verbs:** construct, reconstruct

**Adjectives:** constructive
VERB [T]

BUILD AGAIN

[C1] to build something again after it has been damaged or destroyed

Dictionary example:
They reconstructed the palace exactly as it had been.

Learner example:
Dear Sir, The student committee greatly appreciate your efforts to resolve our current problems, in particular improving and reconstructing our sports centre.

PAST EVENT

[C2] to create a description of a past event using all the information that you have

Dictionary example:
The police tried to reconstruct the crime using evidence found at the scene.

Learner example:
Through some letters written by Olivia to her sister Marcia, who lived in Paris in 1923, Anne reconstructs the different episodes, letting the reader imagine all the different scenes.

reconstruction /ˌriːkənˈstrʌkʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: construction, reconstruction
Verbs: construct, reconstruct
Adjectives: constructive

NOUN [C or U]

BUILD AGAIN

[C1] when you build something again after it has been damaged or destroyed

Dictionary example:
The reconstruction of the city took decades.

Learner example:
The classrooms are in need [of] immediate reconstruction.

PAST EVENT

[C2] when you create a description of a past event using all the information that you have

Dictionary example:
A reconstruction of the crime was shown on TV.
record

Word family:
Nouns: record, recording
Verbs: record

VERB /ˈrɪˈkɔːd/

STORE INFORMATION
[B2] [ɪ] to write down information or store it on a computer so that it can be used in the future

Dictionary example:
He recorded details of their conversation in his diary.

Learner example:
Another way to [highlight] the importance of books is to consider them as the “depots” of wisdom and knowledge that exist and have been recorded since the beginning of History.

SHOW MEASUREMENT
[C1] [ɪ] If a device records a measurement, it shows that measurement.

Dictionary example:
The thermometer recorded a temperature of 30 degrees Celsius.

NOUN /ˈrek.ɔːd/

INFORMATION
[B2] [ɔ or ʌ] information that is written on paper or stored on computer so that it can be used in the future

Dictionary examples:
medical/dental records
My teacher keeps a record of my absences.
This summer has been the hottest on record.

Learner example:
First of all, using [a] computer is most important for me because I can store my personal records such as [my] diary or expenses and I [can] send e-mail[s] to my friends who live abroad.

put/set the record straight
[C1] to tell people the true facts about a situation

Dictionary example:
I know they thought Alex was lying, and I wanted to put the record straight.

Learner example:
I hope that my letter will set the record straight and that the public shall be informed about the true events of that day.
off the record
[C1] If you say something off the record, you do not want the public to know about it.

Dictionary example:
Off the record, ministers are saying the president must resign.

Learner example:
Off the record, how come that your reporter can print such lies when knowing they are perhaps hurting certain people in this important matter?

BEHAVIOUR
[C2] [c] A person's or company's record is their behaviour or achievements.

Dictionary examples:
She has an outstanding academic record.
Of all airlines they have the best safety record.
a good/bad record

Learner example:
Although my academic record is excellent, I feel that I lack practical experience and the opportunity to put my acquired knowledge to [the] test.

recording /rɪˈkɔː.dɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: record, recording
Verbs: record

NOUN

PROCESS
[B2] [u] the process or business of putting sounds, especially music, onto a disc, magnetic tape, etc., using electronic equipment

Dictionary example:
a recording studio

Learner example:
I loved to sing and I decided to visit all the recording companies.

recover /rɪˈkʌv.ər/

Word family:
Nouns: recovery
Verbs: recover
VERB

SITUATION

[B2] [I] If a system or situation recovers, it returns to the way it was before something bad happened.

Dictionary example:
The economy was quick to recover after the election.

Learner example:
Lots of effort has been put in and finally our economy is recovering.

GET BACK

[C1] [T] to get something back that has been lost or stolen

Dictionary example:
Police recovered the stolen money.

Learner example:
Moreover it might become virtually impossible to recover the money from that investment.

---

recovery /rɪˈkʌvər.i/

Word family:
Nouns: recovery
Verbs: recover

NOUN

[B2] [U NO PLURAL] when you feel better or happier again after an illness, injury, or period of sadness

Dictionary example:
She only had the operation last month but she’s made a full recovery.

Learner example:
I was sorry to hear that you were ill, and my family and I send you our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SITUATION

[C1] [U NO PLURAL] when a system or situation returns to the way it was before something bad happened

Dictionary examples:
economic recovery
The housing industry has made a remarkable recovery.

Learner example:
We are still waiting for the recovery in our economy but the political transformation and economic reforms are very painful for our society.
GET BACK

[C2] [u] when you get back something that was lost or stolen

Dictionary example:
the recovery of stolen jewels

Learner example:
The diary had been lost for a long time but was now found in the attic of the house several years after the woman's death. It was dedicated to John. When John finished reading Lucy's secret diary he let willing tears flow. [...] The recovery of the lost diary had broken his heart.

recreate /ˌriː.kriˈeɪt/

VERB [T]
[C1] to make something exist or happen again

Dictionary example:
They plan to recreate a typical English village in Japan.

Learner example:
We want people whose skills with a laser high-accuracy enamel paint brush could only be surpassed by the skill of those men in our past who wielded the original weapons we are now recreating.

recreation /ˌrek.riˈeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: recreation
Adjectives: recreational

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] activities that you do for enjoyment when you are not working

Dictionary examples:
Emma's only form of recreation seems to be shopping.
a recreation area/centre

Learner example:
[Is] there any gym or other recreation facilities available in [the] Magnet Hotel?

recreational /ˌrek.riˈeɪ.ʃən.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: recreation
Adjectives: recreational
ADJECTIVE
[C2] used for recreation

Dictionary example:
recreational activities/facilities

Learner example:
There are few schools in the countryside and only basic recreational facilities, whereas the cities possess many schools, fully staffed, universities and many opportunities for recreation of every kind.

recruit /rɪˈkrʊ:t/

Word family:
Nouns: recruit, recruitment
Verbs: recruit

VERB
[C1] to try to persuade someone to work for a company or to join an organization

Dictionary example:

Learner example:
Secondly, the coach driver was quite a rude person and, as far as I am concerned, it would be a good idea to pay more attention when recruiting your staff.

NOUN [c]
[C2] someone who has recently joined an organization

Dictionary example:
a new recruit

Learner example:
The CD-Rom will enable a self-training for new recruits with help of Compact Disks with usefull info.

recruitment /rɪˈkrʊ:t.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: recruit, recruitment
Verbs: recruit

NOUN [u]
[C1] the process of finding people to work for a company or become a new member of an organization
Dictionary example:  
The recession has forced a lot of companies to cut down on staff recruitment.

Learner example:  
This is mainly due to the recent recruitment of office personn[e]l in our department.

| **rectangle**  
| /ˈrek.tæŋ.gl/ 
| **Word family:** 
| **Nouns:** rectangle  
| **Adjectives:** rectangular  
| **NOUN [c]**  
| [C1] a shape with four 90° angles and four sides, with opposite sides of equal length and two sides longer than the other two  
| Dictionary example:  
| The garden is in the shape of a rectangle.

| **rectangular**  
| /rekˈtæŋ.gju.əl/ 
| **Word family:** 
| **Nouns:** rectangle  
| **Adjectives:** rectangular  
| **ADJECTIVE**  
| [B2] shaped like a rectangle  
| Dictionary example:  
| a rectangular patch of grass  
| Learner example:  
| Between Rossio and the river there [is] a commercial district laid out in a rectangular pattern, where you can go shopping.

| **rectify**  
| /ˈrek.tr.фаɪ/ 
| **VERB [t] formal**  
| [C1] to correct something or change it so that it is acceptable  
| Dictionary example:  
| The government has promised to rectify the situation.  
| Learner example:  
| I also hope as far as the article is concerned that you will kindly rectify the defamatory information revealed in the statement.  

1916
**recur** /rɪˈkɜːr/

**VERB** [i] (recurring, recurred)
[C2] to happen again or many times

**Dictionary example:** The same ideas recur throughout her books.

**Learner example:** This feeling of feeling trapped recurs often throughout the novel as a way to emphasize the feeling of isolation.

**red** /red/

**ADJECTIVE** (redder, reddest)

**go red**
[B2] If someone goes red, their face becomes red because they are embarrassed or angry.

**Dictionary example:** He kissed her on the cheek and she went bright red.

**Learner example:** When Paul saw the girl who had blond hair and bluish eyes, his face suddenly went red.

**red tape**
[C2] official rules that do not seem necessary and make things happen very slowly

**Dictionary example:** We need to cut through all this red tape.

**Learner example:** It is the student's responsibility to deal with the red tape and, as you might imagine, it is not an easy task.

**NOUN** [c or u]

**see red**
[C2] to become very angry

**Dictionary example:** When he insulted my friends, I just saw red.

**Learner example:** I see red each time I realize that my son is looking forward to arriving home so as to flop down in front of his telly instead of reading a good book.
in the red
[C2] If your bank account is in the red, you have spent more money than there was in it.

Dictionary example:
I expect I’m in the red again.

Learner example:
Her bank account was in the red.

redevelop /ˌriː.dɪˈvel.əp/

Word family:
Nouns: development, developer, redevelopment
Verbs: develop, redevelop
Adjectives: developed, developing, underdeveloped, undeveloped

VERB [T]
[C1] to make a place more modern by improving old buildings or building new ones

Dictionary example:
There are plans to redevelop the city’s waterfront area.

Learner example:
Most of the coastal villages lose their traditional element – their value – and they become redeveloped in order to be in accord with the growing need to attract people.

redevelopment /ˌriː.dɪˈvel.əp.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: development, developer, redevelopment
Verbs: develop, redevelop
Adjectives: developed, developing, underdeveloped, undeveloped

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] when a place is made more modern by improving old buildings or building new ones

Dictionary example:
There has been a lot of redevelopment in this area.

Learner example:
I would like to invite other people to support this proposal and to try to explain [to] the opposition how nice our city centre would be after the proposed redevelopment.
**redistribute** /ˌriː.dɪˈstrɪb.juːt/

Word family:
Nouns: distribution
Verbs: distribute, redistribute

**VERB [T]**
[C2] to share money, land, power, etc. between people in a different way from before

**Dictionary example:**
to redistribute wealth

**Learner example:**
The challenge our governments face now is how to redistribute wealth and how to provide the opportunity for all to exercise their right to work.

**reduce** /rɪˈdjuːs/

Word family:
Nouns: reduction
Verbs: reduce

**VERB [T]**
reduce sb to sth/doing sth **PHRASAL VERB**
[C2] to make someone unhappy or cause them to be in a bad situation

**Dictionary examples:**
She was reduced to tears by his comments.
I lost my job and was reduced to borrowing money from friends.

**Learner example:**
She was also very hard with stubborn witnesses, reducing them to tears, or pumping them dry of information where necessary.

**reduce sth to sth** **PHRASAL VERB**
[C2] to destroy something, especially something that has been built

**Dictionary example:**
The earthquake reduced the city to rubble.

**reduction** /rɪˈdʌk.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: reduction
Verbs: reduce
NOUN [C or U]

[B2] when something is reduced

Dictionary examples:
a reduction in traffic
huge price reductions

Learner example:
As for the prices, they are reasonable and you can have a reduction if your group is over 16 people.

redundancy /rɪˈdʌndənsi/

Word family:
Nouns: redundancy
Adjectives: redundant

NOUN

[C1] [C or U] when your employer makes you stop working because there is not enough work

Dictionary example:
There have been a lot of redundancies in the mining industry.

Learner example:
Some people seems to be afraid of that prospect and reluctant to use the Net, because they think it means the end of any relationship between people and it can lead to redundancies.

redundant /rɪˈdʌndənt/

Word family:
Nouns: redundancy
Adjectives: redundant

ADJECTIVE

JOB

[B2] having lost your job because your employer no longer needs you

Dictionary example:
Half the workforce has been made redundant because of the decline in sales.

Learner example:
She had been made redundant and now, she has no job, no money, no friends and no home.

1920
NOT NEEDED
[C2] not needed or used any more because there are other similar or more modern things

Dictionary example:
redundant weapons

Learner example:
Mass production, chasing profit wherever it is possible, makes oldish traditions redundant.

refer /rɪˈfɜːr/

Word family:
Nouns: referee, reference
Verbs: refer

VERB (→yr–)

refer to sb/sth PHRASAL VERB

TALK OR WRITE
[B2] to talk or write about someone or something, especially briefly

Dictionary examples:
She didn't once refer to her son.
He always referred to his father as 'the old man'.

Learner example:
In your book you refer to the 'Hotel Astrid' but they decided to close it last year.

RELATE TO
[C1] If writing or information refers to someone or something, it relates to that person or thing.

Dictionary example:
The sales figures refer to UK sales only.

Learner example:
Ancient Greece was divided into two groups. The contrast between those two groups was getting bigger and bigger and it ended up [as] a destructive war – destructive doesn't refer only to deaths and city damage but also to the corruption of morals.

refer to sth PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to read something in order to get information

Dictionary example:
Please refer to your owner’s manual for more information.
**refer** sb/sth to sb/sth **PHRASAL VERB**

[C2] to send someone or something to a different place or person for information or help

**Dictionary examples:**
My doctor referred me to a specialist.
All customer complaints are referred to the main office.

**Learner example:**
We would beg you to take immediate action about this, otherwise we will have to refer this to the "Noise Abatement Society".

---

**referee** /ˌrefəˈriː/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** referee, reference
**Verbs:** refer

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a person who is in charge of a sports game and who makes certain that the rules are followed

**Dictionary example:**
I think the referee made the wrong decision.

**Learner example:**
Due to my back injur[y], I could not train and play with my team, so it would be a good idea to be a referee.

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**reference** /ˈref.rənts/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** referee, reference
**Verbs:** refer

**NOUN**

**with/in reference to sth**

[B2] FORMAL relating to something

**Dictionary example:**
I am writing with reference to your letter of 15 March.

**Learner example:**
I’m writing with reference to the advertisement I saw on the college noticeboard concerning some jobs during [the period] 18–23 March, when there is the International Sports Competition.
**NAME/BOOK TITLE**

[B2] [c] a name or book title, etc. in a book or other piece of writing that tells you where information came from

**Dictionary example:**
There's the usual list of references at the back of the book.

**Learner example:**
I have information, and historical reference[s] [in] my collection, and I will be glad to share it with other members.

**LETTER**

[B2] [c] a letter that is written by someone who knows you, to say if you are suitable for a job or course

**Dictionary example:**
My old headteacher said he would write/give me a reference.

**Learner example:**
I am enclosing references from my ex-managers.

**MENTIONING**

[C1] [c or U] when you briefly talk or write about someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
In his book, he makes several references to his time in France.
She made no reference to her marital problems.

**Learner example:**
Finally, your article makes reference to "a sudden downpour of rain" which was actually a small shower which lasted no more than five minutes.

**READING**

[C1] [U] when you read something in order to get information

**Dictionary example:**
Please keep this handout for future reference.

**Learner example:**
Can you also provide us [with] the list [of all] 300 hotels for our reference.

---

**referendum /ˌref.əˈrən.dəm/**

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] an occasion when all the people in a country can vote in order to show their opinion about a political question
**Dictionary example:**
The government has promised a referendum on voting reform.

**Learner example:**
Everybody was speaking about the referendum.

---

**refine /rɪˈfaɪn/**

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** refine
**Adjectives:** refined

**VERB [T]**
[C2] to improve an idea, method, system, etc. by making small changes

**Dictionary example:**
The engineers spent months refining the software.

**Learner example:**
Zucchero Fornaciari was discovered ten years ago in a national show and during this period of time has sharpened and refined his music.

---

**refined /rɪˈfaɪnd/**

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** refine
**Adjectives:** refined

**ADJECTIVE**

**POLITE**
[C2] very polite and showing knowledge of social rules

**Dictionary example:**
She's very refined.

**Learner example:**
Not only is Lord Trimingham a noble and refined representative of Edwardian aristocracy, but also he is kind towards Leo.

**IMPROVED**
[C2] improved by many small changes

**Dictionary examples:**
a refined method
highly refined theories

1924
Learner example:
Ever more refined technological devices like robots for example have led to the bizarre situation that you can walk through a production hall while work is in progress without seeing any human workers at all.

**reflect** /rɪˈflekt/

Word family:
Nouns: reflection
Verbs: reflect

VERB

**IMAGE**
[B2] [ɪ] If a surface such as a mirror or water reflects something, you can see the image of that thing in the mirror, water, etc.

Dictionary example:
He saw himself reflected in the shop window.

Learner example:
We could see a little from the light coming from the moon that [was] reflected in a mirror.

**SHOW**
[B2] [ɪ] to show or be a sign of something

Dictionary examples:
The statistics reflect a change in people's spending habits.
The town's economic success is reflected in its shiny new buildings.

Learner example:
Your description of the people, their everyday life, their characters and their friendliness reflects that you really had an excellent time here.

**THINK**
[C1] [ɪ] to think in a serious and careful way

Dictionary examples:
In prison, he had plenty of time to reflect on the crimes he had committed.
I need some time to reflect.

Learner example:
As I mentioned, there were several points which you can reflect on.
reflection /rɪˈflek.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: reflection
Verbs: reflect

NOUN

IMAGE

[B2] [c] the image of something in a mirror, on a shiny surface, etc.

Dictionary example:
I saw my reflection in the window.

Learner example:
Have you seen your reflection in a mirror?

a reflection of sth

[C1] something that is a sign or result of a particular situation

Dictionary example:
The fact that soldiers are on the streets is a reflection of how terrified the government is.

Learner example:
Is it really a reflection of the way we live?

THOUGHT

[C2] [U] FORMAL when you think in a serious and careful way

Dictionary examples:
He paused for reflection before answering my question.
On reflection, I think I was wrong.

Learner example:
Only now, on reflection, do I realize what care, love and thoughtfulness my parents lavished on me.

reform /rɪˈfɔːm/

NOUN [C or U]

[C2] when changes are made to improve a system, organization, or law, or a change that is made

Dictionary examples:
economic/political reform
Students have called for reforms in the admission process.
Learner example:
To sum up, it is obvious that a reform in the educational system is necessary and that the beliefs of what is or is not useful to learn must be reconsidered.

VERB
[C2] [ɪ] to change a system, organization, or law in order to improve it

Dictionary example:
efforts to reform the education system

Learner example:
Dag Hammarskjold made the work of the U N more efficient by reforming its structure.

refrain  /rɪˈfreɪn/

VERB [ɪ] FORMAL
[C2] to stop yourself from doing something

Dictionary example:
Please refrain from talking during the performance.

Learner example:
I believe that people who have civil and graceful manners and who refrain from being too assertive end up being more successful and powerful than those who try to exert authority at any given moment.

refresh  /rɪˈfreʃ/

Word family:
Nouns: refreshments
Verbs: refresh
Adjectives: refreshing

VERB
[C1] [ɪ] to make you feel less hot or tired

Dictionary example:
A cool drink should refresh you.

Learner example:
The bar is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. When you are in my house, refresh yourself, help yourself from the fridge, feel at your ease, and then call me by phone.

[C1] [ɪ] or [ɪ] to make something more up-to-date or to make it look newer or more attractive

1927
**Dictionary examples:**
Old furniture can be refreshed with a coat of paint.
Wait a minute – I need to refresh my memory on this.

**Learner example:**
The magazine is totally up-to-date with extreme question papers in which the reader has the opportunity to test or refresh his/her knowledge.

**refreshing** /rɪˈfreʃ.ɪŋ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** refreshments
**Verbs:** refresh
**Adjectives:** refreshing

**ADJECTIVE**

**DIFFERENT**
[C1] different and interesting

**Dictionary examples:**
a refreshing change
It's refreshing to see a film that's so original.

**Learner example:**
Once you master the language quite well, listening to a news broadcast is a refreshing challenge that may require some serious concentration on your behalf.

**FEEL BETTER**
[C1] making you feel less hot or tired

**Dictionary example:**
a refreshing shower/swim

**Learner example:**
Last summer, I got a chance to visit there, and my breath was taken away by its soft sand, refreshing breeze, flocks of seagulls and poetic sunsets.

**refuge** /ˈref.juːdʒ/

**NOUN**
[C2] [u] protection from danger or unpleasant conditions

**Dictionary example:**
We took refuge from the storm in an old barn.
Learner example:
From the very moment when people from GDR started to take refuge in the BRD’s embassy in Prague, my friend and I grew more and more excited.

**refugee /ˌref.jʊˈdʒiː/**

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] someone who has been forced to leave their country, especially because of a war

**Dictionary examples:**
a refugee camp
Thousands of refugees fled across the border.

**Learner example:**
This year I think I’d rather go to a refugee camp to organise a program for children.

**refund**

**VERB [T] /riːˈfʌnd/**
[C1] to give back money that someone has paid to you

**Dictionary example:**
They refunded the cost of our tickets.

**Learner example:**
For all these reasons, I’m sure you realise that I deserve at the very minimum to be refunded all the money I spent on the Trip and unless this is forthcoming I shall take the matter a step further.

**refusal /riˈfjuː.zəl/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** refusal
**Verbs:** refuse

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C1] when someone refuses to do or accept something

**Dictionary examples:**
Her refusal to cooperate didn’t help her case.
What shocked me was his complete refusal to admit his mistake.

**Learner example:**
The refusal of students [to use] the college canteen led to a demonstration that was held at the main entrance.
regain /rɪˈgeɪn/

VERB [r]
[B2] to get something back again

**Dictionary examples:**
The government has regained control of the capital.
It was several hours before he regained consciousness.

**Learner example:**
He regained his health in a month, and helped police to capture the loan gang.

regard /rɪˈgaːd/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** regard
**Adverbs:** regardless

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]

**CONSIDER**
[B2] to think of someone or something in a particular way

**Dictionary examples:**
She is generally regarded as one of the greatest singers this century.
The plans were regarded with deep suspicion.

**Learner example:**
Certainly, riding a bicycle is regarded as a healthy way of traveling and I do agree with it.

**as regards sth**
[B2] used to introduce a subject

**Dictionary example:**
As regards payment, you will receive £300 per week plus accommodation.

**Learner example:**
As regards accommodation, we would like to stay in a hotel or a Bed and Breakfast, not at a campsite.

**NOUN [u] FORMAL**

in/with regard to sth
[B2] FORMAL relating to something

**Dictionary example:**
I am writing with regard to your letter of 24 June.

**Learner example:**
I am writing to you with regard to the International Arts Festival that was held recently.
RESPECT
[C1] respect or admiration for someone

Dictionary example:
I have the greatest regard for her.

Learner example:
She is held in high regard by other employees.

regardless /rɪˈɡɑːd.əls/

Word family:
Verbs: regard
Adverbs: regardless

ADVERB
regardless of
[C1] without being affected or influenced by anything else that happens or exists

Dictionary example:
This job is open to all, regardless of previous experience.

Learner example:
People listen to music regardless of their age group or their social status.

[C2] without being stopped or influenced by something

Dictionary example:
Mr Redwood claimed he would carry on with his campaign regardless.

regime /rɪˈʒiːm/

NOUN [C]
[C2] a system of government or other control, especially one that people do not approve of

Dictionary example:
the former Communist regime

Learner example:
To my mind this film is highly recommendable to Germans who want to learn more about their history and to everybody who wants to learn about the consequences of a totalitarian political regime.
**region /ˈriː.dʒən/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** region
- **Adjectives:** regional

**NOUN [c]**

-in the region of *sth*

[C1] approximately

**Dictionary example:**
It probably cost somewhere in the region of £900.

**Learner example:**
I am willing [to] pay rent in the region of £1000 to £1200 monthly.

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**regional /ˈriː.dʒənl/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** region
- **Adjectives:** regional

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] relating to a particular area in a country or the world

**Dictionary example:**
a regional accent/dialect

**Learner example:**
Among these events, you'll be able to visit the annual regional food festival, in which you'll enjoy some delicious meals [and] stupendous cakes.

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**register /ˈredʒ.ɪ.stər/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** registration, register
- **Verbs:** register

**VERB**

-SHOW A FEELING

[C2] [r] to show an opinion or feeling

**Dictionary example:**
People gathered to register their opposition to the plans.
Learner example:
Dear Sir, I would like to register my dissatisfaction and displeasure over my recent holiday organized by you.

NOUN

LANGUAGE STYLE

[C1] [c or u] the style of language, grammar, and words used in particular situations

Dictionary example:
a formal/informal register

regret /rɪˈɡret/

VERB [T] (−tt−)

SORRY TO SAY

[B2] FORMAL used to say that you are sorry that you have to tell someone about a situation

Dictionary examples:
We regret to inform you that the application has been refused.
The council regrets that the money is no longer available.

Learner example:
Dear editor, I regret to inform you about some untruthful information which was given in the last issue of your magazine.

NOUN [c or u]

[B2] a feeling of sadness about a situation, often something that you wish you had not done

Dictionary examples:
I left school at 16, but I've had a great life and I have no regrets.
My only regret is that we didn't invite James.
The manager expressed regret at the number of staff reductions.
It is with deep/great regret that I announce Steve Adam's resignation.

Learner example:
Anyway, it was too late for regrets.

regular /ˈreg.ju.ˈleɪt/
ADJECTIVE

SAME TIME/SPACE
[B2] repeated with the same amount of time or space between one thing and the next

Dictionary examples:
I suggested that we meet on a regular basis.
Plant the seedlings at regular intervals.

Learner example:
I'm willing to take care of your telescopes and to carry out a service on them at regular intervals so that they will work perfectly for many years.

regulate /ˈreg.jə.lət/

Word family:
Nouns: regulation
Verbs: regulate

VERB [T]

ACTIVITY/PROCESS
[C1] to control an activity or process, especially by using rules

Dictionary example:
laws regulating advertising

Learner example:
I think in the near future we will find a way to regulate and control the internet and prevent criminals from using it.

SPEED/TEMPERATURE
[C1] to control the speed, temperature, etc. of something

Dictionary example:
Babies find it difficult to regulate their body temperature.

Learner example:
I expressed a wish to the driver to regulate the temperature, but he was extremely rude to me as well as to other passengers.

regulation /ˌreg.jʊˈleɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: regulation
Verbs: regulate

1934
NOUN

RULE

[B2] [c] an official rule that controls how something is done

Dictionary examples:
building/safety/traffic regulations
There are various rules and regulations governing the procedure.

Learner example:
I would like the government to impose strict rules and regulations on capturing animals.

CONTROL

[C1] [u] when a process or activity is controlled

Dictionary example:
government regulation of interest rates

Learner example:
Proper regulation of program contents, monitoring children's time watching television and using television as a media to promote other leisure activities are factors which could reduce but at the same time make [more] efficient the time spent in front of the television.

rehearsal /ˈrɪhəsəl/

Word family:
Nouns: rehearsal
Verbs: rehearse

NOUN [C or U]

[B2] a time when all the people involved in a play, dance, etc. practise in order to prepare for a performance

Dictionary example:
We only had one rehearsal before the show.

Learner example:
I helped to organise the rehearsals of the different group[s] who were going to play in the concert.

rehearse /ˈrɪhəs/
Dictionary example:
We usually rehearse on Wednesdays.

Learner example:
I can’t count how many nights I spent studying and studying for difficult exams, rehearsing for presentation[s] and so on.

reign /reɪn/

NOUN
[C1] [c] a period of time when a king or queen rules a country

Dictionary example:
the reign of Henry VIII

Learner example:
If I had the incredible opportunity to travel back in time and place, I would probably choose to go to Egypt during the reign of the Pharaohs to gain an insight [into] how this magical place really was so long ago.

VERB [I]

KING/QUEEN
[C2] to be the king or queen of a country

Dictionary example:
Queen Victoria reigned for 64 years.

Learner example:
I would be most of my free time playing with them, making them feel I am their friend not the king who has to reign over his land and posses[s]ions.

MAIN FEELING/QUALITY
[C2] formal to be the main feeling or quality in a situation

Dictionary example:
Chaos reigned as angry protesters hammered on the doors.

Learner example:
Terror reigned during our singing courses.

reinforce /ˌriː.ɪnˈfɔːs/

VERB [T]

OPINION
[C1] to make an existing opinion, feeling or idea stronger
Dictionary example:
His behaviour merely reinforced my dislike of him.

Learner example:
The first unfavourable impression was reinforced the moment we arrived at the hotel.

**OBJECT**
[C2] to make something stronger

**Dictionary examples:**
a security door reinforced *by/with* steel bars
reinforced concrete

**Learner example:**
If it is not possible, could not we get some money to be able to protect ourselves better against this unbearable noise, by reinforcing our windows.

| reject | /rɪˈdʒekt/ |

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** rejection

**Verbs:** reject

**VERB [T]**

**NOT ACCEPT**

[B2] to refuse to accept or agree with something

**Dictionary examples:**
The United States government rejected the proposal.
The appeal was rejected by the High Court.
The prime minister rejected the suggestion that it was time for him to resign.

**Learner example:**
[S]he rejected the proposal for a long, long time, [but] she finally married the Crown Prince 6 years ago.

**JOB/COURSE**

[B2] to refuse to accept someone for a job, course, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
She applied to Cambridge University but was rejected.
He applied for a job as a chef, but he was rejected.

**PERSON**

[B2] to not give someone the love or attention they were expecting

**Dictionary example:**
She felt rejected by her husband.
Learner example:
"So you're Michael, the mis-understood artist, rejected by his family and friends," the man growled.

rejection /riˈdʒekʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: rejection
Verbs: reject

NOUN
NOT ACCEPT
[C2] [c or u] when you refuse to accept or agree with something

Dictionary example:
Their rejection of the peace plan is very disappointing for the government.

Learner example:
As a consequence, unemployment can lead to rejection of social and economic order and cause strikes, demonstrations and other forms of social dissatisfaction.

JOB/COLLEGE
[C2] [c] a letter that says you have not been successful in getting a job, a place at college, etc

Dictionary example:
I've sent off ten applications but I've only had rejections so far.

PERSON
[C2] [u] when someone does not get the love, attention or success they were expecting

Dictionary example:
a feeling of rejection

Learner example:
One would say she was a true Rapunzel, and oh, how he wanted to climb up to her; but fear of rejection made him completely motionless.

relate /rəˈleɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: relation, relationship, relative
Verbs: relate
Adjectives: related, relative, unrelated
Adverbs: relatively
VERB

CONNECT

[C2] [ɪ or ɪː] to be connected, or to find or show the connection between two or more things

Dictionary example:
How do the two proposals relate?

Learner example:
They relate in no way to what an actor contributes to a project.

TELL

[C2] [tɛl] FORMAL to tell a story or describe a series of events

Dictionary example:
He related the story of their journey.

Learner example:
It relates the story of Clément Mathieu, who is a supply teacher.

related /rɪˈleɪtɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: relation, relationship, relative
Verbs: relate
Adjectives: related, relative, unrelated
Adverbs: relatively

ADJECTIVE

FAMILY

[B2] If people are related, they belong to the same family.

Dictionary examples:
Of course Elise and Linda are related to each other – they’re cousins.
We're related by marriage only.

Learner example:
Although they're related to each other, they have rather different characters.

CONNECTED

[B2] connected

Dictionary examples:
We discussed unemployment and related issues.
There's been an increase in criminal activity related to drugs.

Learner example:
It is also related to my research project.
relation /rɪˈleɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: relation, relationship, relative
Verbs: relate
Adjectives: related, relative, unrelated
Adverbs: relatively

NOUN

relations
[B2] the way in which two people or groups of people feel and behave towards each other

Dictionary examples:
Relations between the couple are said to be strained. Britain enjoys friendly relations with Canada.

Learner example:
The second [film] is 'Alice' directed by the world's most respected man within the movie business – of course Woody Allen. Again the good old fellow is totally fascinated by people in general, human relations and reactions.

CONNECTION
[B2] [c or u] a connection between two or more things

Dictionary example:
The relation between smoking and lung cancer is well established.

Learner example:
Another drawback is the relation between space and time.

in relation to sth
[B2] when compared with something

Dictionary example:
Salaries are low in relation to the cost of living.

Learner example:
I think television has several advantages but also disadvantages in relation to books.

in relation to sth
[B2] about or relating to something

Dictionary example:
I'd like to ask you something in relation to what you said earlier.

Learner example:
In relation to last month's social program, the sightseeing tour of London was d[j]vine, although we didn't get to see the entire city.
**relationship /rɪˈleɪ.ʃənʃɪp/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** relation, relationship, relative

**Verbs:** relate

**Adjectives:** related, relative, unrelated

**Adverbs:** relatively

**NOUN [C]**

**CONNECTION**

[B2] the way in which two things are connected

**Dictionary example:**
the relationship between sunburn and skin cancer

**Learner example:**
The relationship between mind and body has been proved by scientists.

---

**relative /ˈrel.eɪ.tɪv/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** relation, relationship, relative

**Verbs:** relate

**Adjectives:** related, relative, unrelated

**Adverbs:** relatively

**ADJECTIVE FORMAL**

**MEASURED**

[C1] being judged or measured in comparison with something else

**Dictionary examples:**
the relative prosperity of the West
We weighed up the relative advantages of driving there or going by train.

**Learner example:**
In order to get myself clear let me tell you that as an individual, I consider myself a dreamer and in the transition from my late teens to my relative maturity I’ve considered the words of Hesse in his novel "Gertrude": "The difference between our youth and maturity is that in the first stage we are selfish in all our feelings and actions, while in maturity our top priority is everyon[e] else but [ourselves]..."

**relative to sth**

[C2] when compared to something else

**Dictionary example:**
The economy has been declining relative to other countries.
**Learner example:**
This seems true at first sight but when one takes into account the different sizes of population, it becomes clear that every country is more or less equally successful relative to its population.

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<tr>
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**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** relation, relationship, relative
- **Verbs:** relate
- **Adjectives:** related, relative, unrelated
- **Adverbs:** relatively

**ADVERB**

relatively good/bad/cheap, etc.

[B2] quite good/bad/cheap, etc. when compared to other similar things

**Dictionary examples:**
Eating out is relatively cheap.
Students will find the course relatively easy.

**Learner example:**
First of all, the most favorable time for me to travel is July, because I am in the final year of University, so I have to attend classes for a thesis almost throughout the year apart from July, when I can take a relatively long summer holiday.

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**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** relaxation
- **Verbs:** relax
- **Adjectives:** relaxed, relaxing

**VERB [I or T]**

**LESS STIFF**

[C1] If a part of your body relaxes, it becomes less stiff, and if you relax it, you make it become less stiff.

**Dictionary example:**
Try these exercises to relax your neck muscles.
relaxed /rɪˈlækst/

Word family:
Nouns: relaxation
Verbs: relax
Adjectives: relaxed, relaxing

ADJECTIVE

SITUATION
[B2] A relaxed situation or place is comfortable and informal.

Dictionary example:
There was a very relaxed atmosphere at the party.

Learner example:
I love this place because [it] has a relaxed atmosp[h]ere and all the staff [are] very friendly.

release /rɪˈliːs/

VERB [Y]

MAKE FREE
[B2] to allow a prisoner to be free

Dictionary examples:
Six hostages were released shortly before midday.
He was released from prison last week.

Learner example:
It all began when I was released from jail, after a two year conviction [for] jewel theft.

RECORD/FILM
[B2] to make a record or film available for people to buy or see

Dictionary example:
The band’s latest album will be released next week.

Learner example:
He has recently released a new CD on which he spent a lot of time and real[l]y made an effort.

INFORMATION
[C1] to let the public have news or information about something

Dictionary examples:
Police have not released the dead woman's name.
The minister has released a statement explaining the reasons for his resignation.
Learner example:
The article made some valid points, such as the contradictory studies being released on a regular basis being the foundation of much confusion and that we should eat what we want, with a little commonsense of course.

SUBSTANCE

[C1] to let a substance flow out from somewhere

Dictionary example:
Dangerous chemicals were accidentally released into the river.

Learner example:
The gases released encourage the greenhouse effect, and it is possible to see a heavy smog floating over the city [on] some winter days.

NOUN

[B2] [c] a musical recording which is made available for the public to buy

Dictionary example:
Her latest release, a song about doomed love, she wrote herself.

Learner example:
[This department store] provide[s] the latest cds and dvds, so you are always up to date and never miss new releases.

MAKING FREE

[C1] [u NO PLURAL] when someone is allowed to leave prison, etc.

Dictionary example:
Her early release from prison led to a demonstration.

AREA/ATMOSPHERE

[C1] [u] when a substance is allowed to spread into the area or atmosphere around it

Dictionary example:
the release of toxic waste

Learner example:
In such a way we can minimise the impact of [the] deadly release of radio-active materials.

relentless /rɪˈlent.ləs/

Word family:
Adjectives: relentless
Adverbs: relentlessly

ADJECTIVE

[C2] never stopping or getting any less extreme
Dictionary example:
relentless criticism

Learner example:
We have come to the end of a millennium of accelerating and relentless destruction of the environment.

relentlessly /riˈlent.ləs.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: relentless
Adverbs: relentlessly

ADVERB
[C2] in a way that never stops or never gets less extreme

Dictionary example:
They pestered her relentlessly to take them to the seaside.

Learner example:
After the killing of the two sensible members of the group, namely Piggy and Simon, Ralph is relentlessly pursued by Jack.

relevance /ˈrel.ə.vənts/

Word family:
Nouns: relevance
Adjectives: relevant

NOUN [u]
[C1] the degree to which something is related or useful to what is happening or being talked about

Dictionary example:
This point has no relevance to the discussion.

Learner example:
One may agree with what has been said or not, but nobody can deny the relevance of the issue, as our future society depends on our present educational system.

relevant /ˈrel.ə.vənt/

Word family:
Nouns: relevance
Adjectives: relevant
ADJECTIVE
[B2] related or useful to what is happening or being talked about

Dictionary examples:
relevant information
Education should be relevant to children’s needs.

Learner example:
I had studied psychology but I couldn’t find a job relevant to my studies.

reliability /rɪˈlaɪərəbɪləti/

Word family:
Nouns: reliability, reliance, self-reliance
Verbs: rely
Adjectives: reliable, unreliable, reliant, self-reliant

NOUN [u]
[C1] how reliable something is

Dictionary example:
I can’t vouch for the reliability of these figures.

Learner example:
Our customers appreciate in particular the reliability of our products and most of them are prepared to pay a premium price for a high-quality product.

reliance /rɪˈlaɪəns/

Word family:
Nouns: reliability, reliance, self-reliance
Verbs: rely
Adjectives: reliable, unreliable, reliant, self-reliant

NOUN

reliance on sb/sth
[C2] when someone or something depends on someone or something else

Dictionary example:
our increasing reliance on computers

Learner example:
The fact that this heavy reliance on technology is often overlooked is a growing source of concern among experts.
reliant /rɪˈlaɪ.ənt/

Word family:
Nouns: reliability, reliance, self-reliance
Verbs: rely
Adjectives: reliable, unreliable, reliant, self-reliant

ADJECTIVE

be reliant on sb/sth
[C2] to depend on someone or something

Dictionary example:
I don't want to be reliant on anybody.

Learner example:
To conclude one can say that the person should be able to operate on his own and be reliant on himself.

relief /rɪˈliːf/

Word family:
Nouns: relief
Verbs: relieve
Adjectives: relieved

NOUN

GOOD FEELING
[B2] [U NO PLURAL] the good feeling that you have when something unpleasant stops or does not happen

Dictionary examples:
It'll be such a relief when these exams are over.
"James can come tonight." "Well, that's a relief!"
I felt such a sense of relief when we finished the project.

Learner example:
She heard a[n] ambulance siren [in] the distance and with a sigh of relief, she lost consciousness.

LESS PAIN
[C2] [U] when something stops hurting you

Dictionary example:
I'd been trying to sleep to find relief from the pain.

HELP
[C2] [U] money, food, or clothes that are given to people because they need help
Dictionary example:
an international relief operation

Learner example:
In our opinion it is not necessary to practise low-flying because you should take into account that we all live in peace time and the money would be better spent on health or relief agencies.

relieve  /rɪˈliːv/

Word family:
Nouns: relief
Verbs: relieve
Adjectives: relieved

VERB [T]
FROM PAIN
[C2] to make pain or a bad feeling less severe

Dictionary example:
Breathing exercises can help to relieve stress.

Learner example:
Now science gets the blame for being able to do so much, but not enough to relieve the psychological pain.

relieved  /rɪˈliːvd/

Word family:
Nouns: relief
Verbs: relieve
Adjectives: relieved

ADJECTIVE
[B2] happy that something unpleasant has not happened or has ended

Dictionary examples:
I'm just relieved that she's safe and well.
I heard a noise and was relieved to find that it was only a cat.

Learner example:
She actually felt extremely relieved.
religulous /'rɛlɪdʒəs/

Word family:
Nouns: religion
Adjectives: religious

ADJECTIVE

OF RELIGION

[B2] relating to religion

Dictionary examples:
religious education
religious paintings

Learner example:
Last but not least, I think people need religious and spiritual support and [the] family has to be protected and preserved.

PERSON

[B2] having a strong belief in a religion

Dictionary examples:
He's a very religious man.
They are both deeply religious.

Learner example:
The majority of us are Catholics or very religious.

relish /'rel.ɪʃ/

VERB [T]

[C2] to enjoy something

Dictionary example:
I don't relish the thought of a twelve-hour flight.

Learner example:
But as we gradually grow up and turn into adults, the dependence lessens and we relish our freedom.

NOUN

ENJOYMENT

[C2] [u] enjoyment

Dictionary example:
He had baked a cake which the children now ate with relish.
Learner example:
My expert knowledge of the latter subject was completely ignored, which left me with the former, the most dreaded of all subjects. This was discussed with relish and the operations were described in such vivid detail that I had to excuse myself and leave the room, because I started to feel faint.

SAUCE
[C2] [c] a sauce that you put on food to give it more taste

Dictionary example:
I ate the burger with some relish.

Learner example:
There are trays of cut lettuce, leaf lettuce, cut tomato, diced tomato, all kinds of relishes, cheese with bacon spread, barbecue, or whatever you like.

relocate /ˌriːloʊˈkɛrt/  

Word family:  
Nouns: location  
Verbs: locate, relocate

VERB [I or T]  
[C1] to move to another place  

Dictionary example:  
The company relocated to Tokyo.

Learner example:  
Well, as you know I was looking for a new job and for that reason I had to relocate to London in November.

reluctant /rɪˈlʌk.tənt/  

Word family:  
Adjectives: reluctant  
Adverbs: reluctantly

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] not wanting to do something  

Dictionary example:  
Many victims of crime are reluctant to go to the police.

Learner example:  
However, Spanish husbands are very reluctant to share the housework.
reluctantly  /rɪˈlʌkt.ənt.ly/

Word family:
Adjectives: reluctant
Adverbs: reluctantly

ADVERB
[C1] in a reluctant way

Dictionary example:
She reluctantly agreed to step down as managing director.

Learner example:
Reluctantly I am forced to mention that my interpreter’s fee should be at least doubled.

relax /rɪˈlaɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: reliability, reliance, self-reliance
Verbs: rely
Adjectives: reliable, unreliable, reliant, self-reliant

VERB
rely on/upon sb/sth PHRASAL VERB

NEED
[B2] to need someone or something in order to be successful, work correctly, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Families rely more on women’s earnings than before.
The success of this project relies on everyone making an effort.

Learner example:
Another thing is that people rely on modern medicine more and more.

TRUST
[B2] to trust someone or something

Dictionary examples:
I know I can rely on you to help me.
British weather can never be relied on.

Learner example:
People rely on me as I always keep my promises.
remain  /riˈmeɪn/

Word family:
Nouns: remains
Verbs: remain
Adjectives: remaining

VERB

remain a secret/mystery, etc.
[B2] to continue to be a secret/mystery, etc.

Dictionary examples:
The exact date of the wedding remains a secret.
The true location of the treasure remains a mystery.

Learner example:
The tragic death of Pat Johnson was a fact.... Her secret remained a secret.

remain at/in/with, etc.
[B2] FORMAL to stay in the same place

Dictionary examples:
She will remain at her mother’s until I return.
The doctor ordered him to remain in bed for a few days.

Learner example:
Max went with me while the others remained in the room.

CONTINUE TO EXIST
[B2] [I] to continue to exist, especially after other things or people have gone

Dictionary examples:
Only a few hundred of these animals remain today.
After the flood, nothing remained of the village.

Learner example:
Of course, India must have changed a lot since Jules Verne wrote his book, but I think that its charm remains.

remaining  /riˈmeɪ.nɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: remains
Verbs: remain
Adjectives: remaining

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[B2] continuing to exist when other things or people have gone or been dealt with
Dictionary example:
Mix in half the butter and keep the remaining 50g for later.

Learner example:
So I decided to do nothing for the remaining week. I stayed at the beach and spent time swimming, reading and relaxing.

remains /rəˈmeɪnz/

Word family:
Nouns: remains
Verbs: remain
Adjectives: remaining

NOUN [PLURAL]
[B2] pieces or parts of something which continue to exist when most of it has been used, destroyed or taken away

Dictionary examples:
The remains of lunch were still on the table.
We visited the remains of a 12th-century monastery.

Learner example:
With old castles, historical remains, [and] wonderful views, it seems to be extremely interesting.

remark /rɪˈmaːk/

Word family:
Nouns: remark
Verbs: remark
Adjectives: remarkable
Adverbs: remarkably

VERB [r]
[B2] to say something that shows your opinion or states a fact

Dictionary examples:
He remarked that she was looking thin.
She remarked on how attractive he was.

Learner example:
Besides, as Chris remarked, this route may be very difficult.

NOUN [c]
[B2] something that you say, showing your opinion about something or stating a fact
Dictionary examples:
He **made** a remark about her clothes.
Her remarks **on** the employment question led to a heated discussion.

**Learner example:**
The man was surprised at her remark and double-checked it reluctantly.

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<th>remarkable</th>
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**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] very unusual or noticeable in a way that you admire

**Dictionary examples:**
He is a truly remarkable man.
He has a remarkable memory.

**Learner example:**
It is a remarkable piece of literature, which portrays deep feelings of love and hate, depicts strong and unique characters, [and] reveals eternal concerns with good and bad, life and death.

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**ADVERB**

[C1] in a way that makes you feel surprised

**Dictionary example:**
She has remarkably good skin for her age.

**Learner example:**
As for your flight attendants, who are always friendly and remarkably helpful, it would be excellent if they were able to speak other languages apart from English.

1954
remedy /ˈrem.ə.di/

**NOUN [c]**

**FOR AN ILLNESS**

[B2] something that makes you better when you are ill

**Dictionary examples:**
a flu remedy
an effective herbal remedy for headaches

**Learner example:**
But it is [debatable] [whether] animals are held to widen our human understanding and to create new remedies to cure people from illnesses or if they are [kept] just to amuse people.

**FOR A PROBLEM**

[B2] something that solves a problem

**Dictionary example:**
The remedy for the traffic problem is to encourage people to use public transport.

**Learner example:**
You should give your deputy more work, and have more free time, which I think is the best remedy in you[r] case.

reminder /rɪˈmaɪn.dər/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** reminder

**Verbs:** remind

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] something that makes you remember something else

**Dictionary example:**
If he forgot to pay his rent, his landlady would send him a reminder.

**Learner example:**
"Time is precious" is not interpreted as "carpe diem", but rather as a constant reminder of all our duties, that should be done in as little time as possible to prove ourselves effective.

remorse /rɪˈmɔːs/

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the feeling that you are sorry for something bad that you have done
**Dictionary example:**
He has **shown** no remorse **for** his actions.

**Learner example:**
At first she thought someone wanted her to feel remorse for not being with her husband when he needed her.

---

**remote** /ɪˈməʊt/  
**ADJECTIVE**  
**FAR AWAY**
[B2] far away

**Dictionary examples:**
It was a remote mountain village with no electricity supply.  
His voice sounded remote.

**Learner example:**
She grew up in a remote area in the North East of Thailand.

**TIME**
[C2] far in time

**Dictionary example:**
in the remote past

**Learner example:**
Understanding leads to tolerance, which is absolutely necessary in order to save old customs, tradition[s] or even primitive tribes whose ideas might seem very remote to us.

**SLIGHT**
[C2] slight

**Dictionary example:**
There is a remote **possibility** that it could be cancer.

**Learner example:**
While it seemed only a remote possibility, she regarded it as a game she would like, and had the right to, play.

---

**remove** /ɪˈmuːv/  
**Word family:**
**Nouns:** movement  
**Verbs:** move, remove  
**Adjectives:** moving
**VERB [T]**

**TAKE OFF**

[B2] to take something off

Dictionary examples:
Liz removed her jacket and hung it on a chair.
Carefully remove the lid, then stir the paint.

Learner example:
After, I was drenched to the skin and I had to remove all my clothes before going into the restaurant, I let you imagine how ashamed I was when I went into the restaurant completely naked!

**JOB**

[C2] FORMAL to make someone stop doing their job

Dictionary example:
He had been removed from his job on medical grounds.

**be far removed from sth**

[C2] to be very different from something

Dictionary example:
The princess's world was far removed from reality.

Learner example:
It is the same problem with planned excursions to street markets in Asia, souks in Arabia or even tribes that are far removed from industrialized life in Papua New Guinea or the rainforest of Brazil.

**render** /ˈren.dər/  

**VERB [T]** FORMAL

**GIVE**

[C1] to give someone a decision, opinion, help, etc

Dictionary example:
payment for services rendered

Learner example:
Finally, the students have only a 5% discount for the services rendered by the arts centre in contrast to the fact that we agreed initially that a 10% discount would be more adequate.

**CAUSE TO BE**

[C2] to cause something or someone to be in a particular state or condition
Dictionary examples:
The trees rendered the road as dark as a tunnel.
She was rendered speechless upon hearing the news.

Learner example:
Inadequate medical care coupled with inevitable worsening of constitution, which is a usual concomitant of an elderly age, renders the old exposed to illnesses and injuries which may wreak havoc with their lives.

renew /rɪˈnjuː/

Word family:
Nouns: renewal
Verbs: renew
Adjectives: renewable

VERB [T]
[B2] to arrange to continue an official agreement that was going to end soon

Dictionary examples:
I've decided not to renew my membership of the tennis club this year.
I forgot to renew my season ticket.

Learner example:
As I had never been abroad before, I hurriedly went to an office where we can apply for a passport or renew it.

renewable /rɪˈnjuː.ə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: renewal
Verbs: renew
Adjectives: renewable

ADJECTIVE

ENERGY
[C1] A renewable form of energy can be produced as quickly as it is used.

Dictionary example:
a renewable energy source such as wind power

Learner example:
But the use of renewable energy sources is always a challenge.

OFFICIAL AGREEMENT
[C2] A renewable official agreement is one that you can arrange to continue when the time limit is reached.
Dictionary example:
a 6-month renewable contract

Learner example:
This seemed like a good enough alternative, but last week I was overwhelmed by the proposal from the company I worked for in London, of going back and working for another 6-month renewable contract, on a shift basis.

renewal /ˈrɪˌnjuː.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: renewal
Verbs: renew
Adjectives: renewable

NOUN [C or U]

AGREEMENT
[C1] when you renew an agreement, contract, etc.

Dictionary example:
Their licence is up for renewal.

Learner example:
I suggest we negotiate a new agreement next year, when the current agreement will be due for renewal.

REPAIR/IMPROVE
[C2] the process of repairing and improving something

Dictionary example:
They have spent millions on the renewal of the rail system.

Learner example:
Like the farmer who carefully tends his plot of fertile land, we should make constructive use of our free time, so that we can reap the benefits of spiritual renewal and rejuvenation, and to fully enjoy the fruits of our labour.

renovate /ˈren.ə.vət/

Word family:
Nouns: renovation
Verbs: renovate

VERB [T]
[C1] to repair and decorate a building that is old and in bad condition
Dictionary example:
He has a business renovating old buildings.

Learner example:
We should also renovate the library and extend the opening hours.

renovation /ˌren.oʊˈveɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: renovation
Verbs: renovate

NOUN [u]
[C1] the act of repairing and decorating a building that is old and in bad condition

Dictionary example:
They spent all their savings on the renovation of an old cottage.

Learner example:
Dear Principal, In response to your memo, I am writing to provide you with some suggestions concerning the renovation of the Sports Centre, on behalf of the member of the student committee.

renowned /rɪˈnaʊnd/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] famous

Dictionary example:
The Lake District is renowned for its beauty.

Learner example:
Maria Sandoral is a talented young artist who, at the age of 23, has far more background than a lot of artists. [...] She is renowned for her restless attitude, and for her deep interest in the field.

reorganize /ˌriːˈɔːɡən.aɪz/

VERB [I or T] (also UK reorganise)
[C1] to organize something again in order to improve it

Dictionary example:
He’s completely reorganized his schedule for the week.
Learner example:
We must focus our programme more on cultural exchange and less on work; the students gained very little in this six weeks so we must reorganise this to improve the experience.

repair /rɪˈpeər/

VERB [T]

IMPRESS
[C2] to improve a bad situation

Dictionary example:
It will take a long time to repair relations between the two countries.

Learner example:
The German government was not able to repair the damage caused by the crisis.

NOUN [C or U]

be in good/bad repair
[C2] to be in good/bad condition

Dictionary example:
Most of the building is in very bad repair.

Learner example:
Cinemas and restaurants are necessary for all and we should also bear in mind that the existing sports facilities need renovation because they aren't in good repair.

repay /rɪˈpeɪ/ (repaid, repaid)

Word family:
Nouns: pay, payment
Verbs: pay, repay
Adjectives: payable, underpaid, unpaid

VERB [T]

MONEY
[B2] to pay back money that you have borrowed

Dictionary example:
He had to sell his car to repay the loan.

Learner example:
We could make a deal, so that I could repay my debts.
KINDNESS
[B2] to do something kind for someone who has done something to help you

Dictionary example:
What can I do to repay you for your kindness?

Learner example:
It's always a ple[a]sure to see you and I hope I'll be able to repay your hospitality if you ever come to visit us in Cambridge.

repeated /rɪˈpiː.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: repetition
Verbs: repeat
Adjectives: repeated, repetitive
Adverbs: repeatedly

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] done or happening more than once

Dictionary example:
He has refused repeated requests to be interviewed.

Learner example:
There were so many people and so many repeated questions and so much noise at home.

repeatedly /rɪˈpiː.tɪd.li/

Word family:
Nouns: repetition
Verbs: repeat
Adjectives: repeated, repetitive
Adverbs: repeatedly

ADVERB
[C1] many times

Dictionary examples:
He telephoned repeatedly, begging her to return.
The European Union has repeatedly stressed the importance of language learning.

Learner example:
Once you pick up the new words and learn something, you need to say it repeatedly otherwise you will easily forget [it].
repetition /ˌrep.ɪˈtɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: repetition
Verbs: repeat
Adjectives: repeated, repetitive
Adverbs: repeatedly

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] when something is repeated

Dictionary example:
We don't want a repetition of last year's disaster.

Learner example:
This could in fact lead to a repetition of the mistakes of the past, when the paralyzed United Nations were, due to the small number and influence of neutral countries, a mere bystander to the risky arms-race fought out between the two nuclear superpowers.

repetitive /rɪˈpet.ə.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: repetition
Verbs: repeat
Adjectives: repeated, repetitive
Adverbs: repeatedly

ADJECTIVE
[C1] doing or saying the same thing several times, especially in a way that is boring

Dictionary example:
a repetitive job

Learner example:
My grandparents used to say to my mum: "How can you wear it?! It hardly covers your b[o]ttom! When I was young..." (This is the beginning of a sentence when it starts to be little bit boring and extremely repetitive!)

replace /rɪˈpleɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: place, replacement, displacement
Verbs: place, replace, displace, misplace
VERB [r]

BE USED INSTEAD

[B2] to start to be used instead of the thing or person that is being used now

Dictionary examples:
This system will replace the old one.
Tourism has replaced agriculture as the nation's main industry.

Learner example:
We felt very disappointed when we discovered that Danny had been replaced by an unknown and really bad actor.

PUT BACK

[C2] FORMAL to put something back in the place where it usually is

Dictionary example:
She picked up the books and carefully replaced them on the shelf.

Learner example:
Jane jumped up and carefully replaced the photo on the desk.

replacement /rɪˈplərs.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: place, replacement, displacement
Verbs: place, replace, displace, misplace

NOUN

THING OR PERSON

[B2] [c] the thing or person that replaces something or someone

Dictionary examples:
The agency sent a replacement for the secretary who resigned.
It's not going to be easy to find a replacement for you.

Learner example:
But the people responsible for the concert did their best to find [a] replacement.

PROCESS

[C1] [u] the process of replacing something with something else

Dictionary examples:
the replacement of existing computer equipment
replacement windows

Learner example:
But by using much larger desks, we will be able to use the equipment more efficiently and this will reduce the cost for the replacement of broken equipment.
reportedly  /rɪˈpɔː.tɪd.li/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** reporter

**Verbs:** report

**Adverbs:** reportedly

**ADVERB**

[C2] If something has reportedly happened or is reportedly a fact, people say it has happened or is true.

**Dictionary example:**
Two students were reportedly killed and several wounded.

**Learner example:**
Some types of birds have reportedly become extinct in the area.

represent  /ˌrep.rɪˈzent/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** representative, representation

**Verbs:** represent

**VERB [T]**

**BE**

[B2] to be equal to something

**Dictionary examples:**
In practice the figure represents a 10% pay cut.
The cancellation of the new road project represents a victory for protesters.

**Learner example:**
It [means] rec[y]cling 90% of the office material that we usually use. This represents a profit to the company which [would be] given to the employees, so they are motivated.

**COMPETITION**

[B2] to be the person from a country, school, etc. that is in a competition

**Dictionary example:**
He was chosen to represent France at the Olympics.

**Learner example:**
I was very fond of swimming so I was glad that I was the one to be picked to represent my swimming team at that particular comp[e]tition.

**BE SYMBOL**

[B2] to be a sign or symbol of something
**Dictionary example:**
The crosses on the map represent churches.

**Learner example:**
I think the sea represents life and the sacrifice[s] we [make].

**SPEAK/ACT FOR**

[C2] to officially speak or do something for someone else because they have asked you to

**Dictionary examples:**
The union represents over 200 employees.
They chose a famous lawyer to represent them.

**Learner example:**
We hereby inform you that we have subsequently commen[c]ed proceedings aimed at hiring a la[wy]er to represent our party in court, should such a step be necessary.

**SHOW**

[C2] to show someone or something in a particular way, especially when this is done to influence other people's opinions

**Dictionary example:**
In the article, they were represented as evil exploiters of children.

**Learner example:**
Piggy, one of the main characters of the book Lord of the Flies, by William Golding, is represented as the typical fat boy with glasses.

representation /ˌrep.rɪ.zenˈteɪ.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** representative, representation
**Verbs:** represent

**NOUN**

**SHOWING**

[C2] the way someone or something is shown

**Dictionary example:**
an accurate representation of country life

**Learner example:**
Mildred is an establishment pet, the representation of the current society they are living in.

**SPEAKING FOR**

[C2] speaking or doing something officially for another person
Dictionary example:
Can he afford legal representation?

Learner example:
An old politician whose name I do not recall once said "Taxation without representation is tyranny" – nowadays this concept might be extended to corruption itself.

**representative /ˌrep.rɪˈzen.tə.tɪv/**

Word family:
Nouns: representative, representation
Verbs: represent

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] someone who speaks or does something officially for another person or group of people

Dictionary example:
The firm has two representatives in every European city.

Learner example:
Dear Mr Robertson, My name is ... and I am a student representative.

**reproach /rɪˈpraʊtʃ/**

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C2] criticism of someone, especially for not being successful or not doing what is expected

Dictionary examples:
There was a hint of reproach in his voice.
The article gave the impression that the teachers were above/beyond reproach.

Learner example:
Before they turned off the light, he saw disappointment and reproach in their eyes.

**VERB [T]**
[C2] to criticize someone for not being successful or not doing what is expected

Dictionary example:
You've no reason to reproach yourself.

Learner example:
I know I shouldn't reproach myself for not giving her money.
**reproduce** /ˌriːprəˈdjuːs/

Word family:
Nouns: producer, product, production, productivity, reproduction
Verbs: produce, reproduce
Adjectives: productive, unproductive

**VERB**

COPY
[C1] to make a copy of something

Dictionary example: The diagram is reproduced by permission of the original author.
Learner example: MIS operates two computers, one for word processing and another for scanning and reproducing prints, drawings and photos.

REPEAT
[C1] to repeat something so that it is the same as before

Dictionary examples: The new design unfortunately reproduced some of the problems of the earlier model. We were unable to reproduce the results of our earlier research.
Learner example: I overcame this by listening to tapes and by trying to reproduce the native speaker's sounds and stresses.

PRODUCE YOUNG
[C2] If people, animals, or plants reproduce, they produce babies or young animals or plants.

Dictionary example: These organisms reproduce by dividing.
Learner example: Primitive man had a few aims in life like to be born, to reproduce and die, and among them there were two other important priorities, to hunt and to eat.

**reproduction** /ˌriː.prəˈdʌk.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: producer, product, production, productivity, reproduction
Verbs: produce, reproduce
Adjectives: productive, unproductive

1968
COPY
[C1] a copy of something, especially a painting

Dictionary example:
The picture is a reproduction of a Manet.

Learner example:
It would be great if the park provided some flight simulators and a reproduction of a space shuttle (so that people get a feeling of how it is to be an astronaut).

YOUNG
[C2] the process of producing babies or young animals and plants

Dictionary example:
We are learning about reproduction in biology.

Learner example:
What will happen if we live longer but we don't slow down the reproduction of our species?

reptile  /ˈrep.təl/

NOUN [c]
[C1] an animal which produces eggs and uses the heat of the sun to keep its blood warm

Dictionary example:
Tom liked the reptiles, especially the snakes and the lizards.

Learner example:
Even though the northern part of Italy has undergone rapid industrialisation, there remain large areas of wild uninhabited ground where a great number of wild animals (birds, reptiles, large mammals) can live.

republic  /rɪˈpʌb.lɪk/

NOUN [c]
[C1] a country with no king or queen but with an elected government

Dictionary example:
France is a republic.

Learner example:
Unfortunately in ancient Greece, although the notion of the republic and democracy were invented and quite successfully developed there, not being a noble citizen could be cruelly disappointing and painful.
reputable /ˈrep.jə.tə.bl/  

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** reputation  
**Adjectives:** reputable

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] known to be good and honest  

**Dictionary example:**

a reputable organization

**Learner example:**

I believe such a reputable company [as] you[rs] will not refuse to accept the responsibilities and prompt action will be taken in due course.

reputation /ˌrep.jʊˈteɪ.ʃən/  

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** reputation  
**Adjectives:** reputable

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] the opinion that people have about someone or something based on their behaviour or character in the past

**Dictionary examples:**

The company has a worldwide reputation for quality.  
Both hotels have a good reputation.  
He quickly earned a reputation as an entertaining speaker.

**Learner example:**

My country has a great reputation for food.

require /rɪˈkwaɪər/  

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** requirement  
**Verbs:** require

**VERB [T]**

**require sb to do sth**

[B2] FORMAL to officially demand that someone does something

**Dictionary example:**

You are required by law to produce a valid passport.
Learner example:
It may occur in the future that they are required to possess[3] knowledge of something they didn’t study at school in order to get a job.

requirement /riˈkwɛrə.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: requirement
Verbs: require

NOUN [C]
[B2] something that you must do, or something you need

Dictionary examples:
A good degree is a minimum requirement for many jobs.
Valid insurance is a legal requirement.
Students who fail to meet the requirements of the course will fail.
college entrance requirements

Learner example:
If you have any more requirements, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

rescue /ˈres.kjuː/

NOUN [C or U]

come to the/sb’s rescue
[C2] to help someone who is in a difficult situation

Dictionary example:
I forgot my purse but Anna came to the rescue and lent me some money.

research

Word family:
Nouns: research, researcher
Verbs: research

VERB [I or T] /riˈseɪtʃ/ [B2] to study a subject in detail or to try to find information about a subject

Dictionary examples:
He spent several years researching a rare African dialect.
She’s researching possible cures for malaria.
He went online to research flights and hotels.

1971
**Learner example:**
I had to write an article [called] Protect our Environment so I researched and studied a lot about it using [the] Internet and [the] library to find suitable details.

**researcher** /ˌrɪˈsɜːtʃ.ər/  
**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** research, researcher  
**Verbs:** research  

**NOUN [c]**  
[B2] someone who does research as a job  
**Dictionary example:**  
Researchers uncovered new facts about his family.  
**Learner example:**  
As researchers find out more about animals, we learn more about them and because of this we learn more about the world.

**resemblance** /ˌrɪˈzem.bləns/  
**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** resemblance  
**Verbs:** resemble  

**NOUN [c or u]**  
[C2] a similarity between two people or things, especially in their appearance  
**Dictionary example:**  
There's a striking resemblance between Diane and her mother.  
**Learner example:**  
I must admit that Dick has a strong resemblance to Neolithic Man, but everyone loves him because he is so cheerful and talkative.  

**bear a/little/no, etc. resemblance to sth/sb**  
[C2] to be similar/not similar/somewhat similar, etc., to something or someone  
**Dictionary examples:**  
He bears a resemblance to someone I used to know.  
The city bears little resemblance to how it was 100 years ago.  
**Learner example:**  
The concert bore no resemblance to any other I have been to, firstly due to the location, and secondly thanks to the spontaneity, yet impressive precision of the performance – the two factors which created the unique atmosphere of the event.
**resemble**  /rɪˈzem.bl/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** resemblance
- **Verbs:** resemble

**VERB [T]**

[C1] to look like or be like someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
She resembles her father.
After the earthquake, the city resembled a battlefield.

**Learner example:**
However, the most representative Romanian resorts resemble the ones in the Alps and maybe even exceed them in the respect of popularity among all walks of life and affordability.

**resent**  /rɪˈzent/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** resentment
- **Verbs:** resent

**VERB [T]**

[C2] to feel angry and upset about a situation or about something that someone has done

**Dictionary examples:**
I resent having to work late.
He resents the fact that she gets more money than he does.

**Learner example:**
More specifically, my cousin’s husband and his family, neither of whom I knew very well, deeply resented this decision.

**resentment**  /rɪˈzent.mənt/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** resentment
- **Verbs:** resent

**NOUN [U]**

[C2] a feeling of anger about a situation that you think is unfair

**Dictionary example:**
If you treat your staff differently, it just causes resentment.
**Learner example:**
I was pleased by the variety of opinions presented; some of the writers expressed a blind faith that we can still learn from our previous mistakes, while others approached the subject with a surprising resentment of our past.

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### reservation /ˌrez.əˈver.ʃən/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** reservation
- **Verbs:** reserve

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#### NOUN

**DOUBT**

[C2] [c or u] a doubt or a feeling that you do not agree with something completely

**Dictionary example:**
I still have reservations about her ability to do the job.

**Learner example:**
When all my friends wanted to do something “naughty”, [like] ringing bells at people's home[s] and running away, I had reservations.

---

### reserve /riˈzɔːv/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** reservation
- **Verbs:** reserve

---

#### NOUN

**AREA**

[B2] [c] an area of land where animals and plants are protected

**Dictionary example:**
We visited a huge reserve in Kenya.

**Learner example:**
As soon as we reached Nakuru two days later, we entered the game reserve to have a look around before it got dark.

**SUPPLY**

[C2] [c] a supply of something that you keep until it is needed

**Dictionary example:**
emergency cash reserves
Learner example:
The dependence on oil is a menace because oil reserves will disappear and because at this time we have no other invention to replace it.

reserved /rɪˈzɜːvd/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] describes people who keep their feelings or thoughts private rather than showing them

Dictionary example:
Marcus is more reserved than his brother.

Learner example:
Mrs. James was a reserved and solitary person and she lived according to the way she wished to live.

residence /ˈrez.i.dəntʃəs/ FORMAL

Word family:
Nouns: resident, residence

Adjectives: residential, resident

NOUN [C]

BUILDING
[C2] a building where someone lives

Dictionary example:
the Governor’s official residence

Learner example:
The two episodes in the book 'The colour of blood' that I’ve decided to write about are Cardinal Benn and Prime Minister meeting at the official residence, and the fatal mass in honour to the blessed martyrs.

resident /ˈrez.i.dənt/ 

Word family:
Nouns: resident, residence

Adjectives: residential, resident

NOUN [C]

[B2] someone who lives in a particular place
Dictionary examples:
a resident of the UK/Australia
Local residents were angry at the lack of parking spaces.

Learner example:
We will have less anxious residents in cities, who will not hurry to go to work or will not be late home or at the office.

ADJECTIVE
[C1] living in a place

Dictionary example:
She has been resident in Britain for most of her life.

Learner example:
My name is ANA AMURRIO, born in Spain (Madrid) twenty four years ago, and resident in your country since July of [this] year.

residential /ˌrez.ɪˈdɛn.tʃəl/

Word family:
Nouns: resident, residence
Adjectives: residential, resident

ADJECTIVE
WHERE PEOPLE LIVE
[B2] A residential area has only houses and not offices or factories.

Dictionary example:
It's a largely residential area with one or two shops.

Learner example:
'Varta' is situated in a quiet residential area and could be called 'a family restaurant'.

COURSE/JOB
[C2] A residential course or job is one where you live at the same place as you study or work.

Dictionary example:
It's a residential course so I'll be away for a week.

resign /riːˈzɑːn/

Word family:
Nouns: resignation
Verbs: resign

1976
VERB [I or T]

LEAVE JOB
[B2] to officially tell your employer that you are leaving your job

Dictionary examples:
She resigned as headteacher.
Two directors have resigned from the company.

Learner example:
So Laura stepped into her boss'[s] office, wished him a Merry Christmas and resigned.

resignation /ˌrez.ɪgˈneɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: resignation
Verbs: resign

NOUN

LEAVE JOB
[C2] [c or u] when someone tells their employer that they are leaving their job

Dictionary examples:
a letter of resignation
I handed in my resignation yesterday.

Learner example:
She had been so proud of herself no more than five minutes ago walking out of the editor's office after handing him her letter of resignation.

ACCEPT
[C2] [u] when you accept something that you do not like because you cannot easily change it

Dictionary example:
She accepted her illness with calm resignation.

Learner example:
He sighed with resignation and got up.

resilience /rɪˈzɪl.i.ənts/

Word family:
Nouns: resilience
Adjectives: resilient
NOUN [u]
[C2] the quality of being resilient

Dictionary example:
She had the resilience to try again.

Learner example:
Their resilience had been pushed to the extreme and, but for their sheer longing for a child, they might have given up.

resilient /rɪˈzɪl.ɪ.ənt/

Word family:
Nouns: resilience
Adjectives: resilient

ADJECTIVE
[C2] strong enough to get better quickly after damage, disappointment, illness, shock, etc.

Dictionary example:
Growth figures show that the economy is still fairly resilient.

Learner example:
He could not stand the thought of staying away from Bill, he was not that resilient.

resist /rɪˈzɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: resistance
Verbs: resist
Adjectives: irresistible

VERB

NOT DO
[B2] [I or T] to stop yourself from doing something that you want to do

Dictionary examples:
I can't resist chocolate.
I just can't resist reading other people's mail.

Learner example:
How do we resist all these nice snacks, and stay slim?

FIGHT
[C1] [ɪ] to fight against something or someone that is attacking you
Dictionary example:
British troops resisted the attack for two days.

Learner example:
The Turkish ci[v]ilization was poorer than [the] Greek ci[v]ilisation and that is one more reason why [the] Greeks had to resist and fight their enemies.

resistance /riˈzɪstəntʃɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: resistance
Verbs: resist
Adjectives: irresistible

NOUN

DISAGREE
[C2] [u] when people disagree with a change, idea, etc. and refuse to accept it

Dictionary example:
resistance to political change

Learner example:
The only resistance comes from Jack, an aggressive and impetuous boy who places facts higher than speech[e]s.

FIGHT
[C2] [u] when someone fights against someone who is attacking them or competing against them

Dictionary example:
She didn't put up much resistance.

Learner example:
Their knowledge helped Hitler to prolong his resistance against the overwhelming superiority of the Allies.

ORGANIZATION
[C2] [NO PLURAL] an organization that secretly fights against an enemy that has taken control of its country

Dictionary example:
She was active in the resistance.

Learner example:
Despite the fact that [the] Germans were many and much more powerful, they faced many difficulties from the Greek resistance.
ILLNESS
[C2] [u] the ability of your body to not be affected by illnesses

Dictionary example:
Cold weather may lower the body's resistance to infection.

Learner example:
His physical resistance is exceptional, he is young, in perfect condition, healthy.

resolution /ˌrez.əˈluːʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: resolution, resolve
Verbs: resolve

DECISION
[C2] [c] an official decision that is made after a group or organization have voted

Dictionary examples:
Congress passed a resolution in support of the plan.
Our branch has submitted a resolution on housing to the conference.

Learner example:
India declared that the UN resolution about the ban on nuclear weapons was unfair.

PROMISE
[C2] [c] a promise to yourself to do something

Dictionary example:
My New Year's resolution is to do more exercise.

Learner example:
As a New Year's resolution I decided to save some money in a jar for my husband.

SOLUTION
[C2] [c or u] the solution to a problem

Dictionary example:
a successful resolution to the crisis

Learner example:
It might help us to find alternative conflict resolutions.
**resolve /rɪˈzɒlv/**

Word family:
- **Nouns**: resolution, resolve
- **Verbs**: resolve

**VERB [T]**
- [C1] to solve or end a problem or difficulty

**Dictionary example:**
an attempt to resolve the dispute

**Learner example:**
The student committee greatly appreciate your efforts to resolve our current problems, in particular improving and reconstructing our sports centre.

**NOUN [U] FORMAL**
- [C2] when you are very determined to do something

**Dictionary example:**
The training was tough, but his resolve never wavered.

**Learner example:**
Daniella's attention was focused on the scene and she was truly enjoying what was going on. This sight toughened Marco's resolve.

**resort /rɪˈzɔːt/**

**NOUN [C]**
- a last resort
  - [C2] something that you do because everything else has failed

**Dictionary example:**
Soldiers were given the authority to shoot, but only as a last resort.

**Learner example:**
But forcing the child to believe in the way we would like it to believe should be used only as a last resort, after discussion and persuading, not before.

**PHRASAL VERB**

**resort to sth / doing sth**
- [C2] to do something bad in order to achieve what you want, often because it is the only thing you can do to achieve it

**Dictionary example:**
I had to resort to threats to get my money back.
Learner example:
This is caused by a person's basic need for food: If someone can't get enough to eat he might have to resort to stealing.

**resource** /riˈzɔːs/

Word family:
Nouns: resource
Adjectives: resourceful

NOUN [c]
[B2] something useful that a country, person, or organization has which they can use

Dictionary examples:
natural resources
Britain's mineral resources include oil, coal and gas deposits.

Learner example:
With all the resources on the Net, I don't need to go to the library as often as I used to.

**resourceful** /riˈzɔːs.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: resource
Adjectives: resourceful

ADJECTIVE
[C2] good at finding ways to solve problems

Dictionary example:
When we didn't have much money, we had to be more resourceful.

Learner example:
The tormentor was inventive, clever, resourceful and learned fast how to make the most ordinary objects (a moth, a crow) into a source of overwhelming fear for his victim.

**respect** /riˈspekt/

Word family:
Nouns: respect, disrespect
Verbs: respect
Adjectives: respectable, respected, disrespectful, respectful
Adverbs: respectfully

1982
in this respect/in many respects
[B2] in a particular way, or in many ways

Dictionary example:
The school has changed in many respects.

Learner example:
How's your friend Mike? He is in many respects better than a computer, isn't he? (Teasing you again, sorry).

with respect to *sth* FORMAL
[B2] relating to a particular thing

Dictionary example:
I am writing with respect to your letter of 24 June.

Learner example:
With respect to the ages of the members, they are between fifteen and twenty years old.

in respect of *sth* FORMAL
[C1] relating to a particular thing

Dictionary example:
I include payment in respect of your invoice of May 13th.

Learner example:
Instead of that, we should have more English grammar lessons – some of our English students are very interested in them, especially in respect of their exam this year.

VERB [T]

ACCEPT IMPORTANCE
[B2] If you respect someone's rights, customs, wishes, etc. you accept their importance and are careful not to do anything they would not want.

Dictionary example:
If you decide to do otherwise we will, of course, respect your wishes.

Learner example:
But the situation is getting worse because of the decisions of the European Union, which is trying to unify European education without respecting the wishes of the students, who are trying to stop this process.
respectable  /ˈrɪspɛktəbl/  

Word family:
Nouns: respect, disrespect
Verbs: respect
Adjectives: respectable, respected, disrespectful, respectful
Adverbs: respectfully

ADJECTIVE

GOOD BEHAVIOUR
[B2] behaving in a socially acceptable way or looking socially acceptable

Dictionary examples:
A respectable family
A respectable hotel

Learner example:
But no one could think of a respectable doctor poisoning two of his patients, which is what he actually did.

ENOUGH
[C2] large enough or good enough

Dictionary examples:
She earns a respectable salary.
The final score was a respectable 2:1.

Learner example:
So we had to wait until he could confidently say to his parents, 'Look, I am an adult now, and I’m working for a large company with a respectable job, and I am going to get married if I want to.'

respected  /ˈrɪspektɪd/  

Word family:
Nouns: respect, disrespect
Verbs: respect
Adjectives: respectable, respected, disrespectful, respectful
Adverbs: respectfully

ADJECTIVE

[B2] admired by people because of your knowledge, achievements, etc.

Dictionary examples:
a highly respected doctor/politician
He is very well respected in the business world.
**Learner example:**
Looking at Pele's life, we discover that he was a respected man who did his best to help others and his country.

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**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] showing respect for someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
They treated us in a very respectful manner.

**Learner example:**
Were I not respectful of your work, I would say that your reporter did not attend this event and just imagined it.

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**ADVERB**
[C2] in a respectful way

**Dictionary example:**
He always spoke to them very respectfully.

**Learner example:**
I respectfully request you, as a store manager, to personally look into this situation, assist in investigating the problem with the faulty equipment as a matter of urgency by sending round a qualified engineer and, if found unfixable, arrange for a new unit to be supplied.

<table>
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ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

[C1] relating to each of the people or things that you have just talked about

Dictionary example:
members of staff and their respective partners

Learner example:
Relatives and friends of the respective families were very successful in being guides for some hours.

respectively /rɪˈspek.tɪv.lɪ/

Word family:
Adjectives: respective
Adverbs: irrespective, respectively

ADVERB

[C1] in a way that relates to each of the people or things that you have just talked about

Dictionary example:
They scored 10 and 17 points, respectively.

Learner example:
Not only [did] we reach our target figure but also, 85% of the revenue generated went to the hospital, and only 10% and 5% were for entertainment costs and administration costs, respectively.

respond /rɪˈspɒnd/

Word family:
Nouns: response
Verbs: respond

VERB [I]

[B2] to say or do something as a reaction to something that has been said or done

Dictionary examples:
To every question, he responded "I don't know."
I asked her what the time was, but she didn't respond.
The government has responded by sending food and medical supplies to the region.
How did she respond to the news?
The police respond to emergencies in just a few minutes.

Learner example:
The two men didn't respond so David closed the door.
response /rɪˈspɒntʃ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: response  
Verbs: respond  

NOUN [C or U]  

ANSWER  
[B2] an answer or reaction to something that has been said or done  

Dictionary examples:  
Responses to our advertisement have been disappointing.  
The President's comments provoked an angry response from students.  
Her proposals met with an enthusiastic response.  

Learner example:  
[The telephone] is an easy way to contact others, better than writing a letter and waiting for a response.  

in response to  
[B2] as an answer to  

Dictionary example:  
I'm writing in response to your letter of 14 February.  

Learner example:  
I am writing in response to your advertisement, which appeared in the newspaper on November the 23rd, looking for a person to work at weekends in your cafe.  

responsibility /rɪˈspɒntʃ.əˈbrɪl.ə.ti/  

Word family:  
Nouns: responsibility  
Adjectives: irresponsible, responsible  

NOUN [C or U]  

DUTY  
[B2] something that it is your job or duty to deal with  

Dictionary examples:  
The head of the department has various additional responsibilities.  
It is your responsibility to make sure that your homework is done on time.  
She Takes her responsibilities as a nurse very seriously.  
Jenny, you have responsibility for clearing up the room after the class.  

Learner example:  
It is the country's responsibility to supply the schools with everything needed.  

1987
take/accept/claim responsibility for *sth*

[B2] to say that you have done something or caused something to happen, especially something bad

**Dictionary example:**
No one has yet claimed responsibility for yesterday's bomb attack.

**Learner example:**
Sometimes he just take[s] all the responsibility for the projects, which he should not do, at least not alone.

---

**responsible**  /ˈrɪspənt.ə.bl/  

**Word family:**
Nouns: responsibility  
Adjectives: irresponsible, responsible

**ADJECTIVE**

be responsible for *sth/doing sth*

[B2] to be the person who caused something to happen, especially something bad

**Dictionary example:**
Who was responsible for the accident?

**Learner example:**
Sometimes walkers are also responsible for accidents, mainly when they are in a hurry.

---

**GOOD JUDGMENT**

[B2] showing good judgment and able to be trusted

**Dictionary examples:**
a hardworking and responsible employee  
Let's stay calm and try to behave like responsible adults.  
Many big companies are now becoming more responsible about the way they operate.

**Learner example:**
I know it is a great responsibility looking after them but I think I am reliable and responsible.

---

**IMPORTANT**

[B2] A responsible job is important because you have to make decisions that affect other people.

**Dictionary example:**
It's a very responsible job, being a teacher.

**Learner example:**
[The] people who I admire in today's world are journalists. In my opinion, they have a very responsible job.
### rest /rest/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** rest
- **Verbs:** rest
- **Adjectives:** restless

**VERB**

**rest your eyes/feet/legs, etc.**

[B2] to stop using your eyes/feet/legs, etc. for a while because they are tired

**Dictionary example:**
He looked away from the computer screen to rest his eyes.

**rest (sth) on/against, etc.**

[C2] If something rests somewhere, or if you rest it somewhere, it is supported by something else.

**Dictionary example:**
She rested her elbows on the table.

**Learner example:**
This masterpiece, painted in shocking colours on an enormous canvas, shows an Indian, completely out of proportion, sitting on the ground and resting his head on his arms.

### restart /ˌriːˈstɑːt/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** start
- **Verbs:** start, restart

**VERB [T]**

[C1] to start something again that had stopped

**Dictionary example:**
They want to restart the talks.

**Learner example:**
On the other hand, according to our recent survey, the company is getting into a better situation than it was beginning of this year and wants to restart trading with us.

[C1] If you restart a computer, you turn it off and then on again.

**Dictionary example:**
Try restarting your computer.
restless /ˈrest.ləs/

Word family:
Nouns: rest
Verbs: rest
Adjectives: restless

ADJECTIVE

NOT STILL
[C1] unable to be still or relax because you are bored or nervous

Dictionary example:
The audience was getting restless.

Learner example:
The children that travel become very restless when they cannot see any movies or are not offered any games or any other entertainment from the staff.

NOT SATISFIED
[C2] not satisfied with what you are doing now and wanting something new

Dictionary example:
After a while in the same relationship I start to get restless.

Learner example:
She yearned for something different from her day-to-day life and grew increasingly restless.

restore /rɪˈstoːr/

VERB [r]

REPAIR
[B2] to repair and clean something old

Dictionary examples:
The badly neglected paintings have all been carefully restored.
He restores antique furniture.

Learner example:
For example, the old church could be restored, to be as beautiful as it used to be.

MAKE EXIST
[C1] to make something good exist again

Dictionary examples:
Three wins in a row helped restore the team’s confidence.
Peace has now been restored in the region.
Learner example:
It would also restore our confidence in our paper if the correct version of events were printed, together with your statement of apology.

**restrain /rɪˈstreɪn/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** restraint  
**Verbs:** restrain

**VERB [r]**

[C1] to stop someone doing something, sometimes by using force

**Dictionary examples:**
He became violent and had to be **physically** restrained.  
I had to restrain myself from shouting at him.

**Learner example:**
Were the people aware of the variety of our social programme, they would have undoubtedly restrained themselves from belittling our college.

**restraint /rɪˈstreɪnt/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** restraint  
**Verbs:** restrain

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] calm and controlled behaviour

**Dictionary example:**
He showed admirable restraint and refused to be provoked.

**Learner example:**
In his [opinion], a really professional butler should possess 'dignity', which means that he should not expose his feelings and should always be capable of emotional restraint even if he is being provoked by something very surprising, alarming or vexing.

**restrict /rɪˈstrɪkt/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** restriction  
**Verbs:** restrict  
**Adjectives:** restricted, restrictive

1991
VERB [T]

[C1] to limit something

Dictionary examples:
They've brought in new laws to restrict the sale of cigarettes.
The government has restricted freedom of movement into and out of the country.
I restrict myself to one cup of coffee a day.

Learner example:
We must try to restrict the use of water in agriculture.

restricted  /rɪˈstrɪktɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: restriction
Verbs: restrict
Adjectives: restricted, restrictive

ADJECTIVE

[C1] controlled or limited

Dictionary example:
They do good food but the choice is fairly restricted.

Learner example:
The main problem with buses and the underground is their restricted opening hours and also the fact they don't [go] absolutely everywhere in the city.

restriction  /rɪˈstrɪk.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: restriction
Verbs: restrict
Adjectives: restricted, restrictive

NOUN [C or U]

LIMIT

[C1] a situation or event that limits what people can do

Dictionary example:
For the first time, I could do exactly what I wanted, without any restrictions.

Learner example:
When people travel on their own, they can do what they want, without restrictions or limitations from their family.
RULE
[C2] a rule or law that limits or controls what people can do

Dictionary examples:
speed/parking restrictions
There are restrictions on how many goods you can bring into the country.
The president urged other countries to lift the trade restrictions.

Learner example:
Our world is becoming smaller and smaller: boundaries are erased from the maps, countries cooperate more intensively, and trade restrictions are falling away.

restrictive /rɪˈstrɪktɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: restriction
Verbs: restrict
Adjectives: restricted, restrictive

ADJECTIVE
[C2] limiting activities too much

Dictionary example:
restrictive practices

Learner example:
On the other hand, being too restrictive may result in making the children passive, [causing them to] take everything for granted and leaving them completely unprepared for the harsh reality of life.

restructure /ˌriːˈstrʌk.tʃər/

Word family:
Nouns: structure
Verbs: restructure
Adjectives: structural, structured

VERB [I or T]
[C2] to organize a system or organization in a new way

Dictionary example:
They are restructuring the business.

Learner example:
Nowadays, the globalisation and merging trends are creating industrial giants that regularly have to restructure in order to minimise their production costs.
result /rɪˈzʌlt/ 

VERB

result in sth PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to cause a particular situation to happen

Dictionary example:
The fire resulted in damage to their property.

Learner example:
It has resulted in a lack of repair services.

resume /rɪˈzjuːm/ FORMAL

VERB [I or T]
[C1] If an activity resumes, or if you resume it, it starts again after a pause.

Dictionary examples:
The talks are due to resume today.
Normal services will be resumed in the spring.
He stopped to take a sip of water and then resumed speaking.

Learner example:
I hope our two companies can resume their excellent cooperation in the future and I am looking forward to using one of your aircraft again.

retail /ˈriː.teɪl/ 

Word family:
Nouns: retail, retailer

NOUN [u]
[C1] when products are sold to customers from shops

Dictionary example:
jobs in retail

Learner example:
Multinational companies like Walmart, Tesco, GSK, etc. have their retail outlets and manufacturing capacity all over the globe.
retailer /ˈriː.tər.lə/

Word family:
Nouns: retail, retailer

NOUN [C]
[C2] someone who sells products to the public

Dictionary example:
Retailers say the tax rise will hurt business.

Learner example:
They claim that retailers and advertisers brainwash us into buying more than necessary.

retain /rɪˈten/  

Word family:
Nouns: retention
Verbs: retain

VERB [T]
[C2] to continue to keep something

Dictionary example:
The council will retain control of the school.

Learner example:
But, one might claim, this could also be good, as people retain their local customs, lifestyle, etc. and do not have the anxiety or stress of living in cities.

retention /rɪˈten.fɔn/  

Word family:
Nouns: retention
Verbs: retain

NOUN [U]
[C2] when something continues to be kept

Dictionary example:
They argued against the retention of these laws.

Learner example:
Additional audio and video inputs allows easier assimilation and retention of this information.
rethink /ˌriːˈθɪŋk/

Word family:
Nouns: thinker
Verbs: think, rethink
Adjectives: unthinkable

VERB [ɪ or ɪ] (rethought)
[C1] to change what you think about something or what you plan to do

Dictionary example:
We need to rethink our strategy.

Learner example:
The first time I failed due to my nervousness. After this first failure I started to rethink my strategy.

retired /rɪˈtaɪəd/

Word family:
Nouns: retirement
Verbs: retire
Adjectives: retired

ADJECTIVE
[B2] having stopped working, often because you are old

Dictionary examples:
Both my parents are retired.
He is a retired airline pilot.

Learner example:
This person is a retired soldier who fought during World War II.

retirement /rɪˈtaɪə.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: retirement
Verbs: retire
Adjectives: retired

NOUN [C or U]

LEAVING JOB
[B2] when you leave your job and stop working, usually because you are old
Dictionary examples:
Many teachers over the age of 50 are taking early retirement.
What is the normal retirement age in this country?

Learner example:
Dear Pamela, I really like you and am happy [about] our sharing the same office but I'm afraid that, because of your way of life, you will never reach the age of retirement.

LIFE PERIOD
[B2] the period of your life after you have stopped working

Dictionary example:
We wish you a long and happy retirement.

Learner example:
Before my retirement, I spent some 11 years in the U.S., Germany and Switzerland where I learn[ed] a lot about the different culture[s] and people's customs and manners.

retrace  /rɪˈtreɪs/

VERB
retrace your steps
[C2] to go back somewhere the same way that you came

Dictionary example:
I was lost so I retraced my steps.

Learner example:
Mentally retracing his steps of the morning, he remembered rushing out of his place at the last minute.

retreat  /rɪˈtriːt/

VERB [i]
[C2] When soldiers retreat, they move away from the enemy, especially to avoid fighting.

Dictionary example:
The army was forced to retreat.

retreat to/into, etc.
[C2] to go away to a place or situation which is safer or quieter

Dictionary example:
She retreated into the bathroom for some peace and quiet.
**Learner example:**
Many unemployed retreat into family life and give up social contact.

**NOUN [C]**

**MOVE**
[C2] a move away, especially to a place or situation which is safer or quieter

**Dictionary example:**
He saw the dog coming towards him and **beat** a hasty retreat.

**Learner example:**
So the best he could do was to beat a quick retreat and make for the nearest airport.

**PLACE**
[C2] a quiet place where you can go to rest or be alone

**Dictionary example:**
a mountain retreat

**Learner example:**
The park is a retreat, a hiding place where as[y]lum can be found, a place in which peace and h[a]rmony are interlinked.

**retrieve /rɪˈtriːv/**

**VERB [T]**
[C2] to get something after first finding it

**Dictionary examples:**
I’ve just retrieved the ball from the bottom of the pond.
computer tools for retrieving **information**

**Learner example:**
No university should let students loose on society and the labour market who do not know how to save, find and retrieve files on a computer, send an attachment via email, install an operating system, install a printer or perform any of those simple tasks that take up your day at work – if your place of work has a desk in it.

**retrospect /ˈret.rəʊ.spɛkt/**

**NOUN**

**in retrospect**
[C2] thinking now about something in the past
Dictionary example:
In retrospect, I should probably have told her.

Learner example:
But now I could in retrospect conclude that it was too much: that tatoo displaying a cannabis leaf should have been enough for me to at least wonder [whether] something was really wrong with my son.

**return** /riˈtɜːn/

**VERB**

**return to sth**
[B2] to start doing an activity again or talking about something again

**Dictionary examples:**
I returned to work three months after Susie was born.
We keep returning to the same subject.

**Learner example:**
[In] August I must return to school, so I can only go to California in July.

**HAPPEN AGAIN**
[B2] [I] to happen again or start to exist again

**Dictionary example:**
You must go to the doctor if the pain returns.

**Learner example:**
This made her calm down all of a sudden, and her voice returned.

**DO THE SAME**
[C1] [ɪ] to react to something that someone does or says by doing or saying the same

**Dictionary examples:**
I returned his smile.
I must return Michael's call.

**Learner example:**
I still can't understand why she never returned my calls.

**return to normal**
[C1] to go back to a previous condition

**Dictionary example:**
Life has begun to return to normal now that the war is over.
Learner example:
After exactly ten minutes the electricity was switched on again and our life returned to normal – what a relief!

**NOUN**

*in return*

*B2* in exchange for something or as a reaction to something

**Dictionary example:**
I'd like to give them something in return *for* everything they've done for us.

**Learner example:**
I had a great time and in return I'd love to invite you to live at my house, while you are in Poland.

**reunion** /ˌriːˈjuː.ni.ən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** union, reunion

**NOUN [C]**

*[C2]* an occasion when people who have not met each other for a long time meet again

**Dictionary example:**
a family/school reunion

**Learner example:**
So important was this family event that holidays were postponed, to be there in time for the family reunion.

**reveal** /rɪˈviːl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** revelation
**Verbs:** reveal

**VERB [T]**

*TELL*

*B2* to give someone a piece of information that is surprising or that was previously secret

**Dictionary examples:**
He was jailed for revealing secrets to the Russians.
It was revealed in this morning's papers that the couple intend to marry.
Learner example:
I immediately knew that something was wrong so I had a word with Pat. She denied having revealed my secret.

SEE
[C2] to allow something to be seen that, until then, had been hidden

Dictionary example:
His shirt came up at the back, revealing an expanse of white skin.

Learner example:
The ghost disappeared and, with suspicion, she got up and started to move towards the ring, which was still there on the wall, and eventually touched it: the stone block moved back and revealed an old diary.

reveal

Word family:
Nouns: revelation
Verbs: reveal

NOUN
[C2] [c] a piece of information that is discovered although it was intended to be kept secret

Dictionary example:
He resigned following revelations about his private life.

Learner example:
No, the mayor didn't know, but said he was looking forward to any more revelations about their heroic community member.

be a revelation
[C2] to be an extremely pleasant surprise

Dictionary example:
Anna's musical talent was a revelation.

Learner example:
Every word you said was a revelation to me.

revenge

NOUN [u]
[B2] something that you do to punish someone who has done something bad to you

2001
Dictionary examples:
He’s made life very difficult for me but I’ll get/take my revenge.
He was looking for revenge against those who had helped oust him from his leadership position.

Learner example:
Lew Kuan Yee had sworn revenge against Michael, the detective who had sent him behind bars.

revenue /ˈrev.njuː/  
NOUN [u] (also revenues)  
[C1] large amounts of money received by a government as tax, or by a company

Dictionary example:
Revenue was up in the last quarter.

Learner example:
People like them need to compete for time as travelling via public transport may mean a loss of revenue.

reversal /rɪˈvɜːs.əl/  
Word family:  
Nouns: reversal, reverse  
Verbs: reverse  
Adjectives: irreversible, reversible

NOUN [c]  
[C2] when something changes to its opposite

Dictionary example:
In a reversal of traditional roles, Paul stayed at home to look after the baby and Clare went out to work.

Learner example:
However, un[fortunate]ly for Kingshaw, this reversal of the roles is just temporary for, once again in the house, Hooper is elected as King and Kingshaw has to submit to the role of victim once more.

reverse /rɪˈvɜːs/  
Word family:  
Nouns: reversal, reverse  
Verbs: reverse  
Adjectives: irreversible, reversible
VERB

DRIVE BACKWARDS

[B2] [I or T] to drive a vehicle backwards

Dictionary examples:
I hate reversing into parking spaces.
She reversed the car into the parking space.

Learner example:
Inch by inch, I reversed and went forward, reversed and went forward... too far!

CHANGE

[C1] [T] to change a situation or change the order of things so that it becomes the opposite

Dictionary examples:
Now that you have a job and I don’t, our situations are reversed.
It is unlikely that the judge will reverse his decision.
Let’s reverse the order – I’ll give the first talk and you go second.

Learner example:
This trend should be reversed in the near future.

NOUN [U]

in reverse

[C1] in the opposite order or way

Dictionary example:
Do the same steps but this time in reverse.

Learner example:
They want to see what they are not like, how they would not react and this, in reverse, helps them [to] find themselves.

VEHICLE

[C2] the method of controlling a vehicle that makes it go backwards

Dictionary example:
Put the car into reverse.

Learner example:
I had a last good look around and then I returned to the car and put it into reverse.

the reverse

[C2] the opposite of what has been suggested

Dictionary example:
"So, is he happier?" "Quite the reverse – I've never seen him look so miserable."
Learner example:
However, it is common fallacy among youngsters that being a freelancer leaves a lot of time for rest. Quite the reverse, they are inclined to put even more pressure on themselves, as there are no fixed hours.

**reversible** /rɪˈvɜːsə.bl/  
Word family:  
**Nouns:** reversal, reverse  
**Verbs:** reverse  
**Adjectives:** irreversible, reversible

**ADJECTIVE**  
**CAN BE CHANGED**  
[C2] If something is reversible, it can be changed back to what it was before.

**Dictionary example:**  
Most of the damage done to the cells is reversible.

**Learner example:**  
The friendship that I thought was [for] life stopped somewhere and somehow in [an] unexpected way, which didn't allow us to make the situation reversible.

**CLOTHES**  
[C2] Reversible clothes can be worn so that the inside is the outside.

**Dictionary example:**  
a reversible jacket

**revert** /rɪˈvɜːt/  
**VERB**  
**revert to sth/doing sth** PHRASAL VERB  
[C2] to go back to how something was before

**Dictionary example:**  
For a while I ate low-fat food but then I reverted to my old eating habits.

**Learner example:**  
Piggy is one of the few boys who are conscious that they are reverting to savagery.
**review /rɪˈvjuː/**

**VERB [r]**

**GIVE OPINION**

[B2] to give your opinion in a report about a book, film, television programme, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
He reviews films for the Times.

**CONSIDER**

[C1] to consider something again in order to decide if changes should be made

**Dictionary examples:**
The courts will review her case.
The committee is reviewing the current arrangement.

**Learner example:**
On the other hand I would like to ask you kindly to review my conditions of employment and to take in consideration my expenses, which I think would be more than correct.

**NOUN**

**PROCESS**

[C2] [c or u] the process of considering something again in order to make changes to it

**Dictionary examples:**
a review of teachers' pay
Salary levels are under review at the moment.

**revise /rɪˈvaɪz/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** revision
**Verbs:** revise

**VERB**

**CHANGE**

[B2] [r] to change something so that it is more accurate or better than before

**Dictionary example:**
His publishers made him revise his manuscript three times.

**Learner example:**
I advi[s]e you to revise your schedule.
revival /rɪˈvaɪ.vəl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: revival  
Verbs: revive

**NOUN**  
[C2] when something becomes more active or popular again

Dictionary examples:  
a revival in folk music  
Yoga is enjoying a revival.

Learner example:  
In recent years the fear of society has led to a revival of conservative ideas that want to shift responsibility for this kind of education back to the family unit.

revive /rɪˈvaɪv/  

Word family:  
Nouns: revival  
Verbs: revive

**VERB**  
[C2] to make something from the past exist again

Dictionary examples:  
to revive memories  
A lot of traditional skills are currently being revived.

Learner example:  
Why not revive the "good old" reading sessions we had in many town libraries in the 70s and 80s?

revolt /rɪˈvəʊlt/  

Word family:  
Nouns: revolution  
Verbs: revolt  
Adjectives: revolutionary

**VERB**  
AGAINST  
[C2] [i] to try to change a government, often using violence, or to refuse to accept someone's authority
Dictionary example:
Many were killed when nationalists revolted against the new government.

Learner example:
What often happens, if money is the substitute for love, is that children revolt against their parents.

be revolted by sth
[C2] to think that something is extremely unpleasant

Dictionary example:
They were revolted by conditions on the farm.

Learner example:
They are revolted by Olivia's decision which also shows the condescending opinion they have of the Nawab.

revolution /ˌrev.əˈluː.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: revolution
Verbs: revolt
Adjectives: revolutionary

NOUN

POLITICS
[B2] [c or u] a change in the way a country is governed, usually to a different political system and often involving violence or war

Dictionary example:
The French Revolution changed France from a monarchy to a republic.

Learner example:
It's supposed to be read as a study [of] the Soviet dictatorship during the October revolution and beyond into the Cold War era.

CHANGE
[B2] [c] a very important change in the way that people do things

Dictionary examples:
a technological revolution
Penicillin produced a revolution in medicine.

Learner example:
The technological revolution taking place today can be directly linked to the amazing evolution of our communication abilities throughout th[e]se last years.
**revolutionary** /ˌrev.əˈluː.ʃən.ər.i/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** revolution
- **Verbs:** revolt
- **Adjectives:** revolutionary

**ADJECTIVE**

**CHANGE**

[B2] completely different from what was done before

**Dictionary example:**
The twentieth century brought about revolutionary changes in our lifestyles.

**Learner example:**
Maybe my ideas are too revolutionary but ... I think in this way Torino would be NICER!

**POLITICS**

[B2] involved in or relating to a revolution

**Dictionary example:**
a revolutionary leader/movement

---

**reward** /rɪˈwɔːd/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** reward
- **Verbs:** reward
- **Adjectives:** rewarding

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to give someone a reward

**Dictionary examples:**
She was rewarded for her bravery.
The company rewarded him for his years of service with a gold watch.

**Learner example:**
She was so happy afterwards and was even rewarded with a medal.

---

**rewarding** /rɪˈwɔːd.ɪŋ/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** reward
- **Verbs:** reward
- **Adjectives:** rewarding
ADJECTIVE
[C1] making you feel satisfied that you have done something well or done something helpful

Dictionary examples:
a rewarding experience
Teaching is hard work but it's very rewarding.

Learner example:
I led a workshop with children, which was a very rewarding experience, and performed for people of all ages and backgrounds.

rewrite /riːˈraɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: writer, writing
Verbs: rewrite, write
Adjectives: written

VERB [T]
[B2] to write something again in order to improve it

Dictionary example:
I had to rewrite my essay.

Learner example:
I trust you will give this matter your immediate attention and rewrite your report using the information given.

rhyme /raɪm/

Word family:
Nouns: rhythm, rhyme
Verbs: rhyme

VERB [I]
[C2] If a word rhymes with another word, the end part of the words sound the same.

Dictionary example:
'Moon' rhymes with 'June'.

NOUN
POEM
[C2] [c] a short poem that has words that rhyme at the end of each line

2009
Dictionary example:
The card contained a short rhyme.

Learner example:
It gives a child immense pleasure when her parent reads out a rhyme or a story to her.

STYLE
[C2] [u] a style of writing or speaking that uses words which rhyme

Dictionary example:
The story was written entirely in rhyme.

Learner example:
The poem had no rhyme and it had a free verse form.

rhythm /ˈrɪð.əm/

Word family:
Nouns: rhythm, rhyme
Verbs: rhyme

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a regular, repeating pattern of sound or movement

Dictionary examples:
He beat out a jazz rhythm on the drums.
I've got no sense of rhythm, so I'm a terrible dancer.
She lay back in the boat, feeling the gentle rhythm of the waves.

Learner example:
From then on I have been suffering from high blood pressure and disturbances of the rhythm of the heart-beat.

rib /rɪb/

NOUN [c]
[B2] one of the curved bones in the chest

Dictionary example:
He cracked a rib in the accident.

Learner example:
I stayed there for 2 weeks with a broken leg, sore ribs and a couple of scars.
ribbon /ˈrɪb.n/  

NOUN [c]  
[C2] a long, narrow piece of cloth that is used for tying things or used for decoration  

Dictionary example:  
Her hair was tied with a velvet ribbon.  

Learner example:  
Just a week before, the wedding family and close friends come together to decorate the tent with special hand-folded ribbons.  

rich /rɪtʃ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: riches, richness  
Verbs: enrich  
Adjectives: rich  

ADJECTIVE  

FOOD  
[B2] Rich food has a lot of fat, oil or eggs in it.  

Dictionary example:  
a rich sauce  

Learner example:  
The cooking [is] bas[ed] on traditional recipes of Westfalian origin and it is tasty but often very rich!  

CONTAINING A LOT  
[B2] containing a lot of something that is important or valuable  

Dictionary examples:  
The region is rich in minerals and coal deposits.  
Both foods are rich in Vitamin C.  
The country has vast oil reserves and rich deposits of other minerals.  

Learner example:  
Their lessons are valuable, rich in knowledge and fun[n]y.  

NOUN  

the rich  
[C1] people who are rich  

2011
Dictionary example:
These ski resorts are for the rich.

Learner example:
What did the rich do all day?

riches /ˈrɪtʃz/  
Word family:  
Nouns: riches, richness  
Verbs: enrich  
Adjectives: rich  

NOUN [PLURAL] LITERARY  
[C2] a lot of money or valuable objects  

Dictionary example:  
To her, £500 seemed like untold riches.

Learner example:  
First, her career can be regarded as the typical rise from "rags to riches".

richness /ˈrɪtʃnəs/  
Word family:  
Nouns: riches, richness  
Verbs: enrich  
Adjectives: rich  

NOUN [U]  
[C1] the interesting or impressive quality of something that shows how strong or varied it is  

Dictionary example:  
I was amazed by the richness of their traditions.

Learner example:  
Cultures of Mexico: You will be able to discover the richness and variety of Mexican ancient cultures: – Mexico – Maya – Olmeca – Tolteca – Zapoteca – Chichimeca.
rid /rid/

ADJECTIVE

get rid of *sth*
[B2] to end something unpleasant

Dictionary example:
I can't seem to get rid of this headache.

Learner example:
[The] first step is to get rid of smoking.

get rid of *sb*
[C1] to make someone leave

Dictionary example:
We finally got rid of my little sister by telling her scary stories.

Learner example:
Improving your English on your own (or a self-guide [on] how to get rid of your English teacher!)

ride /raɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: ride, rider
Verbs: ride

NOUN [C]

a rough/bumpy ride
[C2] a time when you experience a lot of problems

Dictionary example:
They gave her a rough ride at the interview.

Learner example:
It seems like it is going to be a "bumpy" ride.

ridiculous /rɪˈdɪk.jʊ.ləs/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] very silly
Dictionary examples:
I've never heard anything so ridiculous.
I'd look ridiculous in a hat like that.
It's a ridiculous idea/suggestion.

Learner example:
So, it is just ridiculous to hear that there were fewer than 2000 people there.

right /raɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: right
Adjectives: right
Adverbs: right, rightly

ADJECTIVE

MORALLY ACCEPTABLE
[B2] fair or morally acceptable

Dictionary examples:
It's not right to criticize him behind his back.
Someone had to tell him – I think you did the right thing.

Learner example:
Was he doing the right thing or he was just making matters worse?

ADVERB

CORRECTLY
[B2] correctly

Dictionary example:
He guessed right most of the time.

ALL
[C2] all the way

Dictionary example:
Did you read it right through to the end?

Learner example:
As time passes by, Ralph learns about Piggy's value as he is the only one that stays with him right to the end.

NOUN

BEHAVIOUR
[B2] [u] morally correct behaviour
Dictionary example:
I've tried to teach them the difference between right and wrong.

Learner example:
He was raised not knowing the difference between right and wrong.

LAW
[B2] [C] something that the law allows you to do

Dictionary examples:
the right to free speech
the right to vote

Learner example:
To sum up, famous people are the same as we are, and we all have the right to lead a private life and no right to break into their privacy.

have a/no right to do sth
[C1] to have, or not have, a good reason for something

Dictionary examples:
He has a right to be angry.
She had no right to speak to me like that.

Learner example:
Finally, you have no right to say that we “did not reach our target figure” since the whole event was considered to be a success by many people.

the Right/right
[C2] political groups which support capitalism

Dictionary example:
The right campaigned against the president.

in its/his/their, etc. own right
[C2] in a way that does not rely on anything or anyone else

Dictionary examples:
I think this is a dialect, rather than a language in its own right.
These experiments are very important in their own right.

Learner example:
Major international sports competitions can either be understood as a means to an end or an end in their own right.
### rightly /ˈraɪt.li/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** right
- **Adjectives:** right
- **Adverbs:** right, rightly

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a correct way

**Dictionary examples:**
- He is rightly concerned about the situation.
- They quite rightly complained to the manager.

**Learner example:**
- If I remember rightly, there were over 5,000.

### right-wing /ˌraɪtˈwɪŋ/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] supporting the ideas of parties on the political right

**Dictionary examples:**
- She’s extremely right-wing.
- a right-wing newspaper

**Learner example:**
- Some of them even turn to right-wing extremism.

### rigid /ˈrɪd.ɪd/ 

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] not able to change or be changed easily

**Dictionary example:**
- I found the rules a little too rigid.

**Learner example:**
- They were all trying to do their best in the rigid framework of the existing system (one of them even succeeded in making the difference).
ring /rɪŋ/

NOUN [c]

CIRCLE
[B2] something that is the shape of a circle

Dictionary example:
The children sat in a ring around the teacher.

Learner example:
It is forced to jump into a ring of fire, if it does not want to do it, it will be hit.

SOUND
[B2] the sound a bell makes

Dictionary example:
The ring of the doorbell woke him up.

Learner example:
Walking down the street, he heard a noise: just the ring of the clock tower.

VERB [I or T]

ring a bell
[C2] If a word, especially a name, rings a bell, you think you have heard it before.

Dictionary example:
Shane Watson? That name rings a bell.

Learner example:
Its name is Laser – I suppose it rings a bell?

ring hollow
[C2] If something someone says rings hollow, it does not sound true or sincere.

Dictionary example:
He said he was pleased, but his words rang hollow.

Learner example:
Everything rang hollow to her, so she decided to follow him in order to understand what had happened and her fiancé became so friendly and understanding.

riot /raɪət/

NOUN [c]

[C1] angry, violent behaviour by a crowd of people
Dictionary examples:
a race riot
Riots started in several cities.

Learner example:
A riot started in the city but the police managed to stop it before anyone got seriously hurt.

a riot of sth LITERARY
[C2] extremely colourful and bright

Dictionary example:
Jim’s rose garden is a riot of colour.

Learner example:
I like the narrow streets, the smell of overripe fruit in the middle of the summer, the gardens, which are a riot of colours in spring, small thatched cottages, which you can never [see] anywhere else in Russia.

run riot
[C2] to behave in a noisy, violent, or wild way without being controlled

Dictionary example:
They allow their kids to run riot.

VERB [i]
[C2] to take part in a riot

Dictionary example:
People were rioting in the streets.

Learner example:
If there [are] a lot of frustrated individuals in an area, they may band together and begin rioting.

rip  /rip/ (–pp–)

VERB [i or T]

TEAR
[B2] to tear quickly and suddenly, or to tear something quickly and suddenly

Dictionary examples:
His new trousers ripped when he bent down.
She ripped her dress getting off her bike.
He excitedly ripped open the parcel.

Learner example:
While I was walking I stepped on my dress and ripped it.

rip sth out/off/from, etc.
[C1] to remove something by pulling it away quickly
**Dictionary example:**
Hedges had been ripped out to make larger fields.

**Learner example:**
One leg was completely ripped off, while the other is just managing to hold on.

**ripe /raɪp/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**FRUIT, ETC.**

[B2] developed enough and ready to be eaten

**Dictionary examples:**
ripe fruit
Those bananas aren't ripe yet – they're still green.

**Learner example:**
There were a lot of beautiful, ripe, red strawberries [and] I couldn't resist pick[ing] one of them.

**ripe for sth**
[C2] developed enough to be ready for something

**Dictionary examples:**
The country is ripe for change.
The time is ripe for investing in new technology.

**Learner example:**
We can say that the time was ripe for his success.

**rip-off /ˈrip.ɒf/**

**NOUN [C] INFORMAL**

[C1] when someone is cheated by being made to pay too much for something

**Dictionary example:**
The food there is a real rip-off.

**Learner example:**
What is more, I am sure students won't feel like it is a rip-off because prices are really reasonable.
rise /raɪz/

VERB [v] (rose, risen)

INCREASE
[B2] to increase in level

Dictionary examples:
rising temperatures
Prices rose by 10 percent.
Inflation is rising by 2.1% a month.

Learner example:
Also, due to global warming, sea levels might rise and [the] risk of flooding will also rise.

rise to/through, etc.
[C2] to become important, successful, or rich

Dictionary example:
He quickly rose to stardom.

Learner example:
He then joined the company he is now the managing director of; during 15 years, he steadily rose through the ranks to the top.

NOUN [n]

INCREASE
[B2] an increase in the level of something

Dictionary examples:
a sudden temperature rise
a 5% rise in inflation
August has seen a large rise in the number of unemployed.

Learner example:
There is also a steady rise in underweight [girls] among young girls of today.

PAY
[C1] an increase in the amount of money you earn

Dictionary example:
a pay rise

Learner example:
The reason is not only that we cannot manage to afford [d] a pay rise for each of you but also we would like to organise two language courses in the USA.

sb's rise to fame/power, etc.
[C2] when someone becomes very famous or powerful
Dictionary example:
The movie charts his rise to power.

Learner example:
He is one of these artists whom I respect immensely as his rise to celebrity was a long and painstaking journey, mainly because he was always faithful to the kind of music he wanted to play and to the ideals he wanted to convey through his lyrics, and also because he shows great modesty.

give rise to *sth*  
[C2] to cause something

Dictionary examples:
International support has given rise to a new optimism within the company.
The bacteria live in the human body but do not give rise to any symptoms.

Learner example:
More often than not, however, such events will also give rise to all sorts of contradictions.

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**risk**  
/ˈrisk/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** risk  
**Verbs:** risk  
**Adjectives:** risky

**NOUN**

**BAD POSSIBILITY**

[B2] [c or u] the possibility of something bad happening

Dictionary examples:  
the risk of heart disease  
There is a slight risk that the blood could have become infected.
We want clean rivers and lakes, where you can swim without risk to your health.
It's a low/high--risk strategy.

Learner example:  
Nowadays, everything is a risk, even at home we are in danger.

**at risk**

[B2] being in a situation where something bad is likely to happen

Dictionary examples:  
All houses within 100 metres of the seas are at risk of flooding.
Releasing these prisoners puts the public at risk.

Learner example:  
Lives are at risk!
take a risk
[B2] to do something although something bad might happen because of it

Dictionary example:
This time I'm not taking any risks – I'm going to get insured.

Learner example:
He had to take a risk if he wanted to save his love, Anne.

SOMETHING BAD
[C1] [c] something bad that might happen

Dictionary example:
There are more health risks when older women get pregnant.

Learner example:
Personally, I will continue using my mobile phone, no matter what the health risks are, and I will probably encourage my children to have one with them when they go places [further] away than our home or garden, in case something happens.

run the risk of sth
[C2] to do something although something bad might happen because of it

Dictionary example:
I think I'll run the risk of hurting her feelings, and tell her the truth.

Learner example:
They constantly run the risk of losing their physical abilities.

at your own risk
[C2] If you do something at your own risk, you are completely responsible for anything bad that might happen because of it.

Dictionary example:
Customers may leave vehicles here at their own risk.

Learner example:
However, when a young man decides to go on a dangerous expedition, he should do so at his own risk and should not rely on help from anyone.

VERB [T]

DO SOMETHING
[B2] If you risk something bad, you do something although that bad thing might happen.

Dictionary example:
"It's dangerous to cross here." "I'll just have to risk it."

Learner example:
You shouldn't risk damaging your health.
POSSIBLY LOSE

[B2] If you risk something important, you cause it to be in a dangerous situation where you might lose it.

Dictionary examples:
He risked his life to save me.
She risked her job by giving me that information.

Learner example:
If she had gone home by taxi, she would have not risked her life.

risky /ˈris.ki/

Word family:
Nouns: risk
Verbs: risk
Adjectives: risky

ADJECTIVE

[B2] dangerous because something bad might happen

Dictionary examples:
It's risky to buy a car without some good advice.
Investing in shares is always a risky business.

Learner example:
[Cycling on] this road is a bit risky and demanding so I would agree with Chris on that point.

ritual /ˈrɪtʃ.u.əl/

NOUN [C]

[C2] an activity or a set of actions that are always done in the same way or at the same time, sometimes as part of a religion

Dictionary example:
Coffee and the paper are part of my morning ritual.

Learner example:
I want to be able to travel to another country (for example Jamaica), learn a new culture (like the Rastafarian culture) and their rites and rituals.
rival /ˈraɪ.vəl/

Word family:
Nouns: rival, rivalry
Verbs: rival

NOUN [C]
[C1] someone or something that is competing with another person or thing

Dictionary example:
business/political rivals

Learner example:
Around 60% of our international rivals had their stands there, usually with 2–3 staff members always kept busy by [the] public.

VERB [T] (-ll-)
[C2] to be good enough to compete with someone or something else

Dictionary example:
Australian wine can now rival the best from France.

Learner example:
His intimidating presence was rival[li]ed only by that of his ferocious-looking dog.

rivalry /ˈraɪ.vəl.ri/

Word family:
Nouns: rival, rivalry
Verbs: rival

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] when two people or things are rivals

Dictionary example:
There is intense rivalry between the two teams.

Learner example:
These major differences create a great rivalry between the two boys.

river /ˈrɪv.ər/

NOUN [C]

mouth of a river
[C1] where a river goes into the sea
Dictionary example:
It is a small village, by the mouth of a river.

Learner example:
The mouth of the river with a [narrow] exit to the sea, provided an extra ex[cl]ement because of the pressure of the water when joining the sea.

**road** /ˈroʊd/

**NOUN** [C or U]

*on the road*
[C1] driving or travelling, usually over a long distance

Dictionary example:
We’d been on the road for 48 hours.

Learner example:
I have experienced sitting behind a steering wheel on the road for many years.

**roar** /rɔː

**VERB**

MAKE NOISE
[C2] to make a loud, deep sound

Dictionary examples:
We could hear a **lion** roaring on the other side of the zoo.
She roared **with laughter**.

Learner example:
There are also unforgettable immediate responses that will make people roar with laughter.

SHOUT
[C2] to say something in a very loud voice

Dictionary example:
“Stop that!” he roared.

Learner example:
"Stop clicking that picture box and help me with the cows," her father would roar and if it was not the cows, it was the pigs, and if it was not the pigs, it was the hens.

**NOUN** [C]
[C2] a loud, deep sound
Dictionary examples:
a lion's roar
the roar of a jet engine

Learner example:
However, I will try to portray an accurate picture of what living under the constant roar of aircraft engines is about.

rob /rɒb/

Word family:
Nouns: robbery
Verbs: rob

VERB [T] (−bb−)

rob sb of sth
[C2] to take something important away from someone

Dictionary example:
The war had robbed them of their innocence.

Learner example:
The white man came and deprived the Africans of all their culture. They tried to make them worship a new, unfamiliar god [and] simply tried to rob them of their own identity.

robbery /ˈrɒb.ər.i/

Word family:
Nouns: robbery
Verbs: rob

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] the crime of stealing from somewhere or someone

Dictionary examples:
a bank robbery
The gang admitted they had committed four recent robberies.
He is in prison for armed robbery.

Learner example:
We were fed up with our lives and all the problems we had [so] one of us decided to organize a bank robbery. [At] first we laughed at him because it was such a silly idea but finally it was the only solution for us to become rich.
rock /rɒk/

Word family:
Nouns: rock
Adjectives: rocky

VERB
[C2] [I or T] to move backwards and forwards or from side to side, or to make someone or something do this

Dictionary examples:
She rocked back and forth on her chair.
He gently rocked the baby to sleep.

Learner example:
The violent storm was rocking the ship back and forth.

rock the boat
[C2] to do or say something that changes a situation in a way that causes problems

Dictionary example:
They seemed very happy and I didn’t want to rock the boat.

Learner example:
But let’s not rock the boat. Our preposterous cravings and wishes might become our [down]fall.

rocket /ˈrɒk.ɪt/

NOUN [C]

VEHICLE
[B2] a tube–shaped device containing fuel and an engine that pushes a vehicle into space

Dictionary example:
They launched a rocket yesterday.

Learner example:
[With] computers, you can control machines [or] a rocket [or] a satellite.

WEAPON
[C2] a tube–shaped weapon that carries a bomb

Dictionary example:
Rockets were fired across the border.

Learner example:
Furthermore, nuclear rockets and missiles should be prohibited.
**rocky** /ˈrɒk.i/

Word family:
**Nouns:** rock
**Adjectives:** rocky

**ADJECTIVE**

WITH ROCKS
[C1] with lots of rocks

**Dictionary example:**
a rocky beach

**Learner example:**
The walk around the lake is an extraordinary experience – seeing the majesty of the rocky mountains around the blue surface, which reflects the lights as a mirror, is unforgettable.

RELATIONSHIP
[C2] a rocky relationship has problems and may not last

**Dictionary example:**
I heard that their marriage is a bit rocky.

**Learner example:**
Their marriage started to get a bit rocky due to the mother’s devotion to finding Mary.

**role** /rəʊl/

**NOUN [c]**

PURPOSE
[B2] the job someone or something has in a particular situation

**Dictionary examples:**
What is his role in this project?
This part of the brain plays an important role in learning.
Six people have been put on trial for their role in the demonstrations.

**Learner example:**
In fact, computers play an important role in the office.

**role model** /ˈrəʊlˌmɒd.əl/

**NOUN [c]**
[C1] someone you try to behave like because you admire them
Dictionary example:
Jane is such a good role model for her younger sister.

Learner example:
Pele was voted Athlete of the Century for his outstanding performance and for being such a positive role model for other athletes and youth in general.

roll /rəʊl/

VERB

roll (sth) across/around/over, etc.
[B2] to move somewhere by turning in a circular direction, or to make something move this way

Dictionary examples:
The ball rolled through the goalkeeper's legs.
She rolled over onto her side.
The vase rolled off the edge of the table and smashed.

TURN OVER
[B2] [T] to turn something around itself to make the shape of a ball or tube

Dictionary examples:
He was rolling a cigarette.
He rolled the clay into a ball in his hands.
As I got closer, the hedgehog rolled itself up into a ball.

roll down/in/off, etc.
[B2] to move somewhere smoothly

Dictionary examples:
Tears rolled down her face.
His car started rolling down the drive.

Learner example:
By this time, the rest of us were laughing so [hard that] tears were rolling down our cheeks.

roll your eyes
[C2] DISAPPROVING to move your eyes so that they are looking up, usually to show surprise or disapproval

Dictionary example:
When I asked her when she thought the building work would be finished, she just rolled her eyes.

Learner example:
This attitude is obvious when, for instance, shop assistant[s] show no patience for the slower reaction of elder[y] [people]; when nobody offers a seat to an older person in [an] overcrowded tube; when we roll our eyes about older people's desire for quiet, etc.
**set/start the ball rolling**
[C2] to begin an activity that involves a group of people

**Dictionary example:**
I've started the ball rolling by setting up a series of meetings.

**NOUN [C]**

**TUBE**
[B2] a piece of film, paper or cloth that is rolled into the shape of a tube

**Dictionary examples:**
a roll of carpet
a **toilet roll**

**romantic /rəʊˈmæn.tɪk/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** romance
**Adjectives:** romantic

**ADJECTIVE**

**IDEAS**
[C2] thinking that things are better than they really are, and that things are possible which are not

**Dictionary example:**
a romantic view of the world

**roof /ruːf/**

**NOUN [C]**

**a roof over your head**
[C2] somewhere to live

**Dictionary example:**
He took me in when I didn't have a roof over my head.

**Learner example:**
As for the new homes for local people it seems to be that it will be of particular importance to homeless people, who will feel that they have a roof over their head without having to pay anything.
go through the roof
[C2] If the level of something, especially a price, goes through the roof, it increases very quickly.

Dictionary example:
The price of corn has gone through the roof recently.

Learner example:
Try extreme sports and feel your adrenaline levels going through the roof!

hit the roof INFORMAL
[C2] to become very angry and start shouting

Dictionary example:
If I'm late again he'll hit the roof.

Learner example:
Be careful, if you make too much noise he'll hit the roof.

room /ruːm/

NOUN

room for improvement
[C1] If there is room for improvement, something can be made better.

Dictionary example:
His work isn't bad but there's still some room for improvement.

Learner example:
She is Polish, aged 29 and can speak English pretty well, but there is still room for improvement, that's why she wants to spend a year in England, looking after children in an English-speaking family.

roommate /ˈruːm.mæt/ 

NOUN [C]
[B2] someone who you share a room, apartment, etc. with

Dictionary example:
He was my roommate while we were at college.

Learner example:
I was a student and lived together in a flat with my roommate Claudia.
**root** /ruːt/

**NOUN [C]**

**PLANT PART**

[B2] the part of a plant that grows under the ground and gets water and food from the soil

**Dictionary example:**
These plants have really **deep** roots.

**Learner example:**
I have gathered over three hundred species: flowers, roots, leaves and others.

**roots**

[B2] where someone or something originally comes from

**Dictionary example:**
the roots of modern jazz

**Learner example:**
I think people should know where our European pop and rock music has its roots.

**the root of sth**

[C1] the cause of something, usually something bad

**Dictionary examples:**
We must get to the root of this problem.
Money is said to be the root of all evil.

**Learner example:**
Unfortunately none of us has ever tried to find the root of this problem but the influences that it has on the environment are obvious.

**rope** /rəʊp/

**NOUN [C or U]**

**FOR TYING**

[B2] very thick string made from twisted thread

**Dictionary examples:**
We tied the boat to a post with a length of rope.
a **coil** of rope

**Learner example:**
A few moments later she took out a rope from her backpack.
**learn/know the ropes**

[C2] to learn/know how to do a job or activity

**Dictionary example:**
I spent a month in the accounts department, learning the ropes.

**Learner example:**
Knowing the ropes, he did as usual, but one thing was left out.

**rosy /ˈrəʊ.zi/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**PINK**

[C2] Rosy faces are a healthy pink colour.

**Dictionary example:**
rosy cheeks

**Learner example:**
Not a lot taller than a lot of us, with beautiful bl[ue] eyes and rosy cheeks, she used to called us "Muffins".

**POSITIVE**

[C2] very positive and happy

**Dictionary example:**
The future looks rosy.

**Learner example:**
In addition, I can see something in his eyes that says his life is not as rosy as it seems.

**rot /rɒt/**

**VERB [I or T] (rotting, rotted)**

[C2] If vegetable or animal substances rot, they decay, and if something rots them, it makes them decay.

**Dictionary examples:**
Sugar rots your teeth.
the smell of rotting fish

**Learner example:**
He told me of how he had c[o]me to see it every day, and seen how all the meat had rotted away and stuff.
rotten /ˈrɒt.ən/

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] Rotten vegetable or animal substances are decaying.

*Dictionary example:*
rotten eggs/fruit

*Learner example:*
I'll tell you something – my freezer still smells of rotten fish.

rough /rʌf/

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** rough

**Adverbs:** roughly

**ADJECTIVE**

**SEA/WEATHER**

[B2] If the sea or weather is rough, there is a lot of strong wind and sometimes rain.

*Dictionary example:*
The boat sank in rough seas off the Swedish coast.

*Learner example:*
I went to the seaside but I was not allowed to bathe for they said that the sea was too rough.

**DIFFICULT**

[B2] difficult or unpleasant

*Dictionary example:*
She's having a rough time at work.

*Learner example:*
He did the mountain-route last year and he says that even he had a rough time.

**DANGEROUS**

[C1] dangerous or violent

*Dictionary examples:*
a rough part of town
Hockey can be quite a rough game.

*Learner example:*
I like him as a football player because he plays fair, not rough.
**roughly /ˈrʌf.li/**

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** rough
**Adverbs:** roughly

**ADVERB**

**NOT EXACTLY**

[B2] approximately

**Dictionary examples:**
There has been an increase of roughly 2.25 million.
Roughly speaking, it's 2.25 million.
We have roughly the same tastes.

**Learner example:**
These are very special cases and roughly speaking, confined to one thing.

**FORCEFULLY**

[C2] forcefully or violently

**Dictionary example:**
He pushed us roughly out of the door.

**Learner example:**
My mother treated me roughly and unkindly by thrashing or smacking me at any time possible.

**WITHOUT CARE**

[C2] without taking a lot of care to make something perfect

**Dictionary example:**
Roughly chop the tomatoes and add to the onions.

**Learner example:**
She glanced at the mirror, roughly [brushed] her hair with her fingers and went outside for her car.

**round /ˈraʊnd/**

**ADVERB**

**round and round**

[B2] moving in a circle without stopping

**Dictionary example:**
We drove round and round trying to find the hotel.

**Learner example:**
It's not fun to look at an animal who is bored and only walks round and round.
NOUN [C]

first/second/third/final, etc., round
[B2] the first/second/third/final, etc. stage in a competition

Dictionary example:
He was beaten in the first round.

Learner example:
At five o'clock in the afternoon, the second round of the games [will begin].

round of applause
[C2] when people clap

Dictionary example:
The crowd gave him a huge round of applause.

Learner example:
It was unbelievable, there was a round of applause and some people couldn't help crying.

DRINKS
[C2] drinks that you buy for a group of people

Dictionary example:
It's your turn to buy the next round.

Learner example:
Rob (her husband) was so happy and in such a splendid mood that he decided to pay [for] a round of beer.

EVENTS
[C2] a group of events that is part of a series

Dictionary examples:
a round of interviews
a new round of talks between the two countries

Learner example:
My life was an endless round of parties, and social events.

route /ruːt/  

NOUN [C]

METHOD
[C2] a method of achieving something

Dictionary example:
A university education is seen by many as the best route to a good job.
**Learner example:**
This means that only by presenting them with a great variety of opportunities can we be certain that our children will be shaped correctly. Thus, [...] it seems to be the only legitimate and most advantageous route to follow.

**routine**  /ruːˈtiːn/

**ADJECTIVE**

**BORING**

[C2] done regularly and very boring

**Dictionary examples:**
- a routine check/task
- His job is very routine.

**Learner example:**
Nevertheless, when a job becomes routine (and it usually always does), people seem to reminisce about their student years with a sense of disappointment.

**row**  /rəʊ/

**NOUN [C]**

**in a row**

[B2] one after another without a break

**Dictionary example:**
He's just won the tournament for the fifth year in a row.

**Learner example:**
Maradona was the captain of the team, and since he arrived, the team won three championships in a row.

**VERB [I or T]**

[B2] to move a boat or move someone in a boat through the water using oars

**Dictionary example:**
We rowed to the other side of the lake.

**Learner example:**
In the end, they had to row all the way back to the beach and it was very late when they got home.
**row**² /roy/  

**noun [c]**  
[B2] a loud, angry argument  

**Dictionary examples:**  
My parents often **have** rows.  
a **blazing** row  

**Learner example:**  
The sun was shining, the birds were singing and all the people were happy, but I was very angry because I **had** had a row with my husband.

**royal** /ˈrɔɪ.əl/  

**adjective**  
[B2] relating to a queen or king and their family  

**Dictionary examples:**  
the royal family  
a royal visit  

**Learner example:**  
Chris, Anne and I wanted to visit the royal palace.

**rub** /rub/  

**verb [t] (-bb-)**  

**press with hands**  
[B2] to press your hand or a cloth on a surface and move it backwards and forwards  

**Dictionary examples:**  
She rubbed her hands together to warm them.  
He rubbed himself dry with a towel.  
Rub the stain with a damp cloth.  

**Learner example:**  
Paul suddenly saw something. A kind of shadow. He rubbed his eyes but there was nothing.

**rub sth into/on, etc.**  
[B2] to move a substance backwards and forwards over a surface so that it covers it and goes into it
Dictionary examples:
I rubbed some suntan oil on her back.
Rub the butter into the flour.

rub it in INFORMAL
[C2] to upset someone by talking to them about something which you know they want to forget

Dictionary example:
I know your exam results were better than mine – there's no need to rub it in.

Learner example:
Indeed, I wouldn't [want] to rub it in but you have reached seventy or eighty. I don't think you can fend for yourself.

rubber /ˈrʌb.ə/

NOUN

SUBSTANCE
[B2] [U] a strong material that bends easily, originally produced from the juice of a tropical tree, and used to make tyres, boots, etc.

Dictionary example:
shoes with rubber soles

Learner example:
Worst [of] all it seems to me is the way some zoos are regarded as places of entertainment like [a] circus, where the people are encouraged to laugh at animals when they 'perform their funny tricks' like eating bananas, swinging from rubber tyres and so on.

rubbish /ˈrʌb.ɪʃ/

NOUN [U]

BAD QUALITY
[B2] INFORMAL something that is of bad quality

Dictionary example:
There's so much rubbish on TV.

Learner example:
I was taught to believe that recorded music was rubbish compared to live music.

NONSENSE
[C1] something that is nonsense or wrong
**Dictionary example:**
Ignore him, he's talking rubbish.

**Learner example:**
For example, the advertisement where the worker eats only "Mars" and can work hard after it. It's rubbish.

---

**rude /ruːd/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** rudeness
- **Adjectives:** rude
- **Adverbs:** rudely

**ADJECTIVE**

**WORDS/JOKES**

[B2] Rude words or jokes relate to sex or going to the toilet.

**Dictionary example:**
He taught his little sister a lot of rude words.

**Learner example:**
She just wanted to shout rude words when finally she recognised her father... standing in front of her.

---

**rudely /ˈruːd.li/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** rudeness
- **Adjectives:** rude
- **Adverbs:** rudely

**ADVERB**

[C1] in a rude way

**Dictionary example:**
He rudely pushed past us.

**Learner example:**
When I made an attempt to speak to the conductor, I was rudely told off and told to stay seated for the rest of the journey.
rudeness /ˈruːd.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: rudeness
Adjectives: rude
Adverbs: rudely

NOUN [u]
[C1] the quality of being rude

Dictionary example:
I was shocked by her rudeness.

Learner example:
Many complaints were made about the rudeness of the reception [staff].

ruin /ˈruː.ɪn/

NOUN
be/lie in ruins
[C1] to be in a very bad state

Dictionary example:
The war left one million people dead and the country in ruins.

Learner example:
When my grandparents were young, Germany lay in ruins.

LOSING EVERYTHING
[C2] [u] when someone loses everything such as all their money or their job

Dictionary example:
The collapse of the bank has left many people in financial ruin.

Learner example:
He started his first business some time ago which led to financial ruin.

VERB [T]
[B2] to spoil or destroy something completely

Dictionary examples:
They were late and the dinner was ruined.
Her injury ruined her chances of winning the race.
Huge modern hotels have ruined this once unspoilt coastline.

Learner example:
But she didn't keep her promise and she ruined my life.
Word family:
Nouns: rule, ruler, ruling
Verbs: rule

NOUN

USUAL WAY

[B2] [NO PLURAL] the usual way something is

Dictionary examples:
an exception to the rule
I visit my parents on Sunday, as a rule.

Learner example:
As a rule, children who ride bikes change their bike[s] for cars [when they are older] and are pre[pa]red a little [for] how to behave on the road.

a rule of thumb

[C1] a way of calculating something, which is not exact but which will help you to be correct enough

Dictionary example:
As a rule of thumb, you need one egg for every 125g flour.

Learner example:
As a rule of thumb, one third of the people working in central Copenhagen [go] by car, one third by public transport, and one third by bike.

bend/stretch the rules

[C2] to allow someone to do something which is not usually allowed

Dictionary example:
We don't usually let students take books home, but I'll bend the rules on this occasion.

LEADER

[C2] [u] when someone is in control of a country

Dictionary examples:
military rule
There have been reports of immense human suffering under his rule.

Learner example:
A XXth century modernist, not only should he be paid honour for his artistry but also for his never cea[s]ing battle against Franco's rule.

VERB

CONTROL SOMEWHERE

[B2] [i or ð] to be in control of somewhere, usually a country
**Dictionary example:**
They were ruled for many years by a dictator.

**Learner example:**
In the late 60s when Greece was ruled by a military government, many young students fled abroad to escape its cruelty.

**INFLUENCE SOMEONE**
[B2] [ɪ] to influence someone's thoughts or actions

**Dictionary example:**
His life is ruled by the demands of his job.

**Learner example:**
Our Earth has grown overcrowded and every inch of our life is ruled by computers.

**CONTROL**
[C1] to be in control of somewhere, usually a country

**Dictionary examples:**
They were ruled for many years by a dictator.
the ruling party

**Learner example:**
Cleopatra was the seventh queen of Egypt and ruled until 63 B.C. whe[n] she died.

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**ruler /ˈruː.lə/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** rule, ruler, ruling
**Verbs:** rule

**NOUN [C]**

**LEADER**
[C1] the leader of a country

**Dictionary example:**
He was the ruler of the country for over 20 years.

**Learner example:**
Versailles in France and the time of Louis XIV as the ruler would be my place and time I would choose to visit.

---

**ruling /ˈruː.lington/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** rule, ruler, ruling
**Verbs:** rule
**NOUN [C]**

[C2] an official legal decision, usually made by a judge

**Dictionary example:**
This ruling has delighted road safety campaigners.

**Learner example:**
As you certainly will remember, the ruling of the High Court obliges you to keep the level of noise below a certain level depending on the distance of the airport.

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**rumour /ˈruː.mə/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] a fact that a lot of people are talking about although they do not know if it is true

**Dictionary examples:**
Rumours are going round the school about Mr Mason and his assistant. Someone has been spreading rumours about me. I heard a rumour that you were leaving.

**Learner example:**
However, the press shouldn't create rumours and hunt those people like animals.

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**run /rʌn/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** run, runner, running

**Verbs:** run

**VERB (running, ran, run)**

**TRAVEL**

[B2] [i] If trains or buses are running, they are available to travel on.

**Dictionary examples:**
Trains are still running, despite the snow. A bus runs three times a day into town. Buses are running an hour late, because of an earlier accident.

**Learner example:**
There is an easy way to get to the college: a service bus runs every 15 minutes, [and] the journey takes only 20 minutes.

**LIQUID**

[B2] [i] If liquid runs somewhere, it flows.
Dictionary examples:
Tears ran down her face.
Have you got a tissue? My nose is running.

Learner example:
The warm urine ran through my underwear, [down] my legs and white socks, into my shoes and floated out on the floor.

USE COMPUTER
[B2] [ɪ] If you run a computer program, you use it on your computer.

Dictionary example:
Did you run a virus check this morning?

Learner example:
At this point the computer is unable to run any program.

WORKING
[C1] [ɪ or ə] If a piece of equipment is running, it is switched on and working, and if you run it, you switch it on and make it work.

Dictionary example:
The engine is running more smoothly now.

Learner example:
We could start a campaign where people are reminded not to leave their car, lorry or bus engines running for more than one minute if stationary.

PUBLISH
[C1] [ɪ] to publish something in a newspaper or magazine

Dictionary example:
All the papers are running this story on the front page.

Learner example:
If we run a story on "HIV Symptoms" we could have a very succes[s]ful first issue.

run sth along/over/through, etc. sth
[C2] to move something along, over, or through something else

Dictionary example:
She ran her fingers through her hair.

Learner example:
The manly figure that had tried to stop her now kneeled before her body running his finger through her soft blond hair.

be running at sth
[C2] to be at a particular level

Dictionary example:
Inflation is now running at 5.8%.
Learner example:
According to the official dat[a], unemployment is running at so high a level that it is even possible that the unemploy[ed] will rebel against the government.

**make your blood run cold**
[C2] If something makes your blood run cold, it frightens you very much.

Dictionary example:
I heard a tapping on the window which made my blood run cold.

Learner example:
This thought scared me and made my blood run cold.

**run wild**
[C2] If someone, especially a child, runs wild, they behave as they want to and no one controls them.

Dictionary example:
Their nine-year-old son is left to run wild.

Learner example:
My parents decided to move to a small village when I was just a kid. Shortly after we settled [in], my parents decided that I was running wild and that it was time for me to receive some sort of education.

**run wild**
[C2] If someone's imagination runs wild, they are not able to control their thoughts.

Dictionary example:
It was getting dark and my imagination was starting to run wild.

Learner example:
Her imagination started to run wild and she set about think[ing] about the dark corridors, the secret passages and the obscure dungeons that the castle might hide.

**run riot**
[C2] to behave in a noisy, violent, or wild way without being controlled

Dictionary example:
They allow their kids to run riot.

**run the risk of sth**
[C2] to do something although something bad might happen because of it

Dictionary example:
I think I'll run the risk of hurting her feelings, and tell her the truth.

Learner example:
They constantly run the risk of losing their physical abilities.
NOUN [C]

**SPORT**

[B2] in cricket or baseball, a single point

**Dictionary example:**
to score a run

**Learner example:**
I liked the competition because both the teams played well and they scored good runs

**in the long run**

[B2] at a time that is far away in the future

**Dictionary example:**
It seems a lot of effort but I'm sure it's the best solution in the long run.

**Learner example:**
It costs a lot of money, but in the long run, it is worth it.

**make a run for it** INFORMAL

[C2] to suddenly run fast in order to escape from somewhere

**Dictionary example:**
When he saw the open door, he made a run for it.

**Learner example:**
Anna and Tom decided to make a run for it.

**a run of sth**

[C2] when something happens several times without something different happening during that period

**Dictionary examples:**
a run of 10 games without a win
a run of good/bad luck

**Learner example:**
Strange though it may seem, he achieved success in every possible field not owing to a run of good luck, but thanks to his outstanding qualities.

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**running** /ˈrʌn.ɪŋ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** run, runner, running  
**Verbs:** run
NOUN [u]

CONTROL
[C2] the activity of controlling or looking after something

Dictionary examples:
He has recently handed over the day-to-day running of the museum to his daughter.
running costs

Learner example:
Electricity is an essential requirement now in the day-to-day running of businesses and life in general compared to the early nineteenth century.

ADVERB

second/third, etc. day/week, etc. running
[C2] If something happens for the second/third, etc. day/week, etc. running, it happens on that number of regular occasions without changing.

Dictionary example:
He's won the Championship for the fifth year running.

Learner example:
Fourteen days running of laziness and sleep without tight-scheduled meetings or rush-hour traffic jams lurking.

ADJECTIVE

running water
[C1] If a place has running water, it has a working water system.

Dictionary example:
They bought an old house with no electricity or running water.

Learner example:
It is hilarious to think that at the same time people in the north of Europe were still living a primitive and uncivilized life not even able to invent an axe, the Romans managed to install running water in their huge houses.

runway /ˈrʌn.wɛr/

NOUN [c]

[C1] a large road that aircraft use to land on or to start flying from

Dictionary example:
The runway was covered with snow.
The problem hit the headlines when a small Soviet aircraft missed the runway and touched down on a road exploding in two pieces and damaging many cars and the people sitting inside.

**rural** /ˈrʊə.rəl/

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] relating to the countryside and not to towns

**Dictionary example:**
The area is still very rural and undeveloped.

**Learner example:**
I live in a rural area far from any village, town, or city.

**rush** /rʌʃ/

**VERB**

HURRY

[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] to hurry or move quickly somewhere, or to make someone or something hurry or move quickly somewhere

**Dictionary examples:**
We had to rush to catch the bus.
We rushed out into the street to see what all the noise was.
The UN has rushed medical supplies to the disaster area.

**Learner example:**
I rushed to Tom's house, and when I reached it, he received me with a weird smile on his face.

**rush to do sth**

[B2] to do something quickly and enthusiastically

**Dictionary example:**
His friends rushed to congratulate him after the ceremony.

**Learner example:**
I was very happy and rushed to talk to them.

FORCE ACTION

[C1] [ɪ] to make someone do something more quickly than they want to do it

**Dictionary examples:**
I refuse to be rushed into making a decision.
Don't try to rush him – he needs time to think about it.
Learner example:
It has always been very busy but these days people seem to have a harder time facing the fact that not everything can be rushed.

**NOUN [NO PLURAL]**

HURRY

[B2] when you have to hurry or move somewhere quickly

Dictionary examples:
Slow down! What's the rush?
Why is it always such a rush to get ready in the mornings?
Everyone seemed to be in a rush.
He was in a rush to get home.

Learner example:
That's because we are always stressed and always in a rush.

ACTIVITY

[C2] a lot of things happening or a lot of people trying to do something

Dictionary example:
There was a mad rush to get tickets for the concert.

Learner example:
She is that sort of a person who prefers to have more time on her hands so as to avoid the last-minute rush.

MOVEMENT

[C2] when something suddenly moves somewhere quickly

Dictionary examples:
a rush of air
She felt a sudden rush of blood to her face.

Learner example:
To conclude, I believe that sports activities, apart from providing us with a sense of freedom and a rush of adrenaline, make us accomplished human beings.

**rush hour** /ˈrʌʃ.əʊə/

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] the time when a lot of people are travelling to or from work and so roads and trains are very busy

Dictionary examples:
the morning/evening rush hour
I always try to travel outside the rush hours.
**Learner example:**
During rush hours, you often see cars lined up with just one person inside, each car polluting the environment.

**rusty** /ˈrʌs.ti/

**ADJECTIVE**

**METAL**

*B2* Rusty metal has rust on its surface.

**Dictionary example:**
a rusty car/nail

**Learner example:**
It was very rusty but I repainted it and now it looks like a new bike.

**SKILL**

*B2* If a skill you had is now rusty, it is no longer good because you have forgotten it.

**Dictionary example:**
My French is a bit rusty.

**Learner example:**
However, I am rather "rusty" [at] using the morse code as well as using the codes of communication.

**rut** /rʌt/

**NOUN**

**in a rut**

*C2* In a bad situation where you do the same things all the time, or where it is impossible to make progress

**Dictionary example:**
He seems to be stuck in a rut at the moment.

**Learner example:**
Financial security, all the, let me call them, background benefits are important, but if you do not love what you do, soon you will become bitter, stuck in a rut or worse – you will suffer from depression.
**ruthless** /ˈruːθ ləs/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] not caring if you hurt or upset other people when you try to get what you want

**Dictionary examples:**
- ruthless ambition
- a ruthless dictator

**Learner example:**
As a result, the competition has become ruthless and severe.
sack /sæk/

VERB [v]
[B2] to tell someone to leave their job, usually because they have done something wrong

Dictionary examples:
They sacked her for being late.
He got sacked from his last job.

Learner example:
What's more, I was sacked from my workplace.

NOUN

the sack
[B2] When someone gets the sack or is given the sack, they are told to leave their job.

Dictionary example:
He got the sack from his last job.

Learner example:
My sister was working in a very good company in Rio and she got the sack, so she decided to go to Spain.

BAG
[C1] [c] a large bag made of paper, plastic, or cloth and used to carry or store things

Dictionary example:
sacks of coal

Learner example:
The worst thing was with rubbish which wasn't collected. People in estates, special groups, used big bags and sacks to gather it.
sacred /ˈseɪ.krid/

ADJECTIVE

HOLY
[C1] relating to a religion or considered to be holy

Dictionary examples:
sacred music
a sacred object

Learner example:
It is a volcanic island which has been enshrined as a sacred place.

IMPORTANT
[C2] too important to be changed or destroyed

Dictionary example:
I don't work at weekends – my private time is sacred.

Learner example:
The old sweatshop has no appeal, and even many well-paid extra hours are rejected in order to preserve one's most sacred thing: free time.

sacrifice /ˈsæk.rɪ.fɑːs/

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] something valuable that you give up in order to achieve something or help someone, or the act of giving it up

Dictionary examples:
We had to make sacrifices in order to pay for our children's education.
They cared for their disabled son for 27 years, at great personal sacrifice.

Learner example:
It's a small sacrifice but I think that it will serve him [well] in the long run.

VERB
[C1] [T] to give up something that is valuable to you in order to achieve something or help someone

Dictionary example:
Many women sacrifice interesting careers for their family.

Learner example:
We are very proud of our low costs [...], a pleasing fact primarily based upon a large number of volunteers who sacrifice their spare time in our organisation.
sadden  /ˈsæd.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: sadness
Verbs: sadden
Adjectives: sad
Adverbs: sadly

VERB [T] FORMAL

[C2] to make someone feel sad or disappointed

Dictionary example:
We were saddened by his death.

Learner example:
They have a right to be consulted about their future: nothing saddens me more than a father sending his son (who dreams about becoming a painter) to the School of Law because that is 'the best for him' or 'that's what I always wanted to do' or, the worst of all, 'you will study such-and-such because I say so!'

saddle  /ˈsæd.l/

NOUN [c]

[C2] a leather seat that you put on a horse so that you can ride it

Dictionary example:
Can you help me fasten the saddle?

Learner example:
I didn't like to use a saddle, I just put a sheep skin on the back of my horse and jumped on it.

VERB (also saddle up)

[C2] [n] to put a saddle on a horse

Dictionary example:
We saddled our horses and rode off.

Learner example:
I had to climb to my father's shoulders to see the horses, and then realized that they hadn't been saddled.
sadly /ˈsæd.li/

Word family:
Nouns: sadness
Verbs: sadden
Adjectives: sad
Adverbs: sadly

ADVERB

NOT HAPPY
[B2] in an unhappy way

Dictionary example:
"He's gone away for six months," she said sadly.

Learner example:
Alice quickly got in the car and waved sadly at her parents while Natalie drove off.

NOT SATISFACTORY
[B2] in a way that is not satisfactory

Dictionary examples:
Sadly, the treatment doesn't work for all patients.
If you think she'll let you do that, you're sadly mistaken.

Learner example:
Some forms of entertainment which were popular decades ago have, sadly, disappeared.

sadness /ˈsæd.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: sadness
Verbs: sadden
Adjectives: sad
Adverbs: sadly

NOUN [U]
[B2] being sad

Dictionary example:
Her sadness at her grandfather's death was obvious.

Learner example:
What can be more real that when your lover is gone or taken away, your own soul is also alone, bitter and dark and there is nothing else than feelings of revenge, anger, frustration and sadness?
safe /seɪf/

Word family:
Nouns: safety
Adjectives: safe, unsafe
Adverbs: safely

ADJECTIVE

WITHOUT RISK
[C1] not involving much risk

Dictionary examples:
Salmon is a safe option – most people like it.
He told us that these shares were a safe investment.

Learner example:
On the other hand, I could have chosen to stay in my town and start [at] the University. It would be the recommended and most appropriate choice. I would get my degree and start a normal and safe career.

safe to say
[C1] If it is safe to say something, you are sure it is correct.

Dictionary example:
I think it's safe to say that he'll be the next president.

Learner example:
It is probably safe to say that there are no good books about engineering written in Portuguese so my teachers always use books written in English.

a safe place; somewhere safe
[C1] a place where something will not be lost or stolen

Dictionary example:
It's very valuable so put it somewhere safe.

Learner example:
Don't show off your money but keep it in a safe place.

in safe hands
[C1] being cared for or dealt with by someone skilled

Dictionary example:
The project is in safe hands – Jan has lots of experience.

Learner example:
He has also been trained as a lifeguard so the residents of your hotel would probably be in safe hands.

safe and sound
[C2] completely safe and without injury or damage
Dictionary example:
After three days lost in the mountains, all the climbers arrived home safe and sound.

Learner example:
So, by the time you read this letter I'll probably be safe and sound in Liverpool.

a safe bet
[C2] something that you are certain will happen

Dictionary example:
Wheeler is a safe bet for a place on the team.

Learner example:
 Automatically, we think that black is a safe bet for any occasion.

safety /ˈseɪf.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: safety
Adjectives: safe, unsafe
Adverbs: safely

NOUN [u]

BEING SAFE
[B2] the state of being safe, or a place or situation where someone or something is safe

Dictionary examples:
food/road safety
The hostages were led to safety.
For your (comfort and) safety, we recommend you keep your seat belt loosely fastened during the flight.
Journalists may enter the danger zone but unfortunately we cannot guarantee their safety.
As the gunman opened fire, they all ran/dived for safety behind trees.
Police are concerned for the safety of the five–year–old.
He was led to a place of safety.

Learner example:
In my opinion, using a centre for shopping is a better idea because we [are safer there] and nowadays safety is important for many reasons.

HOW SAFE
[C1] how safe something is

Dictionary example:
Safety at the factory has been improved.

Learner example:
Safety regulations: Ten years ago, regulations on working did not exist.
sail /seɪl/

Word family:
Nouns: sailing, sailor
Verbs: sail

VERB

MOVE ON WATER

[B2] [i] When a boat or a ship sails, it travels on the water.

Dictionary examples:
The ship was sailing to China.
The boat sailed along/down the coast.
As the battleship sailed by/past, everyone on deck waved.

Learner example:
I started the film and we could all see a ship sailing towards the camera.

NOUN

MATERIAL

[C2] [c] a large piece of material that is fixed to a pole on a boat to catch the wind and make the boat move

Dictionary example:
Our boat has a yellow sail.

Learner example:
Surrounded by swooping birds and the distant moos of the cows, the billowing sails would sen[d] us off with the wind.

set sail

[C2] to start a journey by boat or ship

Dictionary example:
We set sail for home the next day.

Learner example:
What made things turn from grey to black was that soon after my return I was invited to set sail to the Spanish islands.

saint /seɪnt/

NOUN [c]

[C1] a dead person who has been officially respected by the Christian church for living their life in a holy way
Dictionary example:
Catherine of Siena was made a saint in 1461.

Learner example:
They were originally a mixture of a pagan and a religious feast related to [the] worshipping of two saints: St Antony in Lisbon and St. John in Porto.

sake /seɪk/
NOUN
for the sake of sb/sth; for sb's/sth's sake
[B2] in order to help or bring advantage to someone or something

Dictionary examples:
Please do it, for David's sake.
Their parents only stayed together for the sake of the children.
I hope for both our sakes that you're right!
You should act on his advice, for your own sake.
For the sake of convenience, they combined the two departments.
For safety's sake, you shouldn't swim alone.

Learner example:
You should let your hair down once in a while, for your own sake, and for the sake of your family.

sale /seɪl/
NOUN
sell
[B2] [c or u] the act of selling something, or the time when something is sold

Dictionary examples:
The sale of alcohol is now banned.
The building company gets 10% commission on each house sale.
I haven't made a sale all morning.

Learner example:
We had arranged to meet him at the Ritz restaurant in order to deal [with] the sale of some products.

sales
[B2] the number of items sold

Dictionary example:
Our sales have doubled this year.
Learner example:
You should know that they are getting a marked increase in sales.

**salon /ˈsæ.lɔn/**

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a place where women have their hair cut and put in a style

**Dictionary example:**
My hairdresser opened her own salon.

**Learner example:**
I had an appointment at my hairdresser’s and late as usual I parked outside the salon on a narrow dead-end-street where it was forbidden to park.

**salty /ˈsɔː:lti/**

Word family:
Nouns: salt
Adjectives: salty

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] tasting of or containing salt

**Dictionary example:**
Is the soup too salty?

**Learner example:**
On the other hand, [the] Western one gave [good] service but [the] food was oily and salty.

**same /seɪm/**

**ADJECTIVE**

the same old arguments/face/story, etc.
[C1 INFORMAL] something or someone you have seen or heard many times before

**Dictionary examples:**
Every day I see the same old faces.
Politicians repeat the same old arguments time and time again.

**Learner example:**
I think that it is the same old story with media all over the world that they tend to present the news in [an] exaggerated manner.
in the same way
[C1] similarly

Dictionary example:
In the same way, there are many citizens who feel unprotected by the police.

Learner example:
In the same way, grandmothers may be shocked when seeing their little children wearing extravagant clothes or really short skirts.

be in the same boat
[C2] to be in the same unpleasant situation as other people

Dictionary example:
She complains that she doesn't have enough money, but we're all in the same boat.

Learner example:
Unemployment and its consequences is still a major problem. Now we are in the same boat.

PRONOUN

the same
[B2] not changed

Dictionary examples:
After all these years you look exactly the same – you haven't changed a bit.
Charles is just the same as always.

Learner example:
Prices are the same as in the golden days, but the atmosphere is friendlier and the linen-draped white tables look inviting.

all/just the same
[C1] despite what has just been said

Dictionary example:
He doesn't earn much. All the same, he ought to pay for some of his own drinks.

Learner example:
I'm afraid 300 parking spaces will not suffice. All the same, I would recommend parking in the city centre, for commercial reasons.

ADVERB

the same
[B2] in the same way

Dictionary examples:
We treat all our children the same.
I need some time to myself, the same as anybody else.
**sample**  /ˈsɑː.m.pl/  

**NOUN [c]**

**PART OF GROUP**  
[B2] a small number of people from a larger group that is being tested or considered  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a random sample of voters  
a nationally representative sample of 200 schools  

**Learner example:**  
This report is based on a sample of over 50 students.

**SMALL AMOUNT**  
[B2] a small amount of something that shows you what it is like  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a free sample of chocolate  
She brought in some samples of her work.  
samples of carpet/curtain material  

**EXAMINE**  
[C2] a small amount of a substance that a doctor or scientist collects in order to examine it  

**Dictionary example:**  
a blood/urine sample  

**Learner example:**  
He had taken blood samples, listened to her lungs and heart but nothing seemed to be wrong with her apart from the fact that she couldn't move her legs.

**VERB [t]**

**EXPERIENCE**  
[C2] to experience a place or an activity, often for the first time  

**Dictionary example:**  
an opportunity to sample the local night life  

**Learner example:**  
Having said that, the recent recession in Japan has caused a drop in prices and I consider this is the best time to set up a new program to send students to Japan to allow them to sample the culture and brush up their language ability.
**sanction** /ˈsæŋk.ʃən/

**NOUN**
[C2] [c] a punishment for not obeying a rule or a law

*Dictionary example:*
*economic/trade* sanctions against a country

*Learner example:*
The war effort and the US sanctions have led the economy to distress too.

**sane** /seɪn/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** insane, sane

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] not suffering from mental illness

*Dictionary example:*
Psychiatrists pronounced her sane.

*Learner example:*
On these occasions I would yell at him for no reason at all and my family started wondering whether I was completely sane.

**sarcastic** /sɑːˈkæs.tɪk/

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] using sarcasm

*Dictionary examples:*
a sarcastic comment/remark
Are you being sarcastic?

*Learner example:*
I want to learn how to be more assertive, find emotional independence, fulfil my dreams, be more tolerant, less sarcastic and, most importantly be given the precious gift of patience.
**satellite** /ˈsæt.lɪt/  
**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] a piece of equipment that is sent into space around the Earth to receive and send signals or to collect information  
**Dictionary examples:**  
The World Cup was transmitted around the world **by** satellite.  
satellite **television/TV**  
a TV/weather satellite  
**Learner example:**  
To balance this, technology has developed a lot in the last decades and now people can have wild animal[s] inside their homes, [even though] they may be locked up on a CD–Rom or coming in a wave format through the satellite dish.

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**satisfaction** /ˌsæt.ɪsˈfæk.ʃən/  
**Noun family:**  
**Nouns:** dissatisfaction, satisfaction  
**Verbs:** satisfy  
**Adjectives:** dissatisfied, satisfactory, satisfied, unsatisfactory  
**Adverbs:** satisfactorily  
**NOUN [U]**  
**FEELING**  
[B2] a pleasant feeling which you get when you receive something you wanted, or when you have done something you wanted to do  
**Dictionary examples:**  
She looked at the finished painting **with** satisfaction.  
She got/obtained great satisfaction **from/out of** helping other people.  
For me, job satisfaction is more important than the money.  
She **had** the satisfaction **of** knowing that she'd done everything she could.  
**Learner example:**  
Whatever it [is], it must give us satisfaction.

---

**to sb's satisfaction**  
[C2] as well as someone wants  
**Dictionary example:**  
He won't get paid until he completes the job to my satisfaction.  
**Learner example:**  
Should this matter not be solved to my satisfaction, I will have no choice but to place it in the hands of my solicitor.
satisfactorily /ˌsæt.ɪsˈfæk.tər.i/  

Word family:  
Nouns: dissatisfaction, satisfaction  
Verbs: satisfy  
Adjectives: dissatisfied, satisfactory, satisfied, unsatisfactory  
Adverbs: satisfactorily  

ADVERB  
[C1] in a satisfactory way  

Dictionary example:  
I'm sure these problems can be satisfactorily resolved.  

Learner example:  
The main problem is finding the most accurate meaning of some words, phrasal verbs, idioms etc. Dictionaries can do the job satisfactorily but the problem inside is left unsolved.  

satisfactory /ˌsæt.ɪsˈfæk.tər.i/  

Word family:  
Nouns: dissatisfaction, satisfaction  
Verbs: satisfy  
Adjectives: dissatisfied, satisfactory, satisfied, unsatisfactory  
Adverbs: satisfactorily  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] good enough  

Dictionary examples:  
We hope very much to find a satisfactory solution to the problem.  
The teachers seem to think his work is satisfactory.  

Learner example:  
The service is satisfactory.  

satisfied /ˈsæt.ɪs.fəd/  

Word family:  
Nouns: dissatisfaction, satisfaction  
Verbs: satisfy  
Adjectives: dissatisfied, satisfactory, satisfied, unsatisfactory  
Adverbs: satisfactorily
ADJECTIVE

be satisfied that
[C1] If you are satisfied that something is true, you believe it.

Dictionary example:
The judge was satisfied that she was telling the truth.

Learner example:
I suppose that is only because they are satisfied that other nations than the British can strike.

satisfy /ˈsæt.ɪs.fai/

Word family:
Nouns: dissatisfaction, satisfaction
Verbs: satisfy
Adjectives: dissatisfied, satisfactory, satisfied, unsatisfactory
Adverbs: satisfactorily

VERB [T]

PLEASE
[B2] to please someone by giving them what they want or need

Dictionary examples:
They have 31 flavours of ice-cream – enough to satisfy everyone!
Come on, satisfy my curiosity, what happened last night?

Learner example:
But how can anyone satisfy a wealthy woman like her without giving her an expensive present?

satisfy conditions/needs/requirements, etc.
[C1] to have or provide something that is needed or wanted

Dictionary example:
She satisfies all the requirements for the job.

Learner example:
In general, the conference satisfied my needs.

save /seɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: savings, saving
Verbs: save
**VERB**

**save a goal**

[B2] to prevent a player from scoring a goal

**Dictionary example:**
He saved two goals in the last minute of the game.

**save sb (from) doing sth**

[C1] to help someone avoid having to do something

**Dictionary example:**
We'll eat in a restaurant – it'll save you having to cook.

**Learner example:**
Building a new supermarket along with a multi-storey car park will save city dwellers from having to travel to the sub[u]urbs to buy what they need.

**saving /ˈseɪ.vɪŋ/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** savings, saving
**Verbs:** save

**NOUN [C]**

**LESS MONEY**

[C1] when you use or spend less money than you would usually have to

**Dictionary example:**
a saving of £20.

**Learner example:**
I know that it sounds as if the company had to spend a lot of money on retraining, but in the long term this will be a saving.

**savings /ˈseɪ.vɪŋz/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** savings, saving
**Verbs:** save

**NOUN [PLURAL]**

[B2] the money which you keep in an account in a bank or similar financial organization

**Dictionary example:**
He spent all his savings on an expensive car.
Learner example:
I also spent all my savings on executive-looking clothes.

**say /seɪ/**

**VERB [ɪ] (said, said)**

**be said to be**
[**B2**] used to show that many people believe something about something

**Dictionary example:**
Drinking plenty of water is said to be good for your skin.

**Learner example:**
On our way around the lake we would have [the] possibility of visiting a huge medieval castle which is said to be haunted.

**it goes without saying**
[**B2**] If something goes without saying, it is obvious or generally accepted.

**Dictionary example:**
It goes without saying that smoking is harmful to your health.

**Learner example:**
It goes without saying that I will participate!

**say sth to yourself**
[**C1**] to think something but not speak

**Dictionary example:**
"I hope she likes me," he said to himself.

**Learner example:**
I remember saying to myself that "this little boy will survive" and after that I felt totally cool and calm and did what had to be done.

**easier said than done**
[**C1**] used to say that something seems like a good idea but it would be difficult to do

**Dictionary example:**
I want to ask her out, but it’s easier said than done.

**Learner example:**
I know it’s easier said than done but you have to try.

**to say the least**
[**C1**] used to emphasize that you could have said something in a much stronger way
Dictionary example:
We were surprised, to say the least.

Learner example:
You get slightly bored, to say the least.

**needless to say**
[C1] as you would expect

Dictionary example:
Needless to say, it rained the whole time we were there.

Learner example:
Needless to say, bribes are a frequent occurrence.

**safe to say**
[C1] If it is safe to say something, you are sure it is correct.

Dictionary example:
I think it's safe to say that he'll be the next president.

Learner example:
It is probably safe to say that there are no good books about engineering written in Portuguese so my teachers always use books written in English.

**I dare say**
[C2] (also I daresay) used when you think that something is probably true or will probably happen

Dictionary example:
I dare say she'll change her mind.

Learner example:
Invent machines that are beneficial, not harmful, and I dare say life will only get better.

**to say nothing of sth**
[C2] used to emphasize other problems you have not talked about

Dictionary example:
Most wild otters have disappeared from populated areas, to say nothing of wilderness areas.

Learner example:
Indeed would not it be an oversimplification to make one's judgement of the country's national character on the grounds of the amount and the quality of food people eat, to say nothing of the fact that this judgement is usually highly subjective?

**saying** /ˈseɪ.iŋ/

NOUN [C]
[C2] a famous phrase that people use to give advice about life
Dictionary example:
Have you heard the saying "Don't count your chickens before they're hatched"?

Learner example:
But as the saying goes "Time flies when you are having fun".

c*ale /skeɪl/

NOUN

SIZE

[B2] [NO PLURAL] the size or level of something

Dictionary examples:
We don't yet know the scale of the problem.
Nuclear weapons cause destruction on a massive scale.
My parents used to entertain friends on a large/small scale.

Learner example:
He leads an evil trade: they [carry out] smuggling on a grand scale and use the inn as a store.

MEASURE

[B2] [C] a set of numbers, amounts etc., used to measure or compare the level of something

Dictionary examples:
the Centigrade/Fahrenheit scale
How would you rate his work on a scale of 1 to 5?

Learner example:
In brief, I think it would be a very good idea to create a new scale of [salaries] based on our needs, in which doctors would be [higher] than professional footballers.

COMPARISON

[B2] [C or U] how the size of things on a map, model, etc. relates to the same things in real life

Dictionary examples:
a scale of 1:50 000
This map is large scale.
Is the bridge drawn to scale?
He was building a scale model of Concorde.

Learner example:
My f[r]iend gave me a 1/72 scale kit of "Supermarine Spitfire" for my birthday.

scales

[B2] a piece of equipment for measuring weight
Dictionary example:
kitchen/bathroom scales

scan /skæn/

VERB [v] (scanning, scanned)

COMPUTER
[C1] to use a piece of equipment that copies words or pictures from paper into a computer

Dictionary example:
to scan photos into a computer

Learner example:
Instead of drawing some of our customers document[s] we will just scan them.

READ
[C1] (also scan through) to quickly read a piece of writing to understand the main meaning or to find a particular piece of information

Dictionary example:
I scanned the travel brochures looking for a cheap holiday.

Learner example:
So, I suggest that you buy a newspaper called "The Loot", sit down with a strong cup of coffee and scan it.

LOOK
[C2] to look around an area quickly to try to find a person or thing

Dictionary example:
She scanned the crowd for a familiar face.

Learner example:
She looked at Lisa: her restless eyes were scanning the room while her thin fingers were tapping on the table.

NOUN [n]
[C2] a medical examination in which an image of the inside of the body is made using a special machine

Dictionary example:
a brain scan

Learner example:
John went with Sophie for a scan, John was hoping for a boy and Sophie for a girl.
scandal /ˈskæn.dəl/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] something that shocks people because they think it is morally wrong

Dictionary examples:
a financial/political scandal
Their affair caused/created a scandal in the office.
If there is the slightest suggestion/hint of scandal, the public will no longer trust us.
It’s a scandal (that) children could be treated in this way.

Learner example:
Among them are the increasingly popular reality shows and all the daily news about gossip and scandal.

scar /skɑːr/

NOUN [C]

ON SKIN
[B2] a permanent mark left on the body from a cut or other injury

Dictionary examples:
an ugly scar
That burn will leave a nasty scar.

Learner example:
David is a tall man with black curly hair, black eyes, a big nose, [a] beard and a scar on his neck.

MIND
[C1] damage done to a person’s mind by a very unpleasant event or situation

Dictionary example:
a psychological scar

Learner example:
A person who [has been] affluent since childhood might be said to not have the emotional scars of experiencing poverty during childhood and might be able to look at the world, and to the life as an adult, in a positive and constructive way.

VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]
[C2] to cause a scar

Dictionary example:
He was scarred for life by the accident.
scarce /ˈskeəs/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** scarcity  
**Adjectives:** scarce  
**Adverbs:** scarcely  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] rare or not available in large amounts  

*Dictionary example:*  
scarce resources  

*Learner example:*  
In the context of Singapore, where land is scarce and widening or building of more roads is just not feasible, we have no choice but to choose what is best for everyone.

scarcely /ˈskeəs.li/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** scarcity  
**Adjectives:** scarce  
**Adverbs:** scarcely  

**ADVERB**  
[C2] only just  

*Dictionary example:*  
They had scarcely finished eating when the doorbell rang.  

*Learner example:*  
Scarcely had the ferry reached the shore than the heavy storm abated.

scarcity /ˈskeə.sə.ti/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** scarcity  
**Adjectives:** scarce  
**Adverbs:** scarcely  

**NOUN [C or U]**  
[C2] when there is not enough of something  

*Dictionary example:*  
a scarcity of food/affordable housing
Learner example:
With a scarcity of supplies and long training hours, wealthy children will then learn not to take things for granted.

**scare**  / ˈskɛər/  

Word family:
Verbs: scare
Adjectives: scared, scary

**VERB**  [T]  

FRIGHTEN
[C1] to frighten a person or animal

*Dictionary example:*  
Sudden, loud noises scare me.

*Learner example:*  
You may think that Universal Video has gone mad: re-editing those old-fashioned horror movies that couldn't even scare your 6-year-old sister!

**scare the hell/life/living daylights, etc. out of sb**  INFORMAL  
[C2] to make someone feel very frightened

*Dictionary example:*  
You scared the life out of me, creeping up on me like that!

*Learner example:*  
Such gory details scared the living daylights out of each parent in town and, soon after the second dead girl was found, [one] Mary Joe Chavez, supposedly another high-school genius, a [state of] emergency was proclaimed and a thorough investigation followed, proving to be in vain, despite all the effort put into it.

**scattered**  /ˈskæt.əd/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] covering a wide area

*Dictionary examples:*  
His toys were scattered all over the floor.  
There will be scattered showers today.

*Learner example:*  
Nowadays, families are scattered in all the parts of world, for example, my husband's family is in Australia; so our wedding provided me a chance to spend time with his family and learn about their family traditions,
scenario /ˈsɪˌnɑː.ri.əʊ/ (plural scenarios)

Noun [c]
[C2] a description of a situation, or of a situation that may develop in the future

Dictionary examples:
There are several possible scenarios.
a horrific/nightmare scenario such as a Third World War

Learner example:
This is a common scenario in developed countries, but third world countries have to deal with another type of homeless person.

scene /siːn/

Word family:
Nouns: scene, scenery
Adjectives: scenic

Noun

VIEW
[B2] [c] a view or picture of a place, event, or activity

Dictionary examples:
Lowry painted street scenes.
scenes of everyday life
There were scenes of great joy as the hostages were re-united with their families.

Learner example:
I like especially the scene of the garden with snow in winter.

PLACE
[B2] [c usually no plural] a place where an unpleasant event has happened

Dictionary examples:
The police arrived to find a scene of horrifying destruction.
Evidence was found at the scene of the crime.

Learner example:
She managed to recreate the scene of the crime, saying that she had swallowed a fish bone.

the club/gay/music, etc. scene
[B2] all the things connected with a particular way of life or activity

Dictionary example:
She's well known on the jazz scene.
Learner example:
Both of them are about the gay and lesbian scene.

**ARGUMENT**

[C2] [c] when people have a loud argument or show strong emotions in a public place

**Dictionary example:**
She made a scene when I told her she couldn't come with us.

**Learner example:**
She didn't cry, she didn't scream, she didn't make a scene.

**behind the scenes**

[C2] If something happens behind the scenes, it happens secretly.

**Dictionary example:**
A lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes.

**Learner example:**
Ms. Bolam knew a lot of things going on behind the scenes, [which were] not [known to] the patients.

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**scenic** /ˈsiː.nɪk/

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word family:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nouns: scene, scenery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives: scenic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] having views of the attractive, natural things in the countryside

**Dictionary examples:**
- a scenic route
- an area of great scenic beauty

**Learner example:**
France is an area of great scenic beauty, famous for its excellent cooking and wine.

---

**scent** /ˈsent/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOUN [c]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[B2] a pleasant smell</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Dictionary example:**
the sweet scent of orange blossom
Learner example:
Flowers are in bloom and their scent triggers my romantic mood.

**skeptical** /ˈskep.tɪk.əl/

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] doubting that something is true or useful

**Dictionary examples:**
Scientists remain skeptical about astrology.
She was sceptical of the new arrangement.

**Learner example:**
Such cases make us rather sceptical about authors of various theories concerning nutrition.

**schedule** /ˈʃed.juːl/

**Word family:**
Nouns: schedule
Verbs: schedule
Adjectives: scheduled

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a plan that gives events or activities and the times that they will happen or be done

**Dictionary examples:**
I have a very busy schedule today.
Will the work be completed on schedule?
Everything went according to schedule.

**Learner example:**
Firstly, the programme began exactly on schedule and the first group were KING CUP, not TORRENTS.

**VERB [T OFTEN PASSIVE]**
[B2] to arrange that an event or activity will happen at a particular time

**Dictionary examples:**
The meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.
The train is scheduled to arrive at 8.45, but it’s running twenty minutes late.

**Learner example:**
My flight is scheduled to arrive at the airport at 10 o’clock in the morning.
scheduled /ˈʃed.juːld/

Word family:
Nouns: schedule
Verbs: schedule
Adjectives: scheduled

ADJECTIVE

PLANNED
[B2] planned to happen at a particular time or on a particular date

Dictionary example:
This programme will be broadcast half an hour later than the scheduled time.

Learner example:
The scheduled time for the arrival is 5.15 pm.

FLIGHT
[B2] travelling at a regular time each day or week

Dictionary example:
a scheduled flight

scheme /skiːm/

NOUN [c]
[B2] an official plan or system

Dictionary examples:
a training/housing/play scheme
a pension/savings scheme
There's a new scheme in our town for recycling plastic bottles.
Class sizes will increase under the new scheme.

Learner example:
I reject any other possibilities like building a tunnel or a by-Pass, because compared to the Park and Ride scheme, they would be much too expensive.

scholar /ˈskɒl.ər/

Word family:
Nouns: scholar, scholarship

NOUN [c]
[C1] someone who has studied a subject and knows a lot about it
Dictionary examples:
a classics/history scholar
Dr Miles was a distinguished scholar of Russian history.

Learner example:
In the old days a scholar could spend years of his life in search of specific information, which now can be easily and inexpensively found at the click of a button!

scholarship /ˈskɒl.ə.ʃɪp/

Word family:
Nouns: scholar, scholarship

NOUN
[C1] [C] an amount of money given to a person by an organization to pay for their education, usually at a college or university

Dictionary example:
She got a scholarship to the college.

Learner example:
In addition, is there any scholarship or financial support provided for students to apply for?

schooling /ˈskuː.lɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: school, schooling

NOUN [U]
[C2] education at school

Dictionary example:
Jack didn't receive much formal schooling.

Learner example:
Throughout my schooling I felt that school was a chore, a necessary evil, if you will.

scientifically /ˌsaɪənˈtɪf.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: science, scientist
Adjectives: scientific
Adverbs: scientifically

ADVERB
[B2] using scientific methods
Dictionary example:
scientifically proven

Learner example:
It is scientifically pro[v]en and well-known that the gas [releas]ed by cars is toxic and quite dangerous to the environment – specially to the ozone layer.

**scope /skəʊp/**

NOUN [u]

**AMOUNT**

[C1] how much a subject or situation relates to

Dictionary example:
Do we know the full scope of the problem yet?

Learner example:
The scope of this article exceeds the problem of the abuse of females.

**OPPORTUNITY**

[C2] the opportunity to do something

Dictionary example:
There is plenty of scope for improvement.

Learner example:
Some people argue that living longer gives them plenty of scope to do things they have always wanted to do but could not find the time for.

**scramble /ˈskram.bl/**

VERB

**scramble down/out/up, etc.**

[C2] to move or climb quickly but with difficulty, often using your hands

Dictionary example:
We scrambled up the hill.

Learner example:
Piggy and [an]other few boys scramble up to the Castle Rock because Piggy wants to have his glasses back.
scrap /skræp/

NOUN

SMALL PIECE
[C2] [c] a small piece or amount of something

Dictionary examples:
He wrote his phone number on a scrap of paper.
I've read every scrap of information I can find on the subject.
They couldn't find a scrap of evidence against him so he was released without charge.

Learner example:
A group of well-educated boys becomes a savage tri[b]e, killing human beings without a scrap of remorse.

OLD
[C2] [u] old cars and machines that are not now needed but have parts which can be used to make other things

Dictionary examples:
scrap metal
The car was so badly damaged we could only sell it as scrap.

Learner example:
The last place I would visit was an isolated [building], where some lean mongrel dogs were gnawing on rusty bones, while sniffing round the piles of scrap iron the left side of the building was thick with.

VERB [T] (scraping, scrapped)
[C2] informal to not continue with a plan or idea

Dictionary example:
That project has now been scrapped.

Learner example:
We therefore propose you scrap your plans for Terminal 5 and instead try to reduce the number of incoming and outgoing flights, by diverting some planes to Luton or Stansted or Gatwick Airport.

scratch /skrætʃ/

VERB

RUB SKIN
[B2] [i or ɪ] to rub your skin with your nails, often to stop it itching
**Dictionary examples:**
My skin was so itchy, I was scratching all night.
He was scratching (at) his mosquito bites.
Hannah scratched her head thoughtfully.

**HURT/DAMAGE**
[B2] [tr] to make a slight cut or long, thin mark with a sharp object on a surface or on your skin

**Dictionary examples:**
I scratched myself on the roses.
We scratched the paintwork trying to get the bed into Martha's room.
People have been scratching their names on this rock for years.

**Learner example:**
How can this ridiculous man accuse me of scratching his new car, thought Laura.

**RUB SURFACE**
[B2] [i] to rub a hard surface with a sharp object, often making a noise

**Dictionary example:**
The dog’s scratching at the door – he wants to be let in.

**Learner example:**
Something scratched at the door.

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] a slight cut or a long, thin mark made with a sharp object

**Dictionary example:**
I've got all these scratches on my arm from the cat.

**Learner example:**
I should like to join one of those courses to become more 'professional' in how to repair a scratch on the side [of the boat] or a hole in the sail.

**from scratch**
[C1] If you do something from scratch, you do it from the beginning.

**Dictionary example:**
We didn't have any furniture of our own so we had to start from scratch.

**Learner example:**
That means you don't have to start from scratch with your teacher.

**not be/come up to scratch** INFORMAL
[C2] to not be good enough

**Dictionary examples:**
She told me my work wasn’t up to scratch.
The department has put a procedure in place for staff who don't come up to scratch.
Learner example:
The size of the rooms and their state as well were not really up to scratch.

**script**  /skrɪpt/

**NOUN**

**WORDS**

[B2] [c] the words written for and spoken in a film, play, broadcast or speech

**Dictionary example:**
Bruce Robinson wrote the script for 'The Killing Fields'.

**Learner example:**
I didn't get involved that much in writing a script because it was very hard and the director wrote most of it but the main idea of the background of the stage was m[ine], and I am very proud of it.

**LETTERS**

[C2] [c or u] a set of letters used for writing a particular language

**Dictionary example:**
Arabic/Roman script

**scroll**  /skrəʊl/

**VERB**

scroll up/down/through, etc.

[C2] to move text or an image on a computer screen so that you can look at the part that you want

**Dictionary example:**
Scroll down to the bottom of the document.

**scruffy**  /ˈskrʌf.i/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] dirty and untidy

**Dictionary examples:**
scruffy jeans
I don't like to look scruffy.
Learner example:
For example, if it is particularly trendy for kids to wear scruffy bomber jackets and faded jeans there is no point in compelling them to dress our conventional way.

**scrutiny /ˈskruː.tɪ.n.i/**

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] when you examine something carefully

**Dictionary example:**
Every aspect of her life came under public scrutiny.

**Learner example:**
Everything is placed under careful scrutiny.

**seal /siː.l/**

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] an animal with smooth fur that eats fish and lives near the sea

**Dictionary example:**
We could see seals swimming near the coast.

**Learner example:**
After leaving the Orkney Islands, we went by boat to [the] Shetland Islands, because we wanted to observe the grey seals with their pups that were [o]n the northwest coast.

**VERB**

**CLOSE ENTRANCE**
[C2] (also seal up) to close an entrance or container so that air or liquid cannot enter or leave it

**Dictionary example:**
She quickly sealed up the bottle.

**Learner example:**
In Egypt, [the] Pyramids are being sealed, because the perspiration of the tourists was ruining the paintings on the walls.

**CLOSE LETTER**
[C2] to close a letter or parcel by sticking the edges together

**Dictionary example:**
to seal an envelope
Learner example:
Jenny, my girlfriend, told me that she sealed the envelope with trembling fingers and then posted it.

**search** /sə:tʃ/  
**VERB**

POLICE

[B2] [ɪ] If the police search a place or a person, they look to see if they are hiding anything illegal, such as drugs.

**Dictionary examples:**
They were searched at the airport.
The men were searched for drugs and then released.

**Learner example:**
The undercover [patrol] searched our car rather roughly, looking for drugs.

**FIND ANSWER**
[C1] [ɪ] to try to find an answer to a problem

**Dictionary example:**
Doctors are still searching for a cure.

**Learner example:**
The governments are therefore searching for solutions to compensate [for] the lack of financial resources.

**NOUN**

**FIND ANSWER**
[B2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] when you try to find an answer to a problem

**Dictionary example:**
the search for happiness

**Learner example:**
Hemingway fought in the Spanish Civil war and in World War II, always [i]n the search for answers to questions like "... what defines a man", or "... what happens to us in critical situations".

**season** /ˈsiː.zən/  
**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** season  
**Adjectives:** seasonal
in season
[B2] If vegetables or fruit are in season, they are available and ready to eat.

Dictionary example:
Asparagus is in season at the moment.

Learner example:
They celebrate Halloween in October when pumpkins are in season, that's why in the decorations they include them very often; most of the people carve the pumpkins and put some lights inside.

out of season
[C1] If vegetables or fruit are out of season, they are not usually available at that time.

Dictionary example:
Strawberries are out of season at the moment.

Learner example:
As our place was famous for fresh sea food, I bought crabs and salmon although they were out of season and expensive.

out of season
[C2] If you go somewhere out of season, you go during a period of the year when few people are there.

Dictionary example:
I prefer to travel out of season.

Learner example:
Some towns that are completely dependent on tourism “die” out of season, while others are destroyed because of the excessive emigration of [their] people.

seasonal ˈsiː.zən.al/

Word family:
Nouns: season
Adjectives: seasonal

ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to or happening during a particular period in the year

Dictionary examples:
seasonal vegetables
seasonal farm work

Learner example:
I am a student and during my summer holiday I prefer to do some seasonal work.
**seat** /siːt/

NOUN [C]

POLITICS
[C2] a position in a parliament or other group that makes official decisions

Dictionary examples:
a seat in parliament
a congressional seat

Learner example:
This is the story of a man who spent his life paying kickbacks to achieve power and eventually a seat in the parliament.

VERB

be seated
[B2] to be sitting down

Dictionary example:
The director was seated on his right.

Learner example:
A big pink elephant was seated near me.

seat 4/12/200, etc.
[C2] If a building, room, or vehicle seats a particular number of people, that many people can sit in it.

Dictionary example:
The new concert hall seats 1500 people.

Learner example:
According to the owners, the Swan seats 100 guests and it is always advisable to make reservations.

**secluded** /sɪˈkluː.dɪd/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] If a place is secluded, it is quiet and not near people.

Dictionary example:
a secluded beach/garden

Learner example:
It is a place of rare beauty: secluded beaches, transparent and shimmering water are only a little part of the fascinating mystery of this gorgeous sea resort.
second /ˈsek.ənd/

Word family:
Adjectives: secondary
Adverbs: secondly

ADVERB

IN LIST
[B2] used to talk about the second in a series of things

Dictionary example:
Second, they failed to send written warning.

Learner example:
Second, the pedestrian area in the commercial centre has to grow, which would make this part of the town more pleasant for walking and would improve the opportunities [for] the shops.

NOUN [C]

PRODUCT
[C2] something that is sold cheaply because it is damaged or not in perfect condition

Dictionary example:
Some of those towels are seconds.

secondly /ˈsek.ənd.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: secondary
Adverbs: secondly

ADVERB

[B2] used for introducing the second reason, idea, etc.

Dictionary example:
I want two things: firstly, more money, and secondly, better working hours.

Learner example:
Secondly, I didn’t know that you were working in [an] organization which [is] trying to save wildlife, but it sounds very exciting.
secret /ˈsiː.krət/

Word family:
Nouns: secret
Adjectives: secret
Adverbs: secretly

NOUN

the secret
[B2] the best way of achieving something

Dictionary examples:
That's the secret to making a good cocktail.
So what's the secret of your success?

Learner example:
The secret of this diet is that you have to be very optimistic.

in secret
[B2] without telling other people

Dictionary example:
For years they met in secret.

Learner example:
We met in secret when Mary was busy.

secretary /ˈsek.rə.tri/

NOUN [C]

COMMITTEE
[C1] the member of a committee who keeps records of meetings and deals with correspondence

Dictionary example:
I'm secretary of the tennis club this year.

Learner example:
From: Secretary of the Social Club To: Mr. Ford, Museum Director

sector /ˈsek.tər/

NOUN [C]
[C1] one part of a country's economy
Dictionary examples:
In the financial sector, banks and insurance companies have both lost a lot of money. The new government's policy is to transfer state industries from the public sector to the private sector.

Learner example:
Our software solutions are oriented towards the corporate sector where we are recognized as market leaders in this field.

**secure /sɪˈkjʊər/**

Word family:
**Nouns**: security, insecurity
**Adjectives**: secure, insecure

**ADJECTIVE**

SAFE

[B2] safe from danger or harm or not likely to end

Dictionary examples:
I don't feel that the house is secure.
Her promotion has made her position in the company more secure.
The museum has been promised £22 million by the government, so its future is relatively secure.

Learner example:
I think homes in the future will be more secure.

CONFIDENT

[B2] confident about yourself and the situation that you are in

Dictionary example:
I need to feel secure in a relationship.

Learner example:
First of all, you feel secure because you know that all the members of the family love you.

COMPUTER

[C1] designed to make sure that only the person who knows it can get onto a computer system, website, etc.

Dictionary example:
You will be issued with a secure password.

Learner example:
If you decided to work with our superb Direct Net, you would get a secure password which you have to change at your first log in and an electronic card which produces every minute a new combination.
NOT FAIL
[C2] not likely to fail

Dictionary example:
a secure investment

Learner example:
I consider tourism a secure investment and [one] that is beneficial.

security /ˈsɪkjʊərə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: security, insecurity
Adjectives: secure, insecure

NOUN [U]

SAFE SITUATION
[C1] when something is not likely to fail or be lost

Dictionary examples:
If it's a choice between higher pay and job security, I'd prefer to keep my job.
I'm on a temporary contract and have little financial security.

Learner example:
They are the people who are already regarded as high class, but the reason for this prediction is that they have job security which has become a big issue in Korea after IMF, as well as [a] high salary.

CONFIDENCE
[C2] confidence about yourself and the situation that you are in

Dictionary example:
the security of a long-term relationship

Learner example:
One is the security of having your mom around all the time.

sedentary /ˈsed.ən.tər.i/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] spending a lot of time sitting down or not being active

Dictionary example:
a sedentary job/lifestyle
**Learner example:**
Improving the sports facilities means encouraging the residents to include physical exercise in their daily routine. Considering the sedentary lifestyle most people have adopted this would be of great importance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>see</strong> /siː/ (seeing, saw, seen)</th>
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**VERB**

**INFORMATION**

[B2] [t] to find out information

**Dictionary examples:**
I'll just see what time the train gets in.
Let's see whether there is an early performance on Saturday.

**Learner example:**
I have looked in my calendar to see what time would be the best for you to come here.

**SEX**

[C2] I to persuade someone to have sex with you, especially someone young

**Dictionary example:**
She was seduced by her boss.

**Learner example:**
One of the reasons why Olivia leaves her husband is that she has been seduced by an Indian prince.

**PERSUADE**

[C2] to persuade someone to do something they would not normally do

**Dictionary example:**
I wouldn't have bought it but I was seduced by the low prices.

**Learner example:**
Sometimes I was seduced into buying very "useful" things by some cunning and attractive commercials on the television.
Dictionary examples:
She didn't see herself as brave.
It was easy to see the gift as a sort of bribe.
As I see it/things/the situation, we'll have to get extra help.

Learner example:
If I compare the members of my family with these qualities, then I have to say that I don't see them as my best friends.

I'll/we'll see
[C1] used to say that you will make a decision about something later

Dictionary example:
"Dad, can I have a guitar?" “We'll see.”

Learner example:
I'm sure I'd love to have four of them, but there's always the financial aspect. I'm just nineteen, I'll see...

Happen
[C1] [ɪ] to be the time or place where something happens

Dictionary example:
This decade has seen huge technological advances.

Learner example:
But the reason which has driven the strike is [that] the whole country has seen a cut in the subsidies given to unemployed people.

You see
[C1] used when you are giving an explanation about something

Dictionary examples:
I didn't know she was Welsh, you see.
You see, it was already late by that time.

Learner example:
Family matters had to stay in the family, you see.

Wait and see
[C1] to wait to discover what will happen

Dictionary example:
We'll wait and see what she says.

Learner example:
We will just have to wait and see.....

See that
[C2] If you ask someone to see that something happens, you want them to make sure it happens.
Dictionary example:
Could you see that everyone gets a copy of this letter?

BELIEVE
[C2] [ɪ] to believe that something will happen

Dictionary example:
I can't see us finishing on time.

Learner example:
She could see herself doing everyday job[s], studying with the kids, cooking dinner, putting them to [bed] but she didn't feel there; her thoughts were where they always were trying to find hope to endure the agony.

see sense
[C2] to realize you are wrong or have been behaving stupidly

Dictionary example:
We talked to her for an hour, but we couldn't make her see sense.

Learner example:
Ralph tries to make Jack see sense by showing him the conch which had been the symbol of leadership and also, friendship.

see eye to eye (with sb)
[C2] If two people see eye to eye, they agree with each other.

Dictionary example:
Our teachers don't always see eye to eye with the headmaster.

Learner example:
Although I agree with some of the statements given by the young people, I do not see eye to eye with all of their viewpoints.

see red
[C2] to become very angry

Dictionary example:
When he insulted my friends, I just saw red.

Learner example:
I see red each time I realize that my son is looking forward to arriving home so as to flop down in front of his telly instead of reading a good book.
seed /siːd/

NOUN

PLANT
[B2] [c] a small round or oval object produced by a plant that a new plant can grow from

Dictionary examples:
Sow the seeds about 3 cm deep.
This chemical will stop the seeds from sprouting.

Learner example:
[For] several years, I have been very interested in flowers, fresh, dried and artificial and also different kinds of seeds.

(the) seeds of *sth*
[C2] the beginning of something

Dictionary example:
the seeds of hope/change

Learner example:
Should we use them unwisely, then we may well be sowing the seeds of our own (cultural) destruction.

Learner example:
CLC replaced to avoid UK wrding and vocab (charity workers, keen) CJC

seek /siːk/ FORMAL (sought, sought)

VERB [T]

TRY TO FIND
[B2] to try to find or get something

Dictionary examples:
“Are you actively seeking jobs?” she asked.
Hundreds of dissidents are seeking refuge/asylum in the US embassy.
Legal advice should be sought before you take any further action.

Learner example:
I am seeking employment and [am] interested in your offer.

TRY TO DO
[C2] to try to do something
**Dictionary examples:**
They are seeking to change the rules.
to seek re-election

**Learner example:**
Jack never accepted Ralph as a chief and throughout the book he seeks to assume power.

*seem* /siːm/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** seem
**Adverbs:** seemingly

**VERB**

*It seems...*
[B2] used for saying that something appears to exist or be true

**Dictionary examples:**
It seems that the restaurants close early here.
It seems to me that she's in the wrong job.

**Learner example:**
It seems to me that you are wrong again.

*seemingly* /ˈsiː.mɪŋ.li/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** seem
**Adverbs:** seemingly

**ADVERB**
[C1] appearing to be something without really being that thing

**Dictionary example:**
a seemingly harmless comment

**Learner example:**
You also claim that we did not reach our target figure – a statement seemingly based on pure assumption – which is completely incorrect.
**seize** /siːz/

**VERB** [T]

**HOLD**

[B2] to take hold of something quickly and firmly

Dictionary example:
I seized his arm and made him turn to look at me.

Learner example:
Besides, I think that the wild beasts have the right to live free and seize their prey in order to feed themselves.

**seize a chance/opportunity**

[B2] to do something quickly in order to use an opportunity

Dictionary example:
You need to seize every opportunity.

Learner example:
So we seize the opportunity to go to the sea.

**PLACE**

[C2] to take control of a place suddenly by using military force

Dictionary example:
Troops seized control in the early hours of the morning.

---

**seldom** /ˈsɛldəm/

**ADVERB**

[B2] not often

Dictionary example:
We seldom go out in the evenings.

Learner example:
Alice was a quiet girl, she seldom talked, but he just couldn't stop talking.

---

**selection** /səˈlekJ.n/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** selection  
**Verbs:** select  
**Adjectives:** selective
NOUN

**ACT OF CHOOSING**

[B2] [u] when someone or something is chosen

Dictionary examples:
the selection process
We need to make a selection from these applicants.
Success is achieved by the careful selection of projects.

Learner example:
The selection of films and plays was well made, but I would have appreciate[d] [it] if there had been more.

**THINGS CHOSEN**

[B2] [c] a group of people or things that has been chosen

Dictionary examples:
Most schools would have a good selection of these books in their libraries.
The larger shops are able to stock a wide selection of goods.

Learner example:
There is a good selection of bar food.

**selective /seˈlektɪv/**

Word family:
Nouns: selection
Verbs: select
Adjectives: selective

ADJECTIVE

[C1] intentionally choosing some things or people and not others

Dictionary examples:
As a teacher she was very selective, accepting only a small number of highly talented pupils.
He seemed to have a very selective recall of past events.

Learner example:
At the same time, this makes us extremely selective when it comes to the people we want working with us.

**self /sɛlf/**

NOUN [C or U] (PLURAL selves)

[C1] your characteristics, including your personality, your abilities, etc.
Dictionary examples:
our sense of self
his real/true self

Learner example:
True recognition and happiness can't be derived from television or front covers but only from one's true self.

**self-assurance /ˌself.əˈʃənəns/**

Word family:
Nouns: assurance, reassurance, self-assurance
Verbs: assure, reassure
Adjectives: reassuring, self-assured

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the quality of being confident about yourself

Dictionary example:
He spoke with remarkable self-assurance for such a young man.

Learner example:
She would have to show self-assurance, determination to get the job, and give the feeling that she would be up to the task.

**self-assured /ˌself.əˈʃʊəd/**

Word family:
Nouns: assurance, reassurance, self-assurance
Verbs: assure, reassure
Adjectives: reassuring, self-assured

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] confident about yourself

Dictionary example:
She's a very self-assured young woman.

Learner example:
I assume that in order to reach success you must be shrewd, self-reliant, self-assured and above all assertive.
<table>
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<th><strong>self-awareness</strong></th>
<th>/ˌself.əˈweə.nəs/</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong></td>
<td>awareness, self-awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong></td>
<td>aware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN [u]</strong></td>
<td>[C2] good knowledge and judgment about yourself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
<td>She has a high level of self-awareness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
<td>Montag’s friendship with Clarisse, a young girl who is sensitive towards humans and nature, serves as a catalyst in the commencement of the antagonist’s self-awareness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>self-catering</strong></th>
<th>/ˌselfˈkeɪ.tɪŋ/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C1] describes a holiday or place in which you have a kitchen so that you can cook meals for yourself</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
<td>We decided to stay in self-catering accommodation rather than in a hotel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
<td>It is situated in London so it seems to me that it would give you the opportunity to learn more about everyday English life. Moreover, the accommodation is top quality, as there are single rooms, and self-catering facilities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>self-centred</strong></th>
<th>/ˌselfˈsen.təd/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C1] interested only in yourself</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
<td>Stop being so self-centred!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
<td>This way of thinking is very important because a person who spends a lot of time alone can become self-centred and insensitive to others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**self-confidence /ˌself ˈkɒn.fɪ.dənt/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** confidence, self-confidence
- **Adjectives:** confident, self-confident
- **Adverbs:** confidently

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] being self-confident

**Dictionary example:**
Since she left home, her self-confidence has grown.

**Learner example:**
In my opinion, the reason for it is that not many people know how to prepare for [an] interview and gain self-confidence.

**self-confident /ˌself ˈkɒn.fɪ.dənt/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** confidence, self-confidence
- **Adjectives:** confident, self-confident
- **Adverbs:** confidently

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] feeling sure about yourself and your abilities

**Dictionary example:**
He's a very self-confident young man.

**Learner example:**
So when the day came, she felt much more self-confident and determined than before.

**self-conscious /ˌselfˈkɒn.ʃəs/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** consciousness
- **Adjectives:** conscious, unconscious, self-conscious
- **Adverbs:** subconsciously, unconsciously

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] nervous or uncomfortably aware of yourself and what people think about you or your actions

**Dictionary example:**
He looked uncomfortable, like a self-conscious adolescent who's gone to the wrong party.
Learner example:
Video equipment however is something we have been wanting for a long time, for the following reasons: [...] – to enhance interpretation of body language as well as spoken language; this aspect is often neglected but of major importance; – to record and play back the students while speaking a monologue or discussing among a group: this enhances their fluency and makes them less self-conscious and thus more confident while expressing themselves in a foreign language; – last but not least: to make learning more fun and thus attract more students.

**self-control /ˌself.kənˈtrəʊl/**

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the ability to control your emotions and actions although you are very angry, upset, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
He displayed a total lack of self-control.

**Learner example:**
Doing that kind of job requires a lot of self-control.

**self-discipline /ˌselfˈdɪs.ɪ.plɪn/**

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the ability to make yourself do things that you do not want to do

**Dictionary example:**
I haven't got the self-discipline to be an athlete.

**Learner example:**
Nowadays, some of her most noticeable characteristics are her courtesy, her self-discipline and the compassion that she shows for those who suffer.

**self-esteem /ˌself.ɪˈstiːm/**

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] confidence in yourself and a belief in your qualities and abilities

**Dictionary example:**
She suffers from low self-esteem.

**Learner example:**
I think that the lack of self-esteem among men underlies the whole situation.
**selfishness** /ˈsel.fɪʃ.nəs/

Word family:
**Nouns:** selfishness
**Adjectives:** selfish

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] the quality of being selfish

**Dictionary example:**
I was appalled by his selfishness.

**Learner example:**
It seems to me that everywhere in the world, people are not necessarily aware of the fact that planet Earth is [the] most precious gift we have. Greed and selfishness are also very common in Switzerland, even if this country might be already a few steps further [forward] than others.

**self-made** /ˌselfˈmɛrd/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] rich because you have earned a lot of money yourself

**Dictionary example:**
a self-made millionaire

**Learner example:**
One of the reasons I think my father is successful in life is because he is a self-made man.

**self-reliance** /ˌself.rɪˈlɑr.ənts/

Word family:
**Nouns:** reliability, reliance, self-reliance
**Verbs:** rely
**Adjectives:** reliable, unreliable, reliant, self-reliant

**NOUN [u]**

[C2] the quality of not needing help and support from other people

**Dictionary example:**
These kids need to learn some self-reliance.

**Learner example:**
When she finally faced "Mr Right" for the second time this morning, she discovered she was a new woman, endowed with self-reliance and a high sense of her being, her self-esteem, magically empowered.
**self-reliant /ˌself.rɪˈlaɪ.ənt/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** reliability, reliance, self-reliance
- **Verbs:** rely
- **Adjectives:** reliable, unreliable, reliant, self-reliant

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] able to do things yourself without depending on other people

**Dictionary example:**
The children are beginning to be a bit more self-reliant.

**Learner example:**
You must have a firm, outgoing personality, but be self-reliant and strong-willed.

---

**self-respect /ˌself.rɪˈspekt/**

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] the feeling of pride in yourself and your character

**Dictionary example:**
Having a job gave them back their self-respect.

**Learner example:**
And this proves that professional activity is a source of self-respect and, eventually, leads to satisfaction.

---

**self-sufficient /ˌself.səˈfɪʃ.ənt/**

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** sufficient, insufficient, self-sufficient
- **Adverbs:** sufficiently

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] having everything that you need yourself and not needing help from others

**Dictionary example:**
We are completely self-sufficient in vegetables.

**Learner example:**
Nowadays, though we consider the fact of having longer life expectancy an improvement, the society tends to marginalise an old person and tends to [view] him or her as a burden, especially if this person is not self-sufficient.
sell /sel/ (sold, sold)

Word family:
Nouns: seller
Verbs: sell

VERB

A LOT

[B2] [ɪ or ɨ] to be bought in large numbers

Dictionary example:
His last book sold eight million copies.

Learner example:
The single with her new song sold more than 15 million copies, now she was a powerfull star.

IDEA/PLAN

[C2] [ɪ] to persuade someone that an idea or plan is good

Dictionary example:
I’m currently trying to sell the idea to my boss.

sell like hot cakes

[C2] to be bought quickly and in large numbers

Dictionary example:
Their new game is selling like hot cakes.

Learner example:
Books about how to remain young are selling like hot cakes.

semicolon /ˌsem.iˈkəʊ.lən/

NOUN [c]

[B2] a mark (;) used to separate parts of a sentence, or items in a list which already has commas

Dictionary example:
Use a semicolon to separate the groups of items in your list.

semi-detached /ˌsemi.dɪˈteɪtʃt/

ADJECTIVE

[C1] A semi-detached house has one wall that is joined to another house.
Dictionary example:
We live in a semi-detached house.

Learner example:
When I was in London I lived in a semi-detached house as well.

**semi-final** /ˌsem.iˈfaɪ.nəl/

NOUN [C USUALLY PLURAL]
[B2] one of the two games in a sports competition that are played to decide who will play in the final game

Dictionary examples:
Who's in the semi-finals?
She's the youngest player ever to get through to a semi-final.

Learner example:
One Sunday morning we had to play the cup semi-final against [our] great rival.

**seminar** /ˈsem.i.nɑːr/ 

NOUN [C]
[B2] a meeting of a group of people with a teacher or expert for training, discussion, or study of a subject

Dictionary examples:
I attended practically every lecture and seminar when I was a student.
I'm giving a seminar on the latest developments in genetic engineering next week.

Learner example:
I also need this job because I need money to attend some seminars.

**send** /send/ (sent, sent)

VERB [T]

MAKE GO
[B2] to make someone go somewhere
Dictionary examples:
We're sending the children to stay with my parents for a couple of weeks.
The commander has asked us to send reinforcements.
They've sent their son (away) to school in Scotland.
He was trying to explain but she became impatient and sent him away.

Learner example:
We should build more schools because we only have one, so we have to send our children away and none of us like that.

MAKE HAPPEN
[C2] to cause someone or something to do a particular thing, or to cause something to happen

Dictionary examples:
The explosion sent the crowd into a panic.
Watching the television always sent me to sleep.
His untidiness sends her crazy/mad/wild.
The draught from the fan sent papers flying all over the room.

Learner example:
While we were singing a duet by Mendelssohn with my sister, a sweeping movement of my hand sent two pages of music flying towards the first row of seats.

send shivers/a shiver down your spine
[C2] to make you feel afraid or excited

Dictionary example:
The sound of his voice sent shivers down my spine.

Learner example:
Simply looking at her sent shivers down his spine – there was the love of his life, the dearest woman on good old Earth, that he's never met before.

senior /ˈsiː.ni.ər/

ADJECTIVE

MORE IMPORTANT
[B2] having a more important job or position than someone else

Dictionary examples:
a senior executive
We work in the same team but she's senior to me.
a senior government minister

Learner example:
She is also extraordinary in that she graduated from Harvard University and Tokyo University and used to work for the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs as a senior civil servant.
OLDER
[B2] relating to people who are older

Dictionary example:
You can't use a senior ticket during the rush hour – you have to pay full fare.

Learner example:
When I got to the tickets desk before the show to buy my ticket I asked for a senior discount, and the woman told me there were no discounts available as I read on the advertising.

**sensation** /senˈseɪʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: sensation
Adjectives: sensational

NOUN

**PHYSICAL**
[B2] [C or U] a physical feeling, or the ability to physically feel things

Dictionary examples:
a burning sensation
I had no sensation of pain whatsoever.
The disease causes a loss of sensation in the fingers.

Learner example:
When I fell into the water, I was shocked. I couldn't move my right leg, the sensation was horrible.

**FEELING/IDEA**
[B2] [C usually no plural] a strange feeling or idea that you cannot explain

Dictionary example:
I had the odd sensation (that) someone was following me.

Learner example:
Suddenly I had the sensation that something was wrong.

**EXCITEMENT**
[B2] [no plural] a lot of excitement, surprise or interest

Dictionary example:
Their marriage caused a sensation.

Learner example:
In the poetry, she expressed her sad feeling, thinking of her brother who was in China as a soldier. It caused a sensation.
sensational /senˈseɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: sensation  
Adjectives: sensational  

ADJECTIVE  

SHOCKING  
[C1] done in a way that is intended to shock people  

Dictionary example:  
sensational journalism  

Learner example:  
I think that the journalists desired sensational news far too much and they exaggerated.  

EXCITING  
[C2] very exciting or extremely good  

Dictionary example:  
a sensational performance  

Learner example:  
If you are up for some sensational fun, "New York–New York" is your place, with a crazy roller coaster soaring through the lobby and out into open air.  

sense /sɛnts/  

Word family:  
Nouns: nonsense, sense, sensibility  
Verbs: sense  
Adjectives: sensible, senseless  
Adverbs: sensibly  

NOUN  

GOOD JUDGMENT  
[B2] [u] good judgment, especially about practical things  

Dictionary examples:  
I hope they'll have the (good) sense/have enough sense to shut the windows before they leave.  
There's no sense in waiting – the next train isn't for two hours.  

Learner example:  
People should have the sense to dispose [of] all the waste properly.  

ABILITY  
[B2] [NO PLURAL] the ability to do something
Dictionary examples:
He's got a good sense of direction and hardly ever uses a map.
good business sense

Learner example:
Animals are part of nature so they must be free [to] go where their sense of direction [leads them].

NATURAL ABILITY
[B2] [c] one of the five natural abilities of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste

Dictionary examples:
With her keen sense of smell, she could tell if you were a smoker from the other side of the room.
My cold is so bad I've lost my sense of smell/taste.

Learner example:
You can enjoy a flight with all your five senses.

make sense
[B2] to have a meaning or reason that you can understand

Dictionary example:
He's written me this note but it doesn't make any sense.

Learner example:
Eighty kilometres in the mountains just to [look at] views doesn't make any sense to me.

make sense
[B2] to be a good thing to do

Dictionary example:
It makes sense to buy now while prices are low.

Learner example:
Therefore it makes sense to use the innovation[s].

MEANING
[B2] [c] one of the possible meanings of a word or phrase

Dictionary examples:
They are not immigrants, at least not in any sense that I understand.
The packaging is green – in both senses of the word.
Security defined in the broad/broadest sense of the term means getting at the root causes of trouble and helping to reduce regional conflicts.

Learner example:
The Empress was an ideal lady in every sense of the word.

in a sense
[C1] thinking about something in a particular way

Dictionary example:
In a sense, he's right.
Learner example:
In a sense this is correct, since you have to leave your natural environment to visit a place where no human being is meant to survive.

**make sense of sth**
[C2] to understand something that is difficult to understand

**Dictionary example:**
I'm trying to make sense of this document.

**Learner example:**
In fact, it's during his journey that Stevens begins to make sense of his life, of all the years he spent as a butler, as the 'perfect butler' who had to be loyal, silent and discreet.

**see sense**
[C2] to realize you are wrong or have been behaving stupidly

**Dictionary example:**
We talked to her for an hour, but we couldn't make her see sense.

**Learner example:**
Ralph tries to make Jack see sense by showing him the conch which had been the symbol of leadership and also, friendship.

**VERB [T]**
[C2] to feel or experience something without being able to explain exactly how

**Dictionary examples:**
Although she said nothing, I could sense her anger
He sensed something was about to happen.
He sensed (that) his guests were bored, although they were listening politely.
Could you sense what was likely to happen?

**Learner example:**
So Monica's aunt somehow subconsciously sensed that something was going to happen.

**senseless** /ˈsens.əl/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** nonsense, sense, sensibility  
**Verbs:** sense  
**Adjectives:** sensible, senseless  
**Adverbs:** sensibly

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] happening or done without a good reason

**Dictionary example:**
senseless violence
Learner example:
Maybe after a thousand years of wars between Poland and Germany both sides have finally decided that fighting and killing is senseless.

**sensibility** /ˌsen.siˈbɪl.ə.ti/

Word family:
**Nouns:** nonsense, sense, **sensibility**
**Verbs:** sense
**Adjectives:** sensible, senseless
**Adverbs:** sensibly

**NOUN [C or U] FORMAL**

[C2] someone's feelings, or the ability to understand what other people feel

**Dictionary example:**
his aesthetic sensibility

**Learner example:**
All the features mentioned above are extremely important but they mean nothing if your offspring lacks kindness, sensibility and ignores his family traditions.

**sensibly** /ˈsent.sə.bli/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** nonsense, sense, **sensibility**
**Verbs:** sense
**Adjectives:** sensible, senseless
**Adverbs:** sensibly

**ADVERB**

[C1] in a sensible way

**Dictionary examples:**
She behaved very sensibly about it.
They very sensibly decided to stay at home.

**Learner example:**
As time goes [by], these kids quite don't understand the importance of using money sensibly and saving money.

**sensitive** /ˈsent.sə.tiv/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** sensitivity
**Adjectives:** sensitive, insensitive
**ADJECTIVE**

**UPSET**

[B2] easily upset by the things people say or do

**Dictionary examples:**
Her reply showed that she was very sensitive to criticism.
He was very sensitive about his scar and thought everyone was staring at him.

**Learner example:**
Nowadays we are not so sensitive.

**REACTING**

[B2] able to react very quickly and easily

**Dictionary examples:**
These scales are very sensitive.
He has a very sensitive nose.

**Learner example:**
I am very sensitive to noise, especially at night, and tend to catch a cold even in summer.

**EASILY DAMAGED**

[B2] easy to damage and needing to be protected

**Dictionary example:**
I have very sensitive skin.

**SUBJECT**

[B2] A sensitive subject or situation needs to be dealt with carefully in order to avoid upsetting people.

**Dictionary examples:**
Sex education and birth control are sensitive issues.
The stolen car contained military documents described as very sensitive.

**Learner example:**
I knew that I could not cry and shout because it was too important and sensitive a problem for us.

**KIND**

[B2] able to understand what people are feeling and deal with them in a way that does not upset them

**Dictionary examples:**
I want a man who's kind and sensitive.
Representatives of the company claim their plan will be sensitive to local needs.
In the movie, he plays a concerned and sensitive father trying to bring up two teenage children on his own.
Learner example:
One thing Bobby is good at is that he is bright and sensitive enough to protect you.

**sensitivity** /ˌsent.səˈtɪv.i.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: sensitivity
Adjectives: sensitive, insensitive

NOUN [C]

KIND
[C1] the ability to understand how other people are feeling and to be helpful and kind to them

Dictionary example:
The police showed great sensitivity in their handling of the case.

Learner example:
It is written with sensitivity, honest[y], sincerity and objectiveness.

EASILY UPSET
[C1] the quality of being easily upset by things that people say or do

Dictionary example:
I should have warned you about her sensitivity to criticism.

Learner example:
One of her weaknesses would be her great sensitivity.

**sentence** /ˈsen.tənts/

NOUN [C]

PUNISHMENT
[B2] a punishment that a judge gives to someone who has committed a crime

Dictionary examples:
He got a heavy/light sentence.
The offence carries a jail/prison/life/5-year sentence.

Learner example:
This is even worse than a real life sentence.

VERB [T]
[B2] to give a punishment to someone who has committed a crime
Dictionary example:
He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Learner example:
Soon afterwards he gets imprisoned again and is sentenced to death. Sydney takes his place and is executed instead of him.

sentiment /ˈsen.tɪ.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: sentiment
Adjectives: sentimental

NOUN
[C2] an opinion that you have because of the way you feel about something

Dictionary example:
nationalist/religious sentiments

Learner example:
We would discuss for hours on end, arguing most of the times, and never express our true inner sentiments.

sentimental /ˌsen.tɪˈmen.təl/

Word family:
Nouns: sentiment
Adjectives: sentimental

ADJECTIVE
FEELING
[C2] showing kind feelings such as sympathy, love, etc., especially in a silly way

Dictionary examples:
a sentimental song
The British are very sentimental about animals.

Learner example:
I do love Lighthouse Family's music – the sentimental lyrics and catchy tune[s] all flow with the black singer's magic voice.

VALUE
[C2] related to feelings and memories and not related to how much money something costs

Dictionary example:
It wasn’t an expensive ring but it had great sentimental value.
Learner example:
It can be the value in money that make[s] people be attached to [a] possession or, rather, a sentimental or symbolic link.

**separate**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** separation
- **Verbs:** separate
- **Adjectives:** separate, inseparable
- **Adverbs:** separately

**ADJECTIVE** /ˈsepərət/

[B2] not affecting or related to each other

**Dictionary examples:**
I've asked him to turn his music down on three separate occasions.
I have my professional life and my private life and I try to keep them separate.
Three youths have been shot and killed in separate incidents this month.

Learner example:
She went to Lisbon, and we [ended up] living separate lives.

**VERB** /ˈsepərət/ /ˈsepərət/&/n

**DIVIDE**

[B2] [I or T] to divide into parts, or to make something divide into parts

**Dictionary examples:**
I separated the class into three groups.
The north and south of the country are separated by a mountain range.
You can get a special device for separating egg whites from yolks.
The top and bottom sections are quite difficult to separate.

Learner example:
On the other hand, more bins ought to be put in the centre [to] encourage people to separate their rubbish more carefully.

**MOVE APART**

[B2] [I or T] to move apart, or to make people move apart

**Dictionary examples:**
I shall separate you two if you don’t stop talking.
Somehow, in the rush to get out of the building, I got separated from my mother.
Perhaps we should separate now and meet up later.

Learner example:
I noticed that there were some [people] fighting, and we tried to separate them.
HUSBAND/WIFE

[B2] [t]o start to live in a different place from your husband or wife because the relationship has ended

**Dictionary example:**
My parents separated when I was four.

**Learner example:**
But his parents separated and John didn't see h[is] mother again, as well as his sister, after that day.

### separately /ˈsep.ərətli/

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<tr>
<td><strong>Adverbs:</strong> separately</td>
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**ADVERB**

[B2] not together

**Dictionary examples:**
Detectives interviewed the men separately.
I tend to wear the jacket and skirt separately rather than as a suit.
I think we'd better deal with these two points separately.

**Learner example:**
They were living separately and missing each other.

### separation /ˌsep.əˈreɪʃən/

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**NOUN [C or U]**

APART

[B2] when two or more people or things are separated

**Dictionary examples:**
During the war, many couples had to face long periods of separation.
After many years, the government finally abandoned its apartheid system of racial separation.
Learner example:
One of the most important project[s] is the separation of the rubbish and I think that it has worked, but it could work better.

NOT LIVE TOGETHER
[B2] the decision of two people who were married or living together to stop living together

Dictionary example:
They decided on a trial separation.

Learner example:
We lived for a time in peace but our happiness ceased because of his jealousy and fear [of losing] me, which was the cause of our daylong quarrels. There was no solution apart from separation.

sequence /ˈsiːkwəns/

NOUN

FILM
[C1] a part of a film or video game that shows one thing that happens

Dictionary example:
I particularly enjoyed the dream sequence.

Learner example:
However, the rest of the game is not as [polished] as the opening sequence: indeed, it seems that the developers simply re-used the graphical engine of the prequel, without even revamping it: the result is truly disappointing.

SERIES
[C2] a series of related events or things that have a particular order

Dictionary example:
The sequence of events that led to his death

Learner example:
They don't emerge from nowhere, as there was a certain sequence of events that has led to them, so having the full picture with past events influencing our present can help us to find efficient solutions.

ORDER
[C2] the order that events or things should happen or be arranged in

Dictionary example:
I got my slides mixed up and they appeared out of sequence.
Learner example:
It was the fourth summer in sequence that he had chosen this hotel to spend his holiday but this he had never experienced before.

**serene /ˈsɪriːn/**

Word family:
Nouns: serenity
Adjectives: serene

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] calm and quiet

Dictionary example:
a serene face/smile

Learner example:
I enjoy looking at this image, which bears [the] skill of a 16th century artist: the mother's expression is solemn and tender as she looks at the boy, while Christ's face is completely serene and is lit with a faint smile.

**serenity /ˈsɪren.ə.ti/**

Word family:
Nouns: serenity
Adjectives: serene

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] a feeling of being calm and happy

Dictionary example:
She sat there with an air of serenity about her.

Learner example:
She strongly believes that art bring[s] peace, harmony, serenity and tranquillity in their life, which could balance their emotions and help [them] to overcome difficulties.

**serial /ˈsə.rə.ri.al/**

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**
[C1] describes a person who repeatedly commits the same serious crime, often using the same method, or a serious crime that is committed repeatedly by one person
Dictionary examples:
She wrote a thriller about a brutal serial killer.

Learner example:
These pictures have never been broadcast because too many important people are involved in these serial killings.

NOUN [c]
[C1] a story in a magazine or on television or radio that is told in separate parts over a period of time

Dictionary example:
I'm watching a serial set in Yorkshire.

Learner example:
As I have already mentioned the quality of the English language used is exceptional and I would like to congratulate all the people that take part in the serial.

series /ˈsɪər.i.z/ (PLURAL series)

NOUN [c]

THINGS
[B2] several things or events of the same type that come one after the other

Dictionary examples:
He's had a series of tests at the hospital but they can't find anything wrong.
She gave a series of lectures at Warwick University last year on contemporary British writers.

Learner example:
The aim of this report is to make a series of suggestions on which lessons and other activities should be filmed.

BOOKS
[B2] a set of books published by the same company which deal with the same subject

Dictionary example:
They do a series on architecture throughout the ages.

Learner example:
We read all of Poirot and [the] Miss Marple series.
serious /ˈsɪə.ri.əs/

Word family:
Adjectives: serious
Adverbs: seriously

ADJECTIVE

NEEDING ATTENTION

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] needing or deserving your complete attention

Dictionary examples:
That's an interesting job offer – I'd give it some serious consideration if I were you.
We've got some serious talking to do, you and me.

Learner example:
I think it would be worthwhile to give serious thought to these animals.

seriously /ˈsɪə.ri.ə.sli/

Word family:
Adjectives: serious
Adverbs: seriously

ADVERB

NOT JOKING

[B2] in a way that shows that you are not joking

Dictionary examples:
Seriously now, did he really say that or are you just being silly?
You’re not seriously thinking of leaving, are you?

Learner example:
Seriously, Tom, I have noticed that you get angry very easily since your examinations started.

take sb/sth seriously

[B2] to consider a person, subject or situation to be important or dangerous and worth your attention or respect

Dictionary examples:
The police have to take any terrorist threat seriously.
You don't take anything seriously, do you? It's all one big joke to you.
She wants to be taken seriously as an actress.
These young actors take themselves so seriously!

Learner example:
I hope you take my suggestions seriously.
servant /ˈsɜː.vənt/

Word family:
Nouns: servant, service
Verbs: serve
Adjectives: self-service

NOUN [C]

[B2] someone who works and lives in someone else's house doing their cooking and cleaning, especially in the past

Dictionary example:
They employed more than 50 servants.

Learner example:
In this book, the author [includes] a detailed description of [the] two main characters: the rich English master PHILEAS FOGG and his French servant PASSEPARTOUT.

serve /sɜːv/

Word family:
Nouns: servant, service
Verbs: serve
Adjectives: self-service

VERB

BE USEFUL

[C1] [ɪ] to be useful as something

Dictionary examples:
It's a very entertaining film but it also serves an educational purpose.
The spare bedroom also serves as a study.
He hopes his son's death will serve to warn others about the dangers of owning a gun.
Nothing serves to explain the violent fighting we have seen recently.

Learner example:
As for replanting, it will serve to rejuvenate our forests around Agrinio.

WORK

[C1] [ɪ or ɪ] to do work that helps society, for example in an organization such as the army or the government

Dictionary examples:
to serve in the army
to serve on a committee/jury
He served as mayor for 5 years.
He always wanted to serve his country.
Learner example:
Women in the former GDR had the same rights and had to fulfill nearly the same duties (except the duty to serve in the army) as men.

**PRISON**

[C2] [r] to be in prison for a period of time

Dictionary example:
Williams, 42, is serving a four-year jail sentence.

Learner example:
It all came to me in prison where I was serving a two-year sentence.

**serve a/the purpose**

[C2] to have a use

Dictionary example:
These small village shops serve a very useful purpose.

Learner example:
They introduced meetings at Miss Kenton’s parlour which were held every evening and served the purpose of discussing house running.

---

**service**  /ˈsɜː.vɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: servant, service
Verbs: serve
Adjectives: self-service

**EXTRA MONEY**

[B2] [u] an amount of money charged for serving a customer in a restaurant, which is often paid directly to the waiter

Dictionary examples:
There is a 10% service charge included in the bill.
Does the bill include service?

Learner example:
The thing which annoyed me the most was that they have a 20% service charge, but I refused to pay it because there was no service.

**GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT**

[B2] [c] a government department that is responsible for a particular area of activity

Dictionary examples:
the diplomatic service
the security services
Learner example:
I was employed in the security service.

**ARMED FORCES**

[B2] [c or u] the armed forces, or work done in the armed forces

Dictionary examples:
He joined the air force in 1964 and spent ten years in the service.
Most of my family were in the services.
All men under thirty-five were told to report for military service within three days.
Service personnel are subject to the Official Secrets Act.

Learner example:
He finished his military service, and now he was on his way to his family, who had been waiting for him for a long time.

**WORK**

[C1] [u] the time you spend working for an organization

Dictionary example:
He retired last week after 25 years' service.

Learner example:
In my mind he is the perfect candidate, because due to his long service in the U.S. Army, where superiors are obliged to take care of their subordinates, he was in contact with young people from all kinds of ethnic backgrounds and social classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>set /set/</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**

*Nouns:* setting  
*Verbs:* set

**VERB (setting, set, set)**

**EQUIPMENT**

[B2] [ɪ] to make a piece of equipment ready to be used

Dictionary examples:
The heating is set to come on at 5.00 p.m.
Have you set the video recorder?
I usually set my watch by the time signal on the radio.
He set the alarm for 7.00 a.m.

Learner example:
I had forgotten to set the alarm clock the previous night and by the time I got up it was already 9 o’clock.
**BE IN PLACE**

*B2* [It usually passive] if something is set somewhere, it is in that place or position

**Dictionary examples:**
The campsite is set in the middle of a pine forest.
Our house is set back from the road.

**Learner example:**
The camp is set in a beautiful place in the heart of nature, with lots of opportunities to get out of the camp if you want to.

---

**CONDITION**

*B2* [It] to cause something or someone to be in the stated condition or situation

**Dictionary examples:**
It is believed that the building was set on fire deliberately.
She set fire to her neighbour’s house.
After years in prison, the men who had wrongfully been found guilty of the bombing were finally set free.

**Learner example:**
A modern zoo must be [like] a forest, without cages, and the animals must be set free.

---

**ACHIEVE**

*B2* to give someone something to do or achieve

**Dictionary examples:**
Our teacher has set us a lot of homework.
He's set himself the goal/target of making his first million by the time he's 30.

**Learner example:**
I suggest it [would] be a good idea to set more projections next year.

---

**set an example**

*B2* to do something in a good way so that other people might try to copy you

**Dictionary example:**
Try to set a good example to the children.

**Learner example:**
It sets a good example for other museums.

---

**set a record**

*B2* to establish the best achievement so far in a sport or competition

**Dictionary example:**
Bolt has set a new world record.

---

**LEVEL**

*C1* to decide the level of something
**Dictionary example:**
The interest rate has been set at 5%.

**Learner example:**
In addition to all this, I must point out that our agreement regarding the student discount on all tickets was set at 10%, not 5%, as you mentioned on your handout.

**set foot in/on sth**
[C1] to go into a place or onto a piece of land

**Dictionary example:**
He told me never to set foot in his house again.

**Learner example:**
I dream of being the first one to set foot on a white sandy beach, to admire a new kind of vegetation: cranberry bushes, sweet potatoes, wild turkeys, a different climate; how scary and exciting at the same time!

**set guidelines/standards, etc.**
[C2] to establish guidelines, standards, etc. that must be followed

**Dictionary example:**
Our school sets very high standards and most students achieve them.

**Learner example:**
But I do know that even though my parents were indulgent, affectionate and warm, they still quite clearly set standards on how I was supposed to behave.

**set sth down/on, etc.**
[C2] to put something somewhere

**Dictionary example:**
She set the vase down on the table.

**set fire to sth; set sth on fire**
[C2] to make something start burning, usually to cause damage

**Dictionary example:**
Enemy troops set fire to the village.

**Learner example:**
At this point nothing made sense anymore, so I just watched while Jake set the car on fire.

**set sail**
[C2] to start a journey by boat or ship

**Dictionary example:**
We set sail for home the next day.

**Learner example:**
What made things turn from grey to black was that soon after my return I was invited to set sail to the Spanish islands.
set your sights on *sth*
[C2] to decide to achieve something

**Dictionary example:**
She's set her sights on becoming a doctor.

**Learner example:**
This resemblance was the final silent argument that convinced Wormold to promise Milly the expensive and beautiful horse she had set her sights on.

**NOUN [C]**

**TENNIS**
[B2] a part of a game of tennis

**Dictionary example:**
They won in *straight* sets.

**Learner example:**
Finally we managed to win the [second] set so we were equal.

**FILM / PLAY**
[B2] the place where a film or play is performed or recorded, and the pictures, furniture, etc. that are used

**Dictionary examples:**
a *film* set
a stage set
a set designer
They first met on the set of 'Star Wars'.

**Learner example:**
Her father, John, was a stuntperson and he died in an unfortunate accident while he was perform[ing] [o]n a film set.

**ADJECTIVE**

**be all set**
[C1] to be ready

**Dictionary example:**
We were all set to go when the phone rang.

**Learner example:**
So, there you go. I'm all set!

[C2] fixed and never changing

**Dictionary examples:**
Most people work for a *number of hours* each week.
I have no set *routine*.

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Learner example:
Even if there is a set number of standard models, there is always ample room for personal choice according to your taste.

**setback** /ˈset.bæk/

**NOUN [C]**
[C1] a problem that makes something happen later or more slowly than it should

**Dictionary example:**
The project has suffered a series of setbacks this year.

**Learner example:**
A strong bond between you and your friends, with whom you can have discussions about personal setbacks, is another very vital point.

**setting** /ˈset.ɪŋ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** setting
**Verbs:** set

**NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL]**

**POSITION**
[B2] the position of a house or other building

**Dictionary example:**
Their cottage is in a beautiful rural setting.

**Learner example:**
[It is] a beautiful setting with old architecture, trees and glittering water.

**BOOK/FILM, ETC.**
[B2] the time and the place in which the action of a book, movie, play, etc. happens

**Dictionary example:**
The play has its setting in a wartime prison camp.

**Learner example:**
The setting of "The Third Man" is Vienna after the Second World War.
settle /ˈset.əl/  

Word family:
Nouns: settlement
Verbs: settle

VERB

LIVE

[B2] [ɪ] to start living somewhere that you are going to live for a long time

Dictionary examples:
After they got married, they settled in Brighton.
He travelled around Europe before finally settling in Rome.

Learner example:
I can understand why you have decided to settle near the Loire Valley, which is one of the greatest part[s] of France.

DECIDE

[B2] [t] to decide or arrange something

Dictionary examples:
Right, that's settled. We're going to Spain.
They haven't yet settled when the wedding is going to be.
"The tickets are £40 each." "Well, that settles that then – I can't afford that much."
I'd like to get this matter settled once and for all.
The details of the contract have not yet been settled.

Learner example:
I really hope it will not take you long to settle the matter.

ARGUMENT

[C1] [ɪ] If you settle an argument, you solve the problem and stop arguing.

Dictionary examples:
My father and I have agreed finally to settle our differences.
It took months to settle the dispute/strike.

Learner example:
Caroline and her husband had had an argument last week, but as he was going to be away for a few days, they had finally settled their differences.

SNOW/DUST, ETC.

[C1] [ɪ] to move to a lower level and stay there

Dictionary examples:
The house had been empty for years, and dust had settled on all the surfaces.
Do you think the snow will settle?
The contents of this packet may settle.
Learner example:
Whenever I have cleaned my shelve[s] you can just watch the dust settle on [them].

PAY
[C2] [ɪ] If you settle a bill or a debt, you pay the money that you owe.

Dictionary example:
I've got some bills to settle.

Learner example:
Many individuals are caught overspending when they check their credit card statements, later having to borrow from money lenders to settle their bills.

**settlement** /
ˈset.1.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: settlement
Verbs: settle

NOUN [C]

AGREEMENT
[C1] an official agreement that finishes an argument

Dictionary example:
a peace settlement

Learner example:
All employees working for the public transport went on strike a week ago, and there is no settlement in sight.

ARRANGEMENT
[C2] an arrangement to end a disagreement without taking it to a court of law

Dictionary example:
They reached an out-of-court settlement.

Learner example:
Hoping for a settlement without having to involve the courts, I remain.

PLACE
[C2] a town or village which people built to live in after arriving from somewhere else

Dictionary example:
a Jewish settlement

Learner example:
The traditional style of small living communities in tribes cannot be sustained, since the farmlands around a settlement cannot provide the people with sufficient food and work.
seventy /ˈsev.ənti/  

**NUMBER**

**(be) in your seventies**  
[B2] to be aged between 70 and 79  

**Dictionary example:**  
Both my parents are in their seventies.

**Learner example:**  
After some minutes, an old man in his late seventies opened the door and told us in his trembling voice that Daisy wasn't at home.

**the seventies**  
[B2] the years from 1970–1979  

**Dictionary example:**  
I grew up in the seventies.

**Learner example:**  
The nineties is, indeed, a reverse of the seventies.

severe /səˈvɪər/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** severity  
**Adjectives:** severe  
**Adverbs:** severely  

**ADJECTIVE**

**BAD**  
[B2] extremely bad  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a severe chest infection/leg injury/toothache  
This is a school for children with severe learning difficulties.  
In parts of Africa there is a severe food/water shortage.  
There is expected to be a severe frost tonight.

**Learner example:**  
Their life was a severe financial struggle, and Tom's dream was to run somewhere far away.

**STRICT**  
[B2] a severe person is unfriendly or very strict
**Dictionary examples:**
She had her hair tied back in a severe style.
The teacher was a small, severe man.

**Learner example:**
Jane Eyre is sent away to a school for orphans. [...] The atmosphere in school is no better, with little food and severe teachers.

---

**severely /səˈvɪə.li/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** severity
- **Adjectives:** severe
- **Adverbs:** severely

**ADVERB**
[B2] very seriously

**Dictionary examples:**
- Their daughter was severely injured in a car accident.
- severely disabled
- Job opportunities are severely limited/restricted at the moment.

**Learner example:**
In spite of trying to repair it, it is still severely damaged.

---

**severity /sɪˈver.ə.ti/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** severity
- **Adjectives:** severe
- **Adverbs:** severely

**NOUN [U]**
[C2] how severe something is

**Dictionary example:**
Flights were cancelled owing to the severity of the weather.

**Learner example:**
In conclusion, we have to accept the severity of the environmental damage, but we should not give up our hopes for a better future.
sewing  /ˈsəʊ.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: sewing
Verbs: sew

NOUN [u]
[C1] the activity of joining pieces of cloth together or repairing them with a needle and thread

Dictionary example:
I'm not very good at sewing.

Learner example:
I especially cherish the idea of finding myself in Camelot being a lady in waiting [to] Queen Guinevere – to spend my days reading, sewing, embroidering, learning about far off places and discoveries, adventures and the latest gossip from the court.

sex  /seks/

Word family:
Nouns: sex
Adjectives: sexual, sexy

NOUN [u]

the opposite sex
[C1] people who are the other sex from you

Dictionary example:
He would never dare to speak to a member of the opposite sex.

Learner example:
This is not only about trying to impress (preferably) a person of the opposite sex, but fashion also gives you a great chance to express yourself.

sexual  /ˈsek.ʃʊ.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: sex
Adjectives: sexual, sexy

ADJECTIVE

SEX
[B2] ! relating to the activity of sex
**Dictionary examples:**

- a sexual **relationship**
- Most people remember their first sexual experience.

**Learner example:**

Before continuing with the story I would like to remind [you] that having sexual relationships was common to everybody in Brave New World.

**MALE OR FEMALE**

[C1] I relating to being male or female

**Dictionary examples:**

- Sexual equality will not be achieved until there is more provision for childcare.
- Some steps have been taken towards ending sexual discrimination.

**Learner example:**

But we must not forget that there is still sexual discrimination when women apply for jobs higher up in [a] hierarchy.

---

**sexy /ˈsek.si/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** sex

**Adjectives:** sexual, sexy

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] attractive or exciting in a sexual way

**Dictionary examples:**

- sexy underwear
- He's very sexy.

**Learner example:**

Richard was only wearing Levis Jean[s] and a white T shirt but looked so sexy and handsome.

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**shabby /ˈʃæb.i/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**UNTIDY**

[C1] looking untidy and in bad condition

**Dictionary example:**

- shabby clothes/furniture

**Learner example:**

With neither lift nor room service provided our guests had to stay in dirty and shabby rooms on the 4th floor.
UNFAIR
[C2] not fair or not honest

**Dictionary example:**
She received very shabby treatment from her employers.

**Learner example:**
Due to such shabby arguments, my adversaries lost the favour of the population.

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**shade** /ʃeɪd/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** shade, shadow

**NOUN**

**COLOUR**
[B2] [c] a colour, especially when referring to how dark or light it is

**Dictionary example:**
a pale/dark shade of grey

**Learner example:**
Not only was it a beautiful day but the sky was a magnificent shade of blue as well.

**a shade**
[C1] a small amount

**Dictionary example:**
He's perhaps a shade taller.

**Learner example:**
Their salaries are, even when the same job is done, mostly a shade under a man's salary.

**COVER**
[C2] [c] a cover that stops too much light coming from the sun or from an electric light

**Dictionary example:**
a lamp shade

**Learner example:**
You will like sitting there at dark wooden tables, under the light coming from red and white checked lamp shades hanging from the ceiling.

---

**shadow** /ˈʃæd.əʊ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** shade, shadow
beyond/without a/the shadow of a doubt
[C2] If something is true beyond a shadow of a doubt, it is certainly true.

Dictionary example:
He stole the money, without a shadow of a doubt.

Learner example:
It is beyond the shadow of a doubt that Douglas does not offer her this kind of life.

shake /ʃeɪk/

Word family:
Verbs: shake
Adjectives: shaken

VERB (shook, shaken)

FEAR
[B2] [I] If you are shaking, your body makes quick short movements, or you feel as if it is doing so, because you are frightened or nervous.

Dictionary examples:
She was shaking as she opened the letter.
Her voice shook as she spoke about the person who attacked her.
I was shaking in my shoes/boots about having to tell Dad what I'd done.
I was shaking like a leaf before my exam.

Learner example:
She understood that it was absolutely foolish of her to stand [t]here shaking with fear.

shake your head
[B2] to move your head from side to side to mean 'no'

Dictionary example:
I asked him if he wanted to come and he just shook his head.

Learner example:
He just looked at me shaking his head and got into his car and drove off.

VOICE
[C2] [I] If your voice shakes, you sound very nervous or frightened.

Dictionary example:
He looked pale, and his voice shook as he spoke.

Learner example:
"Excuse me, my name is Heathcliff Moore, I'm a musician", he approached the owner with shaking voice.
shaken /ˈʃeɪ.kən/

Word family:
Verbs: shake
Adjectives: shaken

ADJECTIVE

[C2] shocked and upset

Dictionary example:
They were not injured in the accident, but they were badly shaken.

Learner example:
After that encounter with her old classmate she felt shaken and upset.

shallow /ˈʃæl.əʊ/

ADJECTIVE

NOT DEEP

[B2] not deep

Dictionary examples:
The stream was quite shallow so we were able to walk across it.
She told her children to stay in the shallow end (of the swimming pool).
Fry the onions in a shallow pan.
These beech trees have shallow roots.

Learner example:
A heavy body plunged into the shallow water of harbo[r] No 14.

NOT SERIOUS

[C2] not showing any interest in serious ideas

Dictionary example:
He is a very shallow person.

Learner example:
She is shallow and superficial, and she finds it hard to relate to her husband.

shame /ʃeɪm/

Word family:
Nouns: shame
Adjectives: ashamed, shameful
NOUN

BAD FEELING
[C1] [u] when you feel embarrassed and guilty about something bad that you have done

Dictionary examples:
He said he felt no shame for what he had done.
The children hung their heads in shame.
You can't go dressed like that – have you no shame?
In some societies, if a woman leaves her husband, it brings shame on her and her family.

Learner example:
It destroys the individual, brings shame to his family, and [is] a liability instead of an asset to his society.

shameful /ˈʃeɪm.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: shame
Adjectives: ashamed, shameful

ADJECTIVE
[C1] Something shameful is bad and should make you feel embarrassed and guilty.

Dictionary example:
shameful scenes

Learner example:
What a shameful way of wasting natural resources!

shape /ʃeɪp/

NOUN [C or U]

in good/bad, etc. shape
[B2] in good/bad, etc. health or condition

Dictionary example:
She runs every day so she's in great shape.

Learner example:
I am of the opinion that if you are in good shape and the distance is not too much, you should leave the car at home and use the bike.

keep in shape
[B2] to stay healthy and physically strong
Dictionary example:
It's important to keep in shape.

Learner example:
We want to keep in shape, and we are interested in a gym – do you have one or is there one close to there?

all shapes and sizes
[C2] many different types of people or things

Dictionary example:
We saw people there of all shapes and sizes.

Learner example:
Personal Challenges come in all shapes and sizes.

out of shape
[C2] not healthy or physically strong

Dictionary example:
Since I stopped cycling, I'm very out of shape.

Learner example:
I no longer run and it has been more than a year since the last time I raced, [so] I am out of shape.

take shape
[C2] to start to develop and become more clear or certain

Dictionary example:
The project is slowly beginning to take shape.

Learner example:
It is high time that their dreams took shape!

VERB [T]
[C2] to influence the way that something develops

Dictionary examples:
Many people are not able to shape their own destinies.
My relationship with my father played a major part in shaping my attitude towards men.
He was very influential in shaping the government's economic policy/strategy.

Learner example:
Therefore, in my opinion, we are shaped greatly by the people in our surroundings.
share /ʃeə/

VERB [I or T]

DO TOGETHER

[B2] If two or more people share an activity, they each do some of it

Dictionary examples:
Shall we share the driving?
We shared the preparation for the party between us, so it wasn’t too much work.

Learner example:
Ask your employer and other colle[a]gues to share the work.

share your problems/thoughts/ideas, etc.

[C1] to tell someone your problems/thoughts, etc.

Dictionary example:
Would you like to share your thoughts with the group, Donald?

Learner example:
I have received your letter asking for my opinion about the Conference and have decided to write and share some of my thoughts.

NOUN [C]

PART

[B2] a part of something that has been divided

Dictionary examples:
The total bill comes to £80, so our share is £20.
We must make sure that everyone gets equal shares of the food.
The party’s share of the vote fell from 39% to 24%.
She’s not doing her share of the work.
We must all accept some share of the responsibility.

your (fair) share of sth

[C2] a lot of something and enough of it, usually something bad

Dictionary example:
We’ve had our fair share of rain already this summer.

Learner example:
It wasn’t as if Jean hadn’t seen his fair share of dead bodies, but these ones were far more, well, disgusting, than anything before.

BUSINESS

[C2] one of the equal parts that the value of a company is divided into when it is owned by a group of people
Dictionary examples:
to **buy/sell** shares
We own shares in a number of companies.
Share **prices** have fallen for the third day running.

**Learner example:**
It is no longer the consumer but the shareholder who must be kept happy, in order to keep the share price high, and the simple worker pays the price.

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**sharp /ʃɑːp/**

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** sharpen
**Adjectives:** sharp
**Adverbs:** sharply, *sharp*

**ADJECTIVE**

**a sharp rise/increase/drop, etc.**

[B2] a sudden and very large increase or reduction in something

**Dictionary examples:**
a sharp drop in temperature
a sharp decline in the standard of living
There was a sharp **rise/increase** in the number of flu cases.

**Learner example:**
If you have in mind my recommendations you will see a sharp increase in the number of students.

**MIND**

[B2] quick to notice and understand things

**Dictionary example:**
a sharp mind

**Learner example:**
She is an elderly woman who seems to be very weak but with an extrem[e]ly sharp mind.

**CLEAR**

[C1] A sharp image is very clear.

**Dictionary example:**
a photograph in sharp focus

**Learner example:**
Quite the opposite, FFIX features beautiful pre-rendered 3D landscapes, along with real time characters: words are useless for describing such an achievement: the colo[u]rs are vivid, sharp, the animations are smooth...
a sharp contrast/difference, etc.
[C2] a very big and noticeable difference between two things

Dictionary example:
These luxurious surroundings were a sharp contrast to his home life.

Learner example:
Always willing to accommodate the need of the customers, the service of "Zithos" draws a sharp contrast with the often insolent and disconcerting conduct of employees in other restaurants.

a sharp pain
[C2] a sudden, short, strong pain

Dictionary example:
I felt a sharp pain in my leg.

Learner example:
All that Tom remembered afterwards was the loud noise of the braking tyres, a sharp pain in his legs and then darkness.

a sharp bend/turn, etc.
[C2] a sudden large change in the direction you are travelling

Dictionary example:
The vehicle came off the road at a sharp bend.

Learner example:
While my aunt was slowing down at a sharp bend, I distracted her [and] she lost control of the car.

ADVERB

SUDDENLY
[C1] suddenly or immediately

Dictionary example:
After the library, turn sharp left/right.

Learner example:
At the bus–stop you have to go straight on through the one–way street, then turn sharp left until you reach the staggered junction, [w]here you will see a taxi [rank].

EXACTLY
[C1] exactly at the stated time

Dictionary example:
The performance will begin at 7.30 sharp.

Learner example:
You have to wake him up at 8.00 AM sharp.
**sharpen /ˈʃɑː.pən/**

Word family:
Verbs: sharpen
Adjectives: sharp
Adverbs: sharply, sharp

VERB [T]

MAKE SHARP

[C2] to make something sharper

**Dictionary example:**
to sharpen a knife/pencil

**Learner example:**
For example, to write properly with a pencil, you need to sharpen it, but, for what purpose are you sharpening it?

MAKE BETTER

[C2] to make something better or stronger

**Dictionary examples:**
Recent changes have sharpened competition between the airlines.
I hope this course will help me sharpen my computer skills.

**Learner example:**
In fact, teachers and professors give us the opportunity to broaden our knowledge, sharpen our critical thought and in general to cultivate our mind and soul.

**sharply /ˈʃɑː.pli/**

Word family:
Verbs: sharpen
Adjectives: sharp
Adverbs: sharply, sharp

ADVERB

[B2] quickly and suddenly

**Dictionary examples:**
Inflation has risen/fallen sharply.
His health improved/deteriorated sharply this week.

**Learner example:**
In the last few years, the trend of owning a mobile phone has increased sharply.
shattered /ˈʃæt.əd/

ADJECTIVE

UPSET
[C2] very upset

Dictionary example:
She was absolutely shattered when she failed the exam.

Learner example:
How many times have we confessed to ourselves that we feel emotionally shattered just because we cannot buy the all the rage luxurious bag on which we set our eyes the other day?

TIRED
[C2] very tired

Dictionary example:
By the time I got home I was absolutely shattered.

Learner example:
Now, sitting in the comfortable armchair, he did not feel shattered anymore.

shed /ʃed/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a small building, usually made of wood, used for storing things

Dictionary examples:
a garden shed
a tool/bicycle shed

Learner example:
It was hidden in a shed that hardly anybody ever entered.

VERB (shedding, shed, shed)

shed tears
[C1] to cry

Dictionary example:
I shed a few tears when he left.

Learner example:
She was too preoc[c]upied to talk to anybody and she had shed so many tears that she could cry no more.
shed light on
[C2] to provide new information about something that makes it easier to understand

Dictionary example:
As an economist, he was able to shed some light on the situation.

Learner example:
In my opinion, a more complex evaluation of our attitude towards work will shed light on the process of work choice and it will give a greater amount of awareness to everyone.

dic

sheer /ʃɪə/

ADJECTIVE

EXTREME
[C1] used to emphasize how strong a feeling or quality is

Dictionary examples:
a look of sheer delight/joy
sheer determination/hard work

Learner example:
My mind was filled with nothing else but the sheer joy about soon becoming acquainted with something entirely new and completely unfamiliar plus the eager anticipation about meeting my host-family.

LARGE
[C1] used to emphasize the large size or amount of something

Dictionary example:
The delays are due to the sheer volume of traffic.

Learner example:
Allow me to start by saying that one day, which may not lie so far off in the future, people will visit the buildings which were formerly known as “Educational Institutions” like we visit museums today to gape at the sheer size of the Dinosaurs...

STEEP
[C2] very steep

Dictionary example:
a sheer cliff face

Learner example:
Mountaineering takes you on a swaying journey through stark contrasts, from the serenity of a peaceful dense forest to sheer cliff edges and peaks.
shell /ʃel/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] the hard outer covering of some creatures and of eggs, nuts, or seeds

Dictionary examples:
Brazil nuts have very hard shells.
A piece of shell fell into the cake mixture.
the shell of a snail/crab/tortoise
a shell necklace

Learner example:
Mainly I collect books, postcards, dolls, silver bracelets and sea shells.

shelter /ˈʃel.tə/

NOUN

PLACE
[B2] [C] a place that protects you from bad weather or danger

Dictionary example:
an bomb shelter

Learner example:
We all ran to hide [in] the little shelter we had built.

PROTECTION
[B2] [U] protection from bad weather or danger

Dictionary example:
We took shelter from the rain in a doorway.

Learner example:
John told me it was a [place] where we could find shelter.

VERB

shelter from/in/under, etc.
[C2] to go under a cover or inside a building to be protected from bad weather or danger

Dictionary example:
They went under a tree to shelter from the rain.
**shield** /ʃiːld/

**NOUN [c]**

**OBJECT**

[C2] a large, flat object that police officers and soldiers hold in front of their bodies to protect themselves

*Dictionary example:*
The police protected themselves with shields.

*Learner example:*
The breed of white-skinned men that, every season, crammed in cars, campers, buses, boats or charter planes, leave their lands to ravage distant shores toting cameras and sun block as the barbarians of old held sword and shield.

**VERB [ɪ]**

[C1] to protect someone or something from something dangerous or unpleasant

*Dictionary example:*
to shield your eyes from the sun

*Learner example:*
On the other hand, children raised by wealthy families are believed to be so "well-pampered" that they are shielded from the harshness of real problems – such as poverty or malnutrition.

**shift** /ʃɪft/

**VERB**

**CHANGE**

[C1] [ɪ] or [ɪ] to change an idea, attitude, etc.

*Dictionary examples:*
We are trying to shift the emphasis from curing illness to preventing it.
Media attention has shifted recently onto environmental issues.

*Learner example:*
Since the 1990s, though, the situation has shifted.

**MOVE STH**

[C1] [ɪ] to move something to another place

*Dictionary example:*
We need to shift all these boxes into the other room.
Learner example:
We are very pleased with the idea of shifting the changing rooms and sauna [to] by the pool and having the coffee bar extended where the changing rooms and sauna are at present.

NOUN

WORK
[B2] [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] a period of work in a place such as a factory or hospital, or the people who do that work

Dictionary examples:
As the night shift leave/leaves, the day shift arrive/arrives.
Are you on the night shift or the day shift?

Learner example:
I worked there in two shifts, in the mornings and in the evenings, for approximately 8–10 hours a day.

CHANGE
[C1] a change in something

Dictionary example:
There has been a dramatic shift in public opinion on this matter.

Learner example:
Proposal: Improving Zurich's transport and housing facilities Census results of the last three decades have shown a shift in families' preferences on where to live.

shine /ʃaɪn/

Word family:
Verbs: shine
Adjectives: shiny

VERB (shone or shined, shone or shined)

REFLECT
[C1] [I or T] If a surface shines, it reflects light, and if you shine it, you make it reflect light.

Dictionary example:
She polished her shoes until they shone.

Learner example:
I was so glad to see that little key shining in that box.

DO WELL
[C2] [I] to do something very well, usually better than other people.
Dictionary example:
It was in art that he really shone.

Learner example:
Hard-working, intelligent, brave children can make the country shine in future.

EYES/FACE
[C2] [i] If your eyes or face shine, you look happy, healthy, or excited.

Dictionary example:
His eyes were shining with excitement.

Learner example:
For if we refer back to the poem, Mother Teresa certainly displays all of the qualities mentioned in that poem: on most of the photos showing her, she is smiling radiantly, her wrinkled face shining with bliss.

shiver /ˈʃɪv.ər/ 

VERB [i]
[B2] to shake because you are cold or frightened

Dictionary examples:
She shivered with cold.
The poor dog - it's shivering!

Learner example:
She was shivering not only because of the cold, but also because she had no idea what she was going to tell him.

send shivers/a shiver down your spine
[C2] to make you feel afraid or excited

Dictionary example:
The sound of his voice sent shivers down my spine.

Learner example:
Simply looking at her sent shivers down his spine – there was the love of his life, the dearest woman on good old Earth, that he's never met before.

shock /ʃɒk/ 

Word family:
Nouns: shock
Verbs: shock
Adjectives: shocked, shocking
NOUN

ELECTRICITY
[C2] [c] (also electric shock) a sudden, painful feeling that you get when electricity flows through your body

Dictionary example:
I got a bad shock from the plug.

Learner example:
When their eyes [met] each others, both sensed some kind of electric shock, and they knew they were made for each other.

MOVEMENT
[C2] [c] a sudden movement caused by an explosion, accident, etc.

Dictionary example:
Further shocks have been felt in the area today.

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to surprise and upset someone

Dictionary examples:
The advertisements were designed to shock – that was the whole point of the campaign.
I think it shocks him to hear women talking about sex.
The news of the accident shocked the family deeply.

Learner example:
They hardly could believe it, although that American woman always wants to shock them...

shoot /ʃuːt/  

Word family:
Nouns: shooting
Verbs: shoot

VERB (shot, shot)

FILM
[C1] [ɪ] to use a camera to record a film or take a photograph

Dictionary examples:
We shot four reels of film in Egypt.
The film was shot on location in Southern India.

Learner example:
Britney's was shot in a studio and she, hypothetically, was [o]n Mars.
shoot across/out/up, etc.
[C2] to move somewhere very quickly

Dictionary examples:
She shot across the road without looking.
She shot past me several metres before the finishing line.

shooting /ˈʃuː.tɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: shooting
Verbs: shoot

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] ! when a gun is fired, or when someone is injured or killed by a bullet from a gun

Dictionary examples:
We heard some shooting in the night.
There have been a number of shootings in the capital this week.

Learner example:
He liked shooting very much and once [he went] [in]to the forest he didn't come back.

shopkeeper /ˈʃɒpˌkiː.pər/

NOUN [C]
[B2] someone who owns or manages a small shop

Dictionary example:
Local shopkeepers say business is good at the moment.

Learner example:
One of the major disadvantages is that the shopkeepers would have to work [until] midnight or perhaps on bank holidays.

short /ʃɔːt/

Word family:
Nouns: shortage, short
Verbs: shorten
Adjectives: short
Adverbs: shortly, short
ADJECTIVE

NAME

[B2] describes a name that is used as a shorter form of a name

Dictionary examples:
Her name’s Jo – it’s short for Josephine.
Her name’s Josephine, or Jo for short.

Learner example:
There is even a strange disease called Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS for short).

at short notice [C1] only a short time before something happens

Dictionary example:
I had to give a speech at very short notice.

Learner example:
The fact that the speech by the famous actor was cancelled at short notice was disappointing.

NOUN

in short [C1] in a few words

Dictionary example:
In short, we need more staff.

Learner example:
In short, ancient Chinese poems, mainly from the Jang Dynasty, constitute the background for Chinese culture and set a touchstone for judgement in our life.

ADVERB

to cut a long story short [C1] to mention only the final result or point of something without going into other details

Dictionary example:
To cut a long story short, he never played baseball again.

Learner example:
Well, to cut a long story short, let’s say tuition yes, facilities no.

cut sth short or cut short sth [C2] to have to stop doing something before it is finished

Dictionary example:
They had to cut the holiday short when her mother was taken ill.
**fall short of sth**  
[C2] to not reach a particular level, but only by a small amount

**Dictionary example:**  
Sales for the first half of this year fell just short of the target.

**Learner example:**  
Furthermore, it cannot be denied that public transport falls short of the target set during the planning process.

**fall short of sth**  
[C2] to fail to achieve something

**Dictionary examples:**  
His behaviour falls short of what we expect.  
She just fell short of the grades she needed.

**Learner example:**  
This routine was really wearing me out, but, I didn't want to fall short of my parents' expectations.

**stop short of sth/doing sth**  
[C2] to almost do something but decide not to do it

**Dictionary example:**  
She stopped short of accusing him of lying.

---

**shortage**  
/ˈʃɔː.tɪdʒ/  

**Word family:**  
Nouns: shortage, short  
Verbs: shorten  
Adjectives: short  
Adverbs: shortly, short

**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] when there is not enough of something

**Dictionary examples:**  
There's a shortage of food and shelter in the refugee camps.  
The long hot summer has led to serious water shortages.

**Learner example:**  
Due to a shortage of teachers in summer I can [only] take holiday in July.
**shortcoming** /ˈʃɔːtˌkʌm.ɪŋ/

**NOUN [C]**

[C1] a fault

**Dictionary example:**
I like him despite his shortcomings.

**Learner example:**
However, there were a few shortcomings I would like to mention.

**shorten** /ˈʃɔː.tn/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** shortage, short
- **Verbs:** shorten
- **Adjectives:** short
- **Adverbs:** shortly, short

**VERB [I or T]**

[C1] to become shorter or to make something shorter

**Dictionary example:**
Smoking shortens your life.

**Learner example:**
Maybe we could shorten the free day to half a day and make use of the other half to bring them out for some sightseeing and familiarisation.

**shortly** /ˈʃɔː.t.li/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** shortage, short
- **Verbs:** shorten
- **Adjectives:** short
- **Adverbs:** shortly, short

**ADVERB**

**SOON**

[B2] soon

**Dictionary example:**
We will shortly be arriving in King’s Cross Station.

**Learner example:**
I look forward to hearing from you shortly.
**short-sighted** /ˌʃɔːtˈsaɪ.tɪd/

**ADJECTIVE**

**SIGHT**

[C2] not able to see far without wearing glasses

**Dictionary example:**
I'm very short-sighted.

**Learner example:**
He's awfully short-sighted, almost as blind as a bat, he's extremely fat and suffers from asthma.

**THINKING**

[C2] not thinking enough about how an action will affect the future

**Dictionary example:**
a short-sighted policy

**Learner example:**
In the long run, this short-sighted view of some [of the] media will result [in] a total lack of their credibility.

**short-term** /ˌʃɔːtˈtɜːm/

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] lasting a short time, or relating to a short period of time

**Dictionary examples:**
short-term memory
a short-term weather forecast

**Learner example:**
Setting up restricted areas for animals is a nice idea, but due to the overall pollution, [it is] only a short-term solution.

**short term** /ˈʃɔːt.tɜːm/

**NOUN**

**in the short term**

[B2] over a period of time that only continues for a short way into the future

**Dictionary example:**
We need to save money in the short term.
Learner example:
You should think in the long term and you shouldn't try to [achieve] all your goals in the short term.

shot /ʃɒt/

NOUN [C]

WEAPON
[B2] ! when a bullet is fired from a gun

Dictionary example:
He fired four shots at the car as it drove off.

Learner example:
Suddenly he heard a shot and the lights went out.

SPORT
[B2] when someone tries to score points in sports such as football by hitting or throwing the ball

Dictionary examples:
And that was a great shot by Lineker!
Nadal's forehand shot down the line won him the match.

Learner example:
I enjoy this sport because it forces me to improve my self control when playing: if I miss a shot, I have to stay very calm because it's the best way to achieve the next shot.

FILM
[B2] a photograph

Dictionary example:
I got/took some really good shots of the harbour at sunset.

Learner example:
[A] few months ago I had [the] chance to work abroad and see some of the Middle Eastern countries, where I took a lot of good shots.

should /ʃəd/

MODAL VERB

why should/shouldn't...?
[B2] used to ask or give the reason for something, especially when you are surprised or angry about it
Dictionary examples:
He wants me to give him my old car, but why should I?
Why shouldn't she get a new car if she wants one?

Learner example:
And personally I say "why should I read something in a book which I can watch on TV?"

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<th>shoulder /ˈʃəʊl.də/</th>
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**noun [c]**

*a shoulder to cry on*  
[C2] someone who gives you sympathy when you are upset

Dictionary example:  
I always had a shoulder to cry on.

Learner example:  
I am always there for her and I know I will always have a shoulder to cry on.

**have a chip on your shoulder** informal  
[C2] to blame other people for something bad that has happened to you and continue to feel angry about it

Dictionary example:  
She's always had a real chip on her shoulder because she didn't go to university.

Learner example:  
I suppose that I have a chip on my shoulder!

<table>
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<th>show /ʃəʊ/</th>
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**verb (showed, shown)**

*prove*  
[B2] [t] If numbers, results, facts, etc. show something, they prove that it is true.

Dictionary examples:  
Research shows that 40% of the programme's viewers are aged over 55.  
Sales figures showed a significant increase last month.  
She has shown herself (to be) a highly competent manager.  
His diaries show him to have been an extremely insecure person.  
The diaries show (that) he was very insecure.  
Our research has shown (us) how little we know about this disease.
Learner example:
Experiments have even shown some astonishing results, that apes for example have the same abilities as humans.

EXPRESS

[B2] [ɪ] to express a feeling so that other people are able to notice it

Dictionary examples:
He finds it difficult to show affection.
She showed enormous courage when she rescued him from the fire.
You should show your parents more respect/show more respect to your parents.

Learner example:
I think a face can show so much and some day I [hope] I could be[come] a photographer.

EASY TO SEE

[C1] [ɪ or ɪ] to be easy or possible to see, or to make something easy or possible to see

Dictionary examples:
The sadness really shows on her face.
Light-coloured carpets show the dirt.

Learner example:
Their hair was turning grey and their faces showed [the] first wrinkles.

NOUN [C]

PUBLIC EVENT

[B2] an event at which a group of similar things are brought together for the public to see

Dictionary examples:
a fashion/flower show
There were some amazing new cars at the motor show.
They put on a show of his work at the National Museum of American Art.

Learner example:
I do not know if it is possible to make any change[s], but we saw an ad in "Time Out" magazine last week about a fashion show which we would like to see.

on show

[C1] being shown to the public

Dictionary example:
Her designs are currently on show at the Museum of Modern Art.

Learner example:
One of the facilit[ies] that really make[s] a difference is the Art Gallery, with its great exhibition on show, as well as the Art Library.
shower /ʃaʊə/  

VERB  

WASH  

[B2] to wash standing under a shower  

Dictionary example:  
We all showered before breakfast.  

Learner example:  
Singing is a hobby of mine but unfortunately I can only do it when I’m showering or cleaning up my flat.  

shower sb with sth  

[C2] to give someone a lot of presents, praise, etc.  

Dictionary examples:  
He showered her with expensive gifts.  
She was showered with compliments after her performance.  

Learner example:  
As time passes the children start to see a pattern developing, every time that they request time or attention they are showered with expensive clothes or toys to compensate [for] the lack of it.  

shrewd /ʃruːd/  

ADJECTIVE  

[C2] good at judging situations and making decisions which give you an advantage  

Dictionary examples:  
a shrewd politician  
a shrewd business plan  

Learner example:  
It was only much later that I realised what a shrewd investment on my parent's part this had been.  

shrink /ʃrɪŋk/  

VERB [I or T] (shrank, shrunk)  

[B2] to become smaller, or to make something smaller  

Dictionary examples:  
Your sweater will shrink if you wash it at too high a temperature.  
The company's profits have shrunk from £5.5 million to £1.25 million.
**Learner example:**
After 5 seconds I started shrinking until I was as small as the smallest toe on my foot.

**shrug** /ʃrʌg/

**VERB** [I or T] (shrugging, shrugged)

[C2] to move your shoulders up and down to show that you do not care about something or that you do not know something

**Dictionary example:**
I told him we weren't happy with it but he just shrugged his shoulders.

**Learner example:**
Martina flushed to the root[s] of her hair and shrugged her shoulders.

**shudder** /ˈʃʌdər/ 

**VERB** [I]

[C2] to shake, usually because you are thinking of something unpleasant

**Dictionary examples:**
The sight of so much blood made him shudder.
She shuddered at the thought of kissing him.

**Learner example:**
She shuddered at the memory.

**shut** /ʃʌt/

**VERB** [I or T] (shutting, shut, shut)

**shut** (sth) **down or shut down** (sth) **PHRASAL VERB**

[B2] If a business or organization shuts down or someone shuts it down, it closes.

**Dictionary example:**
The company plans to shut down four factories and cut 10 000 jobs.

**Learner example:**
A great [number] of zoos ought to be shut down.

**shut** (sb) **up** **PHRASAL VERB** **INFORMAL**

[B2] to stop talking or making a noise, or to make someone do this
Dictionary examples:
I wish you'd shut up for a moment and listen to what the rest of us have to say.
Just shut up and get on with your work!
My dad never stops talking. It's impossible to shut him up!

Learner example:
You must still remember that time we walked along the street, singing blues and rock, it's incredible the way that people shouted at us to shut up.

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

keep your mouth shut
[B2] INFORMAL to not talk about something

Dictionary example:
If you don't keep your mouth shut, there'll be trouble.

Learner example:
She made every effort to keep her mouth shut but it disturbed her to be the only one to know the truth, apart from her brother.

shuttle /ˈʃʌt.l/  

NOUN [c]
[C1] a bus, train, plane, etc. which travels regularly between two places, usually a short distance

Dictionary examples:
the London–Glasgow shuttle
There's a shuttle service between the airport and the city centre.

Learner example:
I am convinced that a centre with less traffic and more pedestrianised areas will attract more other people. Especially if there is a parking opportunity outside of the centre with well-organised shuttle buses to the centre.

shyness /ˈʃaɪ.nəs/  

Word family:
Nouns: shyness
Adjectives: shy

NOUN [u]
[C1] the state of being shy

Dictionary example:
When I met the Queen, I was overcome with shyness.
Learner example:
Some of them were encouraged by their work-fellows to overcome their initial shyness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sibling /ˈsɪblɪŋ/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOUN [C] FORMAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] a sister or brother</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Dictionary example:
I have three siblings.

Learner example:
I am also lucky to have a sibling, an older sister, who took great care of me when we were children.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>sick /sɪk/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Word family:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nouns: sickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives: sick</td>
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ADJECTIVE

be sick of *sth
[B2] INFORMAL to be bored with or annoyed about something that has been happening for a long time

Dictionary example:
I'm sick of people telling me how to run my life.

Learner example:
Michael was sick of seeing the same story happen all over again.

CRUEL
[C2] cruel and unpleasant

Dictionary examples:
He's got a sick mind.
a sick joke

Learner example:
It seems to us as if God had got a sick sense of humour.
sickness /ˈsɪk.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: sickness
Adjectives: sick

NOUN [u]
[B2] when you are ill

Dictionary examples:
There's a lot of sickness around this winter.
She's had three weeks off for sickness this year.

Learner example:
The simpl[e] joy and happiness will help you to feel in good shape and keep away any sickness.

dside /saɪd/

NOUN

PART OF SITUATION
[B2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] part of a situation that can be considered or dealt with separately

Dictionary example:
She looks after the financial side of things.

Learner example:
Finally, I think for me the most important [thing] is to enjoy life – don’t be worried [about] little things and always find the funny side of each situation.

CHARACTER
[B2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] a part of someone's character

Dictionary example:
She has a very practical side.

Learner example:
In fact the film describes the actions of this politi[c]ian, also saying something not very "Politically Correct", but true: he reveals that no one is always good, everyone has a dark hidden side.

side by side
[B2] If two things or people are side by side, they are next to each other.

Dictionary example:
We sat side by side on the sofa.

Learner example:
It is not rare to see two people walking side by side, both talking on the phone.
from side to side
[B2] If something moves from side to side, it moves from left to right and back again repeatedly.

Dictionary example:
swinging from side to side

Learner example:
I began to understand it when I went [to] Kenya in 1986, because I had the wonderful chance to look at the animals in their natural [surroundings], without being in a cage, walking nervously from side to side.

OPPOSING GROUP
[B2] [c + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] one of the people or groups who are arguing, fighting, or competing

Dictionary examples:
Whose side is he on?
Whenever we argue he always takes Alice's side.
This is a war which neither side can win.
Don't be angry with me – I'm on your side.

Learner example:
I hope you'll be on my side.

OPINION
[B2] [c] a way of considering something, especially when there is disagreement about it

Dictionary examples:
There are at least two sides to every question.
I've listened to your side of the story, but I still think you were wrong to do what you did.

Learner example:
This shows the other side of technology.

look on the bright side
[C1] to find good things in a bad situation

Dictionary example:
Look on the bright side – no one was badly hurt.

Learner example:
I am quite self-confident and I usually look on the bright side, as I am not keen on pessimistic thoughts.

SPORT
[C2] [c + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB] the players in a sports team
Dictionary examples:
He's been selected for the national side.
Our side lost again on Saturday.

Learner example:
He also plays football for a local side regularly.

put sth to one side
[C2] to not use or deal with something now, but keep it for a later time

Dictionary example:
She put the papers to one side, intending to read them later.

on the side
[C2] in addition to your main job

Dictionary example:
She does a bit of bar work on the side.

Learner example:
At work, they gave her the worst jobs to do. She knew she didn't have much choice but she still tried to find something else on the side.

RELATIVES
[C2] the part of your family who are either your mother's relatives or your father's relatives

Dictionary example:
They tend to be tall on my mother's side of the family.

Learner example:
Both on my father's side as well as on my mother's side of the family we formed a close knit group.

BODY
[C2] the two areas of your body from under your arms to the tops of your legs

Dictionary examples:
Stand with your arms by your sides.
She lay on her side.

at/by your side
[C2] If you have someone at/by your side, they support you and help you.

Dictionary example:
With Dan at my side, I felt I could do anything.

Learner example:
She really needed someone by her side, someone to lean on and share her worries.
**side effect** /ˈsайд.ɪ.fekt/

**NOUN [C]**

**MEDICINE**

[C1] another effect that a drug has on your body in addition to the main effect for which the doctor has given you the drug.

**Dictionary example:**
Headaches are one side effect of this drug.

**Learner example:**
Now, we have come up with something called Phyto essence that is designed to overcome skin problems effectively without causing any harmful side effects.

**RESULT**

[C2] an extra result of a situation, especially one that you did not plan or expect.

**Dictionary example:**
One side effect of getting a new job is that I can cycle to work and I’ve lost a lot of weight.

**Learner example:**
They seem to neglect the growing rate of unemployment and its possible side effects.

**sideways** /ˈsайд.werz/

**ADVERB, ADJECTIVE**

[C2] in a direction to the left or right, not forwards or backwards.

**Dictionary examples:**
The fence is leaning sideways.
If you would move sideways to the left, I can get everyone in the picture.
Take two sideways steps.

**Learner example:**
Unaware of all the sideways glances and chatter that paused as she passed, she headed back towards the river.

**sigh** /sɑː/

**VERB [I]**

[B2] to breathe out slowly and noisily, often because you are annoyed or unhappy.
**Dictionary examples:**
She sighed deeply and sat down.
"I wish he was here," she sighed.

**Learner example:**
Having solid ground beneath her feet again she sighed with relief for having survived this adventure.

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] the sound that is made when someone sighs

**Dictionary example:**
He read the letter and gave a deep sigh.

**Learner example:**
I entered the house with a deep sigh!

**sight /saɪt/**

**NOUN**

the sight of sb/sth
[B2] when you see someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
The sight of so much blood had shocked him.
The child laughed at the sight of the clockwork toy.
She hated/loathed the sight of her former husband.

**Learner example:**
Just think; drinking our cold beers against the sight of the pounding waves and feeling the wind on our faces.

**AREA SEEN**
[B2] [u] the area that it is possible for you to see

**Dictionary examples:**
You should always keep sight of your bags while you’re at the airport.
I dare not let the children out of my sight in this park.
The police officer was hidden out of sight behind a tree.
The castle came into sight as we went round a bend in the road.
We’re looking for a house which is within sight of the mountains.

**Learner example:**
Dear Editor, This morning when I opened my newspaper, my eyes caught sight of an article called “Failure of festival”, and I read it.

**at first sight**
[B2] when you first see or hear about something or someone
Dictionary examples:
It may, at first sight, seem a surprising choice.
It was love at first sight!

Learner example:
Nowadays shopping is considered one of the most enjoyable activities, especially if you are a woman and you are out to buy clothes. At first sight it is, but shopping is not always enjoyable.

lose sight of sth
[C2] to forget about an important idea or fact because you are thinking too much about other, less important things

Dictionary example:
We mustn't lose sight of the original aims of this project.

Learner example:
Little do we realize that in the process we lose sight of the fundamentals, which in this case is the protection of our environment.

set your sights on sth
[C2] to decide to achieve something

Dictionary example:
She's set her sights on becoming a doctor.

Learner example:
This resemblance was the final silent argument that convinced Wormold to promise Milly the expensive and beautiful horse she had set her sights on.

catch sight of sth
[C2] to see something suddenly, often only for a short time

Dictionary example:
He caught sight of himself in the mirror.

Learner example:
All we could see were people bursting into tears when they caught sight of his coffin.

sign /saɪn/

NOUN [C]

MARK
[B2] a written or printed mark which has a standard meaning

Dictionary examples:
+ and – are mathematical signs.
£ is the sign for the British pound.
**no sign of sb/sth**

[B2] If there is no sign of someone or something, you cannot see them.

**Dictionary examples:**
By eight o’clock, there was still no sign of Janne.
She said she’d left the book on the table, but there's no sign of it.

**Learner example:**
He was supposed to come on Wednesday just like you told me but there was no sign of him.

**signal /ˈsɪɡ.nəl/**

**NOUN [C]**

**ACTION**
[B2] a movement, light, or sound which gives information, or tells people what to do

**Dictionary examples:**
At a signal from their teacher, the children all held up their flags.
Don't move until I give the signal.
The firework was a signal that the festival had started.
The police officer gave us a signal to stop.
The signal for a race to start is often the firing of a gun.

**Learner example:**
The signal was given. We started side by side but soon I overtook him.

**WAVE**
[B2] a series of light waves or sound waves which are sent to a radio, television, mobile phone, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
I can’t get a phone signal here.

**Learner example:**
On the other hand you can face problems with signal transmission.

**VERB [I or T] (−ll−)**
[C2] to make a movement which gives information or tells people what to do

**Dictionary examples:**
He signalled left, and turned the lorry slowly.
He was signalling with a red flag.
She signalled for help.
She signalled to the cars behind that they were going the wrong way.
The children’s mother signalled them to be quiet.
Learner example:
He signalled his trust[y] and mostly silent cameraman to follow him and decided to go underground.

**significance** /ˈsɪgnɪf.ɪ.kən/

Word family:
Nouns: significance
Adjectives: significant, insignificant
Adverbs: significantly

NOUN [u]
[C1] the importance or meaning of something

**Dictionary examples:**
I still don't understand the significance of his remark.
This is a development which has great economic significance for the region.

**Learner example:**
In spite of the progress achieved in promoting the social status of women, one should not overestimate the significance of these achievements to ordinary women's careers.

**significant** /ˈsɪgnɪf.ɪ.kənt/

Word family:
Nouns: significance
Adjectives: significant, insignificant
Adverbs: significantly

ADJECTIVE
[B2] important or noticeable

**Dictionary examples:**
There has been a significant increase in the number of women students in recent years.
These measures will save a significant amount of money.
The talks between the USA and Russia were very significant for the relationship between the two countries.

**Learner example:**
One of the most significant invention[s] is [the] computer.
significantly /sɪgˈnɪf.ɪ.kənt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: significance
Adjectives: significant, insignificant
Adverbs: significantly

ADVERB

[B2] in a way that is easy to see or by a large amount

Dictionary example:
My piano playing has improved significantly since I've had a new teacher.

Learner example:
Also, with today's machines, factories have significantly increased their production.

silence /ˈsaɪ.ləns/

Word family:
Nouns: silence
Adjectives: silent
Adverbs: silently

NOUN

PERIOD OF TIME

[B2] [c or u] a period of time in which there is complete quiet or no speaking

Dictionary example:
There were long silences during the discussion.

Learner example:
The progress of the story is very slow, but the author is describing hard conditions, hard characters [and] long silences, which is quite typical of his way [of writing].

NO TALKING

[C2] [u] a period of time when someone says nothing about a particular subject or when someone does not communicate with someone at all

Dictionary examples:
She ended her silence yesterday and spoke to a TV reporter about the affair.
I took his long silence to mean that I had offended him.

Learner example:
How dared he call her after such a long silence and order her what to do?
silent /ˈsaɪ.lənt/

Word family:
Nouns: silence
Adjectives: silent
Adverbs: silently

ADJECTIVE

NO SPEAKING

[B2] without talking

Dictionary examples:
She whispered a silent prayer that her wounded brother would not die.
The police officer told the criminal that he had the right to remain silent.
The minister was silent on/about his plans for the future.
Arthur has always been the strong, silent type.

Learner example:
When they were there, Aunt Patience was obliged by her husband to go to her room and remain silent.

silently /ˈsɑɪ.lənt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: silence
Adjectives: silent
Adverbs: silently

ADVERB

[B2] without making any noise

Dictionary examples:
She wept silently as she read the letter.
He silently vowed to take revenge.

Learner example:
After waiting silently for two minutes, she dropped the phone.

similarity /ˌsɪm.ɪˈlær.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: similarity
Adjectives: similar
Adverbs: similarly
NOUN [C or U]
[B2] when two things or people are similar, or a way in which they are similar

Dictionary examples:
I can see the similarity between you and your mother.
The book bears several striking similarities to last year’s bestseller.

Learner example:
Another similarity between the two was their appearance.

similarly /ˈsɪm.ɪ.li/  

Word family:
Nouns: similarity
Adjectives: similar
Adverbs: similarly

ADVERB
[C1] in a similar way

Dictionary examples:
The children were similarly dressed.
Cars must stop at red traffic lights; similarly, bicycles should stop too.

Learner example:
Business people would like to have a car park in the city centre, whereas most residents are against it, mainly because of the horrible noise made by cars. Similarly, some students, who are concerned about pollution, prefer the car park to be on the outskirts of the city.

simple /ˈsɪm.pəl/  

Word family:
Nouns: simplicity, simplification
Verbs: simplify
Adjectives: simple
Adverbs: simply

ADJECTIVE

IMPORTANT
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] used to describe the one important fact, truth, etc.

Dictionary example:
We didn’t go swimming for the simple reason that the water was too cold.

Learner example:
I’m very fond of working with animals, and the simple reason is that I’m planning to become a vet.
simplicity /′sɪmˈplɪs.ti/  

Word family:  
Nouns: simplicity, simplification  
Verbs: simplify  
Adjectives: simple  
Adverbs: simply

NOUN [u]  
[C1] the quality of being simple  

Dictionary examples:  
The advantage of the plan is its simplicity.  
The examination was simplicity itself.  
I admire the simplicity of her designs.

Learner example:  
Video facilities are rated as quite good [by] the students, and computer programmes have gained almost everybody's compliments for their simplicity and efficacy.

simplification /ˌsɪmplɪˈfɪkeɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: simplicity, simplification  
Verbs: simplify  
Adjectives: simple  
Adverbs: simply

NOUN [u]  
[C2] the process of making something more simple  

Dictionary example:  
I think these rules need some simplification.

Learner example:  
It might be a simplification and an exaggeration, but as the word says: "The road of excess leads to the tower of wisdom", and although the idea expresses itself in crude terms, I do think there is some truth to it.

simplify /′sɪmplɪ.faɪ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: simplicity, simplification  
Verbs: simplify  
Adjectives: simple  
Adverbs: simply
VERB [T]
[C1] to make something less complicated and therefore easier to do or understand

**Dictionary examples:**
the new, simplified tax system
He tried to simplify the story for the younger audience.

**Learner example:**
The technology has probably simplified life in a way that no one could believe was possible about 20 years ago.

**simply /ˈsɪmpli/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** simplicity, simplification
**Verbs:** simplify
**Adjectives:** simple
**Adverbs:** simply

ADVERB

**EMPHASIS**
[B2] used to emphasize what you are saying

**Dictionary examples:**
We simply don't have the time.
You look simply beautiful in that dress.
The hunger in parts of Africa is terrible – there's (quite) simply no other word for it.

**Learner example:**
It's said that most of the centre's sports facilities are very expensive, [but] that is simply not true.

**ONLY**
[B2] only

**Dictionary example:**
A lot of people miss out on this opportunity simply because they don't know about it.

**Learner example:**
I am very interested in fashion, simply because it is a style, an attitude, a way of life.

**NOT COMPLICATED**
[B2] in a way which is not complicated or difficult to understand

**Dictionary example:**
He explained it as simply as he could, but the class still didn't understand.

**Learner example:**
Try to organize your work as simply as possible.
**simulation** /ˌsɪm.jəˈleɪ.ʃən/

**NOUN [C or U]**
[C1] a model of something that can be used to teach someone how to do something, or the process of making such a model

**Dictionary example:**
Students can study a computer simulation of these atomic processes.

**Learner example:**
Civilisation is one of the best-selling simulation games of all time.

**simultaneous** /ˌsɪm.əˈlɜrn.iəs/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** simultaneous
**Adverbs:** simultaneously

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] If two or more things are simultaneous, they happen or exist at the same time.

**Dictionary example:**
simultaneous translation

**Learner example:**
The people I most admire are simultaneous interpreter[s].

**simultaneously** /ˌsɪm.əˈlɜrn.iəli/

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** simultaneous
**Adverbs:** simultaneously

**ADVERB**
[B2] at the same time

**Dictionary example:**
Two children answered the teacher’s question simultaneously.

**Learner example:**
The floods of information pour towards you and go through your brain simultaneously.
**sin /sɪn/**

**NOUN**

**RELIGION**

[C2] something which is against the rules of a religion

**Dictionary examples:**
the sin of greed/pride
to commit a sin

**Learner example:**
Nurses and doctors in white or green overalls, smells of drugs and sweating patients, moans of pain during the night, all that was like sending me to hell for a sin I knew nothing about.

**MORALLY WRONG**

[C2] something that you should not do because it is morally wrong

**Dictionary example:**
You've only got one life and it's a sin to waste it.

**Learner example:**
It would be a sin not to grasp the opportunities one is given.

**since /sɪnts/**

**ADVERB**

[B2] from a time in the past until a later time or until now

**Dictionary examples:**
Emma went to work in New York a year ago, and we haven't seen her since.
He started working for the company when he left school, and has been there ever since.
I've long since forgotten any Latin I ever learned.

**Learner example:**
It was my grandmother who introduced me to teddy bears and she wanted me to love them as she did. When she died, I got all her bears and have been taking care of them ever since.

**sincere /sɪnˈsər/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** sincerity

**Adjectives:** sincere

**Adverbs:** sincerely
ADJECTIVE

HONEST
[C1] honest and saying or showing what you really feel or believe

Dictionary example:
He seems to be sincere.

Learner example:
During these years I have also found her to be honest, sincere, hard-working and imagin[ative].

sincere apologies/thanks, etc. FORMAL
[C1] used to add emphasis when you are expressing a feeling

Dictionary example:
The family wishes to express their sincere thanks to all the staff at the hospital.

Learner example:
Again, sincere gratitude for your kind work.

sincerely /sinˈsɪə.li/

Word family:
Nouns: sincerity
Adjectives: sincere
Adverbs: sincerely

ADVERB

EMPHASIS
[C1] in a sincere way

Dictionary example:
I sincerely hope that this never happens again.

Learner example:
I sincerely hope that you improve your services.

sincerity /sinˈser.i.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: sincerity
Adjectives: sincere
Adverbs: sincerely

NOUN [u]
[C2] the quality of being sincere
**Dictionary example:**
There was no doubting his sincerity.

**Learner example:**
His sincerity shines through from his poems and it still moves us.

---

**single /ˈsɪŋ.gl/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**ONE**

[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] only one

**Dictionary examples:**
There was a single light in the corner of the room.
Not a single person offered to help her.
You haven't been listening to a single word I've been saying.

**Learner example:**
The night was calm and not a single sound was disturbing her.

---

**sink /sɪŋk/**

**VERB (sank, sunk)**

**FALL**

[B2] [I] to move or make something move to a lower position or level

**Dictionary examples:**
The sun glowed red as it sank slowly below the horizon.
Student numbers have sunk considerably this year.

**Learner example:**
Dora's face grew pale and she sank [into] a chair.

---

**sip /sɪp/**

**VERB [I or T] (sipping, sipped)**

[C1] to drink, taking only a small amount at a time

**Dictionary example:**
She sipped her champagne.
Learner example:
The reasons for my choice are far from being profound: maybe it is only the desire of going back to a time when wom[e]n [...] could spend all the time brushing their hair or sipping tea, without feeling guilty for wasting their time.

NOUN [C]
[C2] a small amount of drink taken into the mouth

Dictionary example:
He took a sip of his coffee and then continued.

Learner example:
It was a regular afternoon, like all the other summer afternoons in the city, when you gasp for breath and are willing to reveal the secrets of your best friends for a sip of water.

sir /ˈsɜːr/ FORMAL

NOUN

Dear Sir
[B2] a way of beginning a formal letter to a man whose name you do not know

Dictionary example:
Dear Sir, I am writing to...

Learner example:
Dear Sir or Madam, With reference to your advertisement in the Wall Street Journal ...

siren /ˈsaɪərən/

NOUN [C]
[C2] a piece of equipment that makes a loud sound as a warning

Dictionary example:
a police siren

Learner example:
Almost immediately he heard the police sirens wailing and saw two officers spring from the panda car.

sister–in–law /ˈsɪs.tər.ɪn.lɔː/

NOUN [C] (PLURAL sisters–in–law)
[B2] a woman married to your brother, or the sister of your husband or wife
Dictionary example:
My sister-in-law is a great cook.

Learner example:
So, I and a sister-in-law had to stay with our little sons without any entertainment at the hotel.

sit /sɪt/ (sitting, sat, sat)

VERB [v]

TEST/EXAM
[B2] to take a test or exam

Dictionary example:
I had to sit an exam the next day.

Learner example:
Visiting you in July is just perfect because schools will have closed and I will have already sat my exams at the English school.

sit sb down/at/in, etc.
[C2] to make someone sit somewhere

Dictionary examples:
She sat me down and told me the bad news.
I thought we'd sit the children at the end of the table.

Learner example:
I wasn't prepared at all when my parents sat me down to tell me that my mother had been diagnosed with cancer, more specifically, a brain tumo[u]r.

site /saɪt/

NOUN [c]

on site
[C1] inside a factory, office building, etc.

Dictionary examples:
There are two restaurants on site.
They provide on-site childcare facilities for employees.

Learner example:
A small period of training on site is required a few days before the beginning of the job itself and how many interesting people you will meet!
sixty /ˈsɪk.sti/

NUMBER

(be) in your sixties
[B2] to be aged between 60 and 69

Dictionary example:
I took up yoga in my sixties.

Learner example:
She is in her middle sixties, but still very active and lively.

the sixties
[B2] the years from 1960 through 1969

Dictionary example:
I still love all that music from the sixties.

Learner example:
Another problem is the demolition of old houses that took place during the sixties.

size /saɪz/

NOUN

all shapes and sizes
[C2] many different types of people or things

Dictionary example:
We saw people there of all shapes and sizes.

Learner example:
Personal Challenges come in all shapes and sizes.

skeleton /ˈskel.ə.tən/

NOUN [C]
[B2] the structure made of all the bones in the body of a person or animal

Dictionary examples:
We found an old sheep skeleton up on the cliffs.
Her long illness reduced her to a skeleton.

Learner example:
In the USA, they enjoy dressing up in costumes, most of the time as skeletons, witches or ghosts.
a skeleton crew/staff/service
[C1] the smallest number of people that you need to keep an organization working

Dictionary example:
The Red Cross has withdrawn all but a skeleton staff from the country.

Learner example:
The life-rescuing services are on call and a skeleton staff remains in all hospitals.

sketch /sketʃ/

NOUN [C]

PICTURE
[C1] a picture that you draw quickly and with few details

Dictionary example:
He did a quick sketch of the cat.

Learner example:
Picasso would start with a lot of preliminary sketches and then go on to paint his final picture where the main figures – a woman and a horse – are screaming in despair.

ACTING
[C1] a short piece of acting about a funny situation

Dictionary example:
They wrote most of their sketches themselves.

Learner example:
It's a partly live show, but it also contains earlier recorded "sketches", often with funny stunts.

DESCRIPTION
[C2] a short description of something without many details

Dictionary example:
He gave us a quick sketch of the situation.

Learner example:
Having seen the call for new subject proposals I'm sending you a preliminary sketch of two new courses.

VERB [T]

sketch sth out PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to give a short description with few details, especially of an idea or plan

Dictionary example:
I've sketched out some ideas for my new book.
Learner example:
The way I would bring up my own children, right now I’m not too sure if I’m ever going to have one or even more, wouldn’t differ a great deal from the way I sketched out at the beginning.

**skilful** /ˈskɪlfəl/

Word family:
Nouns: skill
Adjectives: skilful, skilled

**ADJECTIVE**

**GOOD AT**

[B2] good at doing something

Dictionary examples:
a skilful artist
Police officers have to be skilful drivers.

Learner example:
Indeed they were very popular, because five very skilful and talen[t]ed teachers did the courses.

**DONE WELL**

[C1] done or made very well

Dictionary example:
skilful use of language

Learner example:
I do hope that my skilful and smart notes will help you to judge the situation properly.

**skilled** /skɪld/

Word family:
Nouns: skill
Adjectives: skilful, skilled

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] having the abilities needed to do an activity or job well

Dictionary examples:
a highly skilled photographer
My mother is very skilled at/in dressmaking.

Learner example:
I know you [need] some skilled people to build the boat and therefore I hope I can join your club to help you.
**skin /skɪn/**

**NOUN [C or U]**

**FRUIT**

[B2] the outer layer of a fruit or vegetable

**Dictionary example:**
a banana/potato skin

**Learner example:**
Unfortunately, I didn’t notice the banana skin, which was lying on the pavement next to me.

**skip /skɪp/**

**VERB [T]**

**NOT DO**

[B2] to not do something that you usually do or that you should do

**Dictionary example:**
I think I'll skip lunch today – I’m not very hungry.

**Learner example:**
He felt a bit sick and so he skipped the meal.

**AVOID**

[C1] to avoid reading or talking about something by starting to read or talk about the next thing instead

**Dictionary example:**
I usually skip the boring bits.

**Learner example:**
This sharpen[s] your translating skills and your vocabulary (since you can’t just skip words you don’t understand even if you get the general idea).

**skull /skʌl/**

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] the part of your head that is made of bone and which protects your brain

**Dictionary example:**
I fell and cracked my skull.
Learner example:
When she hit his head, like a batsman hitting a six, his skull crushed with an awfully crunchy noise.

slam /slæm/

VERB (−mm−)

CLOSE
[B2] [I or T] to close with great force, or to make something close with great force

Dictionary examples:
The wind made the door/window slam (shut).
Close the door carefully, don’t slam it.

Learner example:
Once the door slammed behind her, the tears came...

slam sth down/onto/into, etc.
[B2] to put something somewhere or to hit something with great force

Dictionary examples:
She slammed the phone down.
He slammed the on when a child ran in front of his car.
He stopped suddenly, and the car behind slammed into him.

Learner example:
Then he slammed down the receiver.

slang /slæŋ/

NOUN [U]
[C1] informal language, often language that is only used by people who belong to a particular group

Dictionary example:
prison slang

Learner example:
That’s because communication with natives and not experienced English teachers will probably make you enrich your idiomatic and slang vocabulary [rather] than your academic vocabulary.
slap  /slæp/

VERB [r] (−pp−)
[B2] to hit someone with the flat, inside part of your hand

*Dictionary examples:*
She slapped his face.
She slapped him *across* the face.
His friends slapped him *on the back* when he said he was getting married.

*Learner example:*
She shouted and slapped my face.

NOUN

*a slap in the face*
[C2] something someone does that insults or upsets you

*Dictionary example:*
After all that hard work, losing my job was a real slap in the face.

*Learner example:*
My father noticed that and decided it was high time to take me down a peg or two. He used to work as a volunteer in hospital for children dying for cancer. One day, he took me there. It was like a slap in the face – suddenly I saw a different world. It was a bleak world, without smiles and happy faces.

[C2] a hit with the flat, inside part of your hand

*Dictionary example:*
She gave the child a slap on the leg.

*Learner example:*
I do not think that punches and slaps mean love at all.

slash  /slæʃ/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a mark (/) used in writing to separate words or numbers, often to show a choice of connection

*Dictionary example:*
Visit our website, bbc.co.uk/radio4.
slughter /ˈslɔː.tər/

NOUN [u]
[C2] when a lot of people or animals are killed in a cruel way

Dictionary example:
They were sickened by the slaughter they witnessed.

Learner example:
And I think this change must be appreciated both [because of] the fact that a vegetarian diet is healthier and [because] it prevents the slaughter of animals.

slave /sleɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: slave, slavery

NOUN [c]
[B2] someone who is owned by someone else and has to work for them

Dictionary example:
I'm tired of being treated like a slave!

Learner example:
I know you're lazy sometimes but don't worry you don't have to work [like] a slave.

slavery /ˈsleɪ.vər.i/

Word family:
Nouns: slave, slavery

NOUN [u]
[C1] the system of owning slaves, or the condition of being a slave

Dictionary example:
They campaigned for the abolition of slavery.

Learner example:
From the condition of slavery, the Greeks passed to life in a fully developed and democratic country.
sleep /ˈsliːp/

Word family:
Nouns: sleep
Verbs: sleep
Adjectives: asleep, sleepy, sleepless

VERB [i] (slept, slept)

sleep on it
[C2] I to wait until the next day before making a decision about something important so that you can think about it carefully

Dictionary example:
I didn't know what to say to Laura, so I decided to sleep on it.

not sleep a wink
[C2] I to not have any sleep

Dictionary example:
I was so excited last night – I didn't sleep a wink.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, due to the fact that I hadn't slept a wink the previous night, I began to fall asleep.

NOUN

lose sleep over something
[C2] to worry about something

Dictionary example:
I know she's angry with me, but I'm not losing any sleep over it.

Learner example:
[There] was just one house, a magnificent mansion behind a high fence, that bothered me a bit. No-one from there came to meet me. But in the hassle of the first few weeks I was simply too busy to lose any sleep over it.

sleepless /ˈsliːp.ləs/

Word family:
Nouns: sleep
Verbs: sleep
Adjectives: asleep, sleepy, sleepless

ADJECTIVE

a sleepless night
[C1] a night when you are not able to sleep
Dictionary example:
He’d spent a sleepless night worrying about his exam.

Learner example:
Most of the rooms we stayed in did not have air-condition[ing], which caused many sleepless nights to the majority of us due to the intense heat.

sleepy /ˈsliːp.i/

Word family:
Nouns: sleep
Verbs: sleep
Adjectives: asleep, sleepy, sleepless

ADJECTIVE

PLACE
[C1] quiet and with little activity

Dictionary example:
a sleepy little town

Learner example:
I don’t know much about it because it never got into my remote, sleepy village.

sleeve /sliːv/

NOUN [C]

have sth up your sleeve informal
[C2] to have a secret plan

Dictionary example:
They were worried he might have another nasty surprise up his sleeve.

Learner example:
In addition, I would never hit them – parents should always have something up their sleeve to find a humane solution.

slender /ˈslen.dər/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] thin in an attractive way
Dictionary example:
a slender woman with long, red hair

Learner example:
On stage then appeared what I had dreamed of being, when I was a little girl, a princess-looking creature with long black hair, slender body and slow movements.

slice /slaɪs/

NOUN

PART
[C2] [NO PLURAL] a part of something, such as an amount of money

Dictionary examples:
We agreed before we did the deal that we'd both take an equal slice of the profit.
The film presents us with a fascinating slice of history.

Learner example:
It difficult to know that nowadays we can kill each other only for an idea or for a slice of land.

VERB [t]
[B2] to cut something into thin, flat pieces

Dictionary examples:
Slice the mushrooms thinly and fry in butter.
Could you slice me a very thin piece of cake/slice a very thin piece of cake for me?

slide /slærd/

VERB (slid, slid)

slide (sth) across/down/along, etc.
[B2] to move smoothly over a surface, or to make something move smoothly over a surface

Dictionary examples:
He likes sliding on the ice.
He slid the letter into his pocket.
We've got one of those doors in the kitchen that slides open.

Learner example:
I slid down the slope and when trying to brake, the brakes locked.
slight /ˈslæt/  

Word family:
Adjectives: slight
Adverbs: slightly

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] small and not important  

Dictionary examples:  
a slight improvement  
We're having a slight problem with our computer system.  
I haven't the slightest idea what he's talking about.

Learner example:  
To conclude, today's way of eating is not really healthy, but we can notice a slight improvement.

slightly /ˈslæt.li/  

Word family:  
Adjectives: slight  
Adverbs: slightly  

ADVERB  
[B2] a little  

Dictionary examples:  
She's slightly taller than her sister.  
I'm slightly upset she forgot my birthday.

Learner example:  
Even at night, it will take you only slightly longer to get from A to B, provided you are near the city centre.

slim /slɪm/  

ADJECTIVE (slimmer, slimmest)  

SMALL  
[C2] small and not as much as you would like  

Dictionary example:  
There's a slim chance he'll succeed.
slip /slɪp/

Word family:
Verbs: slip
Adjectives: slippery

VERB (−pp−)

slip sth into/through, etc.
[C2] to put something somewhere quickly or secretly

Dictionary example:
She slipped the letter into an envelope and sealed it.

slip out/through, etc.
[C2] to go somewhere quietly or quickly

Dictionary example:
I'll slip out of the room if I get bored.

Learner example:
My mission was to slip out of the ballroom and take pictures of the papers about the plans of Britain regarding the war.

OUT OF POSITION
[C2] [I] to slide out of the correct position

Dictionary example:
The photo had slipped from the frame.

Learner example:
She said, "I got a letter from the hotel today. The diary was in it. It had slipped between the beds."

slip your mind
[C2] If something slips your mind, you forget about it.

Dictionary example:
I meant to tell her Nigel had phoned, but it completely slipped my mind.

Learner example:
There was something but it slipped my mind before I reached it.

slippery /ˈslɪp.ər.i/

Word family:
Verbs: slip
Adjectives: slippery

ADJECTIVE
[C1] smooth and wet and difficult to hold or walk on
Dictionary example:
Be careful – the floor’s slippery.

Learner example:
We arrived at the mountain at seven o’clock [in] the morning and because the previous night it [had been] raining, the rocks were slippery.

slogan /ˈsləʊ.gən/

NOUN [C]
[C1] a short phrase that is easy to remember and is used to make people notice something

Dictionary example:
an advertising slogan

Learner example:
Our slogan is “BE CREATIVE”.

slope /sləʊp/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a surface or piece of land that is high at one end and low at the other

Dictionary examples:
There’s a steep slope to climb before we’re at the top.
a mountain/ski slope

Learner example:
During [the] daytime, we all went up to the slopes for skiing.

slot /slɒt/

NOUN [C]

HOLE
[C1] a long, narrow hole that you put something into, especially money

Dictionary example:
Put the coin in the slot.

Learner example:
Instead of inserting a coin, you put your card in a slot and then dial the number.
TIME
[C1] a period of time that you allow for something in a plan

Dictionary example:
The programme is being moved to a later slot.

Learner example:
Customers will also be able to choose the date and even the time slot for the delivery.

slow /sləʊ/

Word family:
Verbs: slow
Adjectives: slow
Adverbs: slowly

ADJECTIVE

NOT EXCITING
[B2] not exciting

Dictionary example:
I find his films very slow.

Learner example:
The beginning of the movie is slow, but the last hour is incredible.

be slow to do sth; be slow in doing sth
[C2] to take a long time to do something

Dictionary examples:
The government has been slow to react to the problem.
The ambulance was very slow in coming.

Learner example:
But in the Third World, where birth rates are explosive, the governments, and even more the people, are slow to grasp the problem and act on it.

VERB [I or T]
[C2] to become slower or to make something become slower

Dictionary examples:
Traffic slows to a crawl during rush hour.
The pilot was asked to slow his approach to the runway.

Learner example:
Having said that, I do agree that it is unavoidable to have increasing prices on petrol, in an attempt to slow the rate of depletion of this resource that is not unlimited.
smart /smɑːt/  

ADJECTIVE  
TECHNOLOGY  
[C1] using computers or information stored in electronic form  

Dictionary examples:  
a smart phone  
smart bombs  

Learner example:  
Some telephones are only operated by "smart cards".

smash /smæʃ/  

VERB  
[B2] [I or T] to break into a lot of pieces with a loud noise, or to make something break into a lot of pieces with a loud noise  

Dictionary examples:  
Rioters ran through the city centre smashing windows and looting shops.  
She dropped her cup and watched it smash to pieces on the stone floor.  

Learner example:  
Then the two men tried to smash the door [down].

smell /smel/  

VERB (smelled or smelt, smelled or smelt)  

ABILITY  
[B2] [I] to have the ability to notice or discover that a substance is present by using your nose  

Dictionary examples:  
Humans can’t smell as well as dogs.  
What I hate most about having a cold is not being able to smell.  

NOUN  
ABILITY  
[B2] [U] the ability to notice smells
Dictionary examples:
Smell is one of the five senses.
Dogs have a very good sense of smell.

UNPLEASANT

[B2] [c] an unpleasant smell

Dictionary example:
I wish I could get rid of that smell in the bathroom.

Learner example:
People who were on the bus wondered where that smell came from.

smog  /smɒɡ/

NOUN [u]

[C1] air pollution in a city that is a mixture of smoke, gases, and chemicals

Dictionary example:
Smog hung over the city.

Learner example:
This will reduce smog and pollution, which has become an increasing problem for Castlecross.

smoker  /ˈsməʊ.kə/  

Word family:
Nouns: smoke, smoker, smoking
Adjectives: non-smoking, smoky

NOUN [c]

[B2] someone who smokes tobacco regularly

Dictionary example:
a cigarette/pipe smoker

Learner example:
You can go for a walk, (which is good for you), eat well-balanced food and try not to smoke (if you are a heavy smoker).

smoky  /ˈsməʊ.ki/  

Word family:
Nouns: smoke, smoker, smoking
Adjectives: non-smoking, smoky
ADJECTIVE
[C2] filled with smoke

Dictionary example:
a smoky bar/room

Learner example:
It was dark, smoky, scruffy and overcrowded!

smooth /smuːð/

Word family:
Adjectives: smooth
Adverbs: smoothly

ADJECTIVE

PROCESS
[C1] happening without problems or difficulties

Dictionary example:
Her job is to help students make a smooth transition from high school to college.

Learner example:
As far as I am concerned, not only will this create a bad public reputation but it will also disturb the smooth running of both the hospital and our charity organisation.

MOVEMENT
[C2] happening without any sudden movements or changes

Dictionary example:
The plane made a smooth landing.

smoothly /ˈsmuːð.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: smooth
Adverbs: smoothly

ADVERB

WITHOUT PROBLEMS
[B2] without any problems or difficulties

Dictionary examples:
Everything was going smoothly before Darren arrived.
All the machinery was running smoothly.
**Learner example:**
I hope everything goes smoothly.

**WITHOUT SUDDEN MOVEMENTS**

[C2] without any sudden movements or changes

**Dictionary example:**
The car accelerated smoothly.

**Learner example:**
John felt strange unity with his car; the car reacted very smoothly and instantly to every movement he made.

---

**smuggle /ˈsmʌg.l/**

**VERB [ɪ]**

[C1] to take something into or out of a place in an illegal or secret way

**Dictionary example:**
He was arrested for smuggling cocaine into Britain.

**Learner example:**
Somehow they manage to get themselves trapped in a vicious circle of crime, under the influence of a magician who forces them to smuggle jewels for him.

---

**snap /snæp/**

**VERB**

**BREAK**

[C2] [ɪ] or [ɪ] if something long and thin snaps, it breaks making a short, loud sound, and if you snap it, you break it making a short, loud sound.

**Dictionary example:**
The twigs snapped as we walked on them.

**Learner example:**
In January of this year, her right Achilles tendon snapped during a competition and it was uncertain whether she would be able to ski, let alone compete again.

**snap (sth) open/shut/together**

[C2] to suddenly move to a particular position making a short, loud noise, or to make something do this

**Dictionary example:**
The suitcase snapped open and everything fell out.
Learner example:
Unfortunately, it was one of those automatic locks, that snap shut as soon as you close the doors, and, after a while he apparently found out that he was trapped inside the cupboard and couldn't get out.

SPEAK ANGRILY
[C2] [I or ɪ] to say something suddenly in an angry way

Dictionary example:
I was snapping at the children because I was tired.

Learner example:
Your job can be stressful enough without somebody snapping at you all the time.

LOSE CONTROL
[C2] [ɪ] to suddenly be unable to control a strong feeling, especially anger

Dictionary example:
She asked me to do the work again and I just snapped.

Learner example:
Something snapped in her, she told herself, “Let’s quit my boring job, and make a fresh start!!”

---

snatch /snætʃ/

VERB [tʃ]
[C2] to take something or someone quickly and suddenly

Dictionary examples:
Bill snatched the telephone from my hand.
The child was snatched from his bed.

Learner example:
He snatched the controls out of her hands and threw them on the floor.

---

sneak /sniːk/

VERB (sneaked)

sneak into/out/around, etc.
[C2] to go somewhere quietly because you do not want anyone to hear you

Dictionary example:
I sneaked into his bedroom while he was asleep.

Learner example:
He was going to make a photocopy first and then, maybe he could sneak out from the office.
sneak *sth* into/out of/through, etc.

[C2] to take something somewhere without anyone seeing you

**Dictionary example:**
We tried to sneak the dog into the hotel.

**Learner example:**
At these parties some of us sometimes [used to] sneak in some alcoholic drinks like vodka or whiskey.

sneak a look/glance at *sb/sth*

[C2] to look at someone or something quickly and secretly

**Dictionary example:**
I sneaked a look at the answers.

---

**sneeze  */niːz/***

**VERB [I]**

[B2] When you sneeze, air and often small drops of liquid suddenly come out of your nose and mouth in a way you cannot control.

**Dictionary example:**
Cats make him sneeze – I think he’s allergic to them.

**Learner example:**
We were sneezing all the time and had a fever.

---

**sniff  */snɪf/***

**VERB**

**MAKE A NOISE**

[C2] [I] to breathe air in through your nose in a way that makes a noise

**Dictionary example:**
You were sniffing a lot – I presumed you had a cold.

**Learner example:**
Suddenly we heard something sniffing. Something was approaching us coming from the darkness. It was a bear.

**SMELL**

[C2] [I or T] to breathe air in through your nose in order to smell something
Dictionary examples:
He sniffed his socks to see if they needed washing.
Dogs love sniffing each other.
She sniffed at her glass of wine before tasting it.
Dogs are sometimes used at airports to sniff out drugs in people’s luggage.

Learner example:
That puppy was the cutest thing: tiny body, with floppy ears, a curious wet nose that wanted to sniff everything on its way, and huge cheerful eyes.

snob /snɒb/

Word family:
Nouns: snob
Adjectives: snobbish

NOUN [C]
[C2] someone who thinks they are better than other people because they are in a higher social position

Dictionary example:
My aunt is such a snob!

Learner example:
Being stylish, whether it concerns cornflakes or shoes, to [the] degree of not having your own opinion, seems to be a pattern of behaviour typical of a teenager or a total snob.

snobbish /ˈsnɒb.ɪʃ/

Word family:
Nouns: snob
Adjectives: snobbish

ADJECTIVE DISAPPROVING
[C2] like a snob

Dictionary example:
a snobbish attitude

Learner example:
Mary’s friends seemed to be snobbish and artificial in their manners to Michael.
**snore** /ʃnɔː/  
**VERB** [i]  
[B2] to breathe in a very noisy way while you are sleeping

**Dictionary example:**  
He was snoring so much it kept me awake.

**Learner example:**  
You know, we can live together as long as you don't snore like you did last time.

**snow** /snəʊ/  
**VERB** [i]  
**be snowed in**  
[C2] to be unable to leave a place because there is too much snow

**Dictionary example:**  
We were snowed in for two days.

**Learner example:**  
After being snowed in the following morning, we headed off to Las Vegas.

**be snowed under**  
[C2] to have too much work

**Dictionary example:**  
I'm snowed under with college work.

**Learner example:**  
During late winter evenings when you are snowed under at work, this positive change is what keeps you going.

**so** /səʊ/  
**ADVERB**  
**if so**  
[B2] if this is the case

**Dictionary example:**  
It might rain this afternoon. If so, we'll have to have the party indoors.

**Learner example:**  
Will you be in time for dinner? If so, I'll cook your favourite dish.
so as to
[B2] in order to

Dictionary example:
I always keep fruit in the fridge so as to keep insects off it.

Learner example:
I could come on 8th July so as to be there on Tim’s birthday.

to do so
[C1] if you do this, or if this is done

Dictionary examples:
They want to build a completely new school, but to do so would cost far too much.
I would strongly advise you against taking out a loan of this size. To do so would be a great risk to your business.

Learner example:
It is generally believed that if [a] better education is provided, children are better prepared for adult life. To do so, money is essential.

even so
[C1] used to emphasize that something surprising is true despite what you have just said

Dictionary example:
Car prices have gone down a lot, but even so, we couldn’t afford to buy one.

Learner example:
I’m sure many of [these things] happened due to bad luck, but even so, there are some arrangements that, I believe, can easily be improved.

so as not to do sth
[C1] used for saying what the purpose of an action is

Dictionary example:
He went in very quietly so as not to wake the baby.

Learner example:
Secondly, I think we should plan some other kind of activities in case of bad weather and we should have more than one bus with us so as not to waste time in case it breaks down.

so much for... INFORMAL
[C2] used to say that something has not been useful or successful

Dictionary example:
"The computer’s crashed again." "So much for modern technology."

Learner example:
So much for turkey, crackling and mince pies – we ended up having a Christmas party of our own at Pizza Hut!
only so much/many
[C2] used to say that there are limits to something

**Dictionary example:**
There's only so much help you can give someone.

**Learner example:**
The effects of a longer life span have many side effects such as an increase in the world's population and, since there is only so much food, many more people are starving to death.

I told you so
[C2] used to say that you were right and that someone should have believed you

**Dictionary example:**
He's lazy? I told you so, didn't I?

**Learner example:**
See, I told you so”, Azman said with a grin.

every so often
[C2] sometimes, but not often

**Dictionary example:**
He went into town every so often to buy supplies.

**Learner example:**
Elizabeth and others visited her every so often until one day she left them.

so far so good **INFORMAL**
[C2] used to say that something has gone well until now

**Dictionary example:**
It's the first time I've done any decorating, but so far so good.

**Learner example:**
So far so good, only no one told us they held this point of view before the actual christening took place.

so to speak
[C2] used to explain that the words you are using do not have their usual meaning

**Dictionary example:**
That was our accommodation, so to speak.

**Learner example:**
In those cases, travelling turns into a sort of alienation, so to speak.
soak  /ˈsoʊk/  

Word family:
Verbs: soak
Adjectives: soaked, soaking

VERB [I or T]

PUT IN LIQUID

[B2] If you soak something, or let it soak, you put it in a liquid for a period of time.

Dictionary examples:
Soak the bread in the milk.
He left the pan in the sink to soak.

Learner example:
I was just enjoying [the] warm sand, soaking my feet in cold water, when his shadow obscured the sun.

MAKE WET

[C1] If liquid soaks somewhere or soaks something, it makes something very wet.

Dictionary examples:
The rain soaked my clothes.
The ink soaked through the paper onto the table.

Learner example:
The fish tank had been upended causing the fish to drop dead and the water [had] soaked the fitted carpet.

PHRASAL VERB

soak up sth or soak sth up PHRASAL VERB

[B2] to enjoy the effects of an experience

Dictionary examples:
We arrived early at the festival to soak up the atmosphere.
I spent two weeks in Greece soaking up the sun.

Learner example:
I like a lazy rest, so I took advantage of [the] sunny weather and sandy beach and soaked up the sun all day long.

soaked  /ˈsoʊkt/  

Word family:
Verbs: soak
Adjectives: soaked, soaking
**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] completely wet

**Dictionary example:**
My shirt was soaked.

**Learner example:**
Now it is a pleasure to drive in a warm and dry car, looking at the soaked bicycle riders as you quickly drive by them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>soaking</th>
<th>/ˈsəʊk.ɪŋ/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Verbs:</strong></td>
<td>soak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong></td>
<td>soaked, soaking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] completely wet

**Dictionary examples:**
You’re soaking – why didn’t you take an umbrella?
The dog was soaking wet.

**Learner example:**
Then we arrived at the camp, and we were soaking wet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>soar</th>
<th>/sɔːr/</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Verbs:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong></td>
<td>soaring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VERB [i]**

**INCREASE**

[C2] to increase to a high level very quickly

**Dictionary example:**
House prices have soared.

**Learner example:**
Not only has the interest from the public soared, but the competitions have also become commercially exploited and are today an integral part of our modern "brand and lifestyle" society.

**IN THE SKY**

[C2] to move quickly and smoothly in the sky, or to move quickly up into the sky
**Dictionary example:**
The birds were soaring high above.

**Learner example:**
Through the windows, a colourful bird could be seen, soaring, swooping, hovering, before disappearing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>soaring</th>
<th>/ˈsɔːr.ɪŋ/</th>
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<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] increasing very quickly

**Dictionary example:**
soaring property prices

**Learner example:**
This is due to soaring house prices, especially in urban areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sob</th>
<th>/sɒb/</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VERB [I] (–bb–)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>[B2] to cry in a noisy way</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Dictionary example:**
We found her sobbing in a corner.

**Learner example:**
Suddenly one of our group members started to sob.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sober</th>
<th>/ˈsəʊ.baɪ/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT DRUNK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] Someone who is sober is not drunk.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Dictionary example:**
She remained sober all evening.

**Learner example:**
Emma’s father was a very wealthy man who had millions in the bank but he was also a violent drunk who was rarely sober.
SERIOUS
[C2] Someone who is sober is serious and thinks a lot.

Dictionary example:
He was in a sober mood.

Learner example:
We rarely see each other and our care[free]ness and "joie de vivre" gave way to a more sober at[t]itude towards life, we all have our jobs and our own destiny to take care of.

NOT BRIGHT
[C2] Clothes or colours that are sober are plain and not bright.

Dictionary example:
a sober, grey dress

Learner example:
Peter wore a blue suit and a sober tie.

so-called /ˌsəʊˈkɔːld/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

NOT AS NAMED
[B2] used to show that you think a word that is used to describe someone or something is wrong

Dictionary example:
It was one of his so-called friends who supplied him with the drugs that killed him.

Learner example:
This so-called "Perfect Evening" was so disappointing, as well as discouraging [us from] coming to your Circle Theatre again.

KNOWN AS
[B2] used to show that this is an informal, little known, or new name that something or someone is know as

Dictionary example:
Married taxpayers are hit hard by the so-called marriage penalty.

Learner example:
There are lots of so-called workaholics who suffer from heart-attacks, high-blood-pressure or general nervousness.
### social /ˈsəʊ.ʃəl/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** society, socialism, socialist
- **Verbs:** socialize
- **Adjectives:** sociable, social, anti-social

**ADJECTIVE**

**SOCIETY**

[B2] relating to society and the way people live

**Dictionary examples:**
- social classes/groups
- social trends/change/equality/justice/differences

**Learner example:**
There are ecological, technical, and social problems.

### socialism /ˈsəʊ.ʃəl.i.zəm/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** society, socialism, socialist
- **Verbs:** socialize
- **Adjectives:** sociable, social, anti-social

**NOUN [U]**

[C2] a political system in which the government owns important businesses and industries, and which allows the people to share the money and opportunities equally

**Dictionary example:**
He is an opponent of socialism.

**Learner example:**
In his opinion, that would be a fatal mistake (his latest book is "The fatal arrogance: the error of socialism").

### socialist /ˈsəʊ.ʃəl.ɪst/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** society, socialism, socialist
- **Verbs:** socialize
- **Adjectives:** sociable, social, anti-social

**NOUN [C]**

[C1] someone who supports socialism
Dictionary example:
My parents are socialists.

Learner example:
It was the first time in history that socialists were a majority in the government.

**socialize**  *(also UK *socialise*)  /ˈsəʊ.ʒə.laɪz/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** society, socialism, socialist
**Verbs:** socialize
**Adjectives:** sociable, social, *anti-social*

**VERB [i]**
[B2] to spend time enjoying yourself with other people

**Dictionary examples:**
I tend not to socialize with my colleagues.
I hope Adrian's actually doing some work at college – he seems to spend all his time socializing!

**Learner example:**
With reference to the accommodation I would rather stay in a tent because I think it is the best way to socialize.

**society**  /səˈsaɪ.ə.ti/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** society, socialism, socialist
**Verbs:** socialize
**Adjectives:** sociable, social, *anti-social*

**NOUN**

**ORGANIZATION**
[B2] [c] an organization for people who have the same interest or aim

**Dictionary examples:**
an amateur dramatic society
the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

**Learner example:**
I read an article about the “Riding Society of Warlingham” in the local newspaper and I was fascinated by its ideas.
**soft** /ˈsoft/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** softness  
**Adjectives:** soft  
**Adverbs:** softly  

**ADJECTIVE**  

**have a soft spot for sb/sth**  
[C2] to like someone or something a lot  

**Dictionary example:**  
I've always had a soft spot for her.  

**Learner example:**  
I would definitely like to return there because I really enjoy museums and as I have always had a soft spot for art, I can say that that Foundation is my cup of tea.

**softness** /ˈsoft.nəs/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** softness  
**Adjectives:** soft  
**Adverbs:** softly  

**NOUN [u]**  
[B2] the quality of being soft  

**Dictionary example:**  
Just feel the softness of the baby's skin!  

**Learner example:**  
The room has only a few lamps and the furniture is worn down and has lost its softness.

**soil** /ˈsoil/  

**NOUN [C or U]**  
[B2] the top layer of earth that plants grow in  

**Dictionary example:**  
light/heavy/sandy soil  

**Learner example:**  
Many couples with young children and old people prefer fresh grass and natural soil to concrete and cement in a city.
solar /ˈsəʊ.lə/  

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[B2] relating to, or involving the sun

**Dictionary examples:**
- solar energy
- a solar cell/panel
- solar heating

**Learner example:**
It will save a lot of electricity as solar energy is used.

sole /səʊl/  

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** sole

**Adverbs:** solely

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[C1] only or not shared with anyone else

**Dictionary examples:**
- My sole objective is to make the information more widely available.
- The sole survivor of the accident was found in the water after six hours.
- She has sole responsibility for the project.

**Learner example:**
Creating a library for this sole purpose would be ideal for our school's language department.

solely /ˈsəʊl.li/  

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** sole

**Adverbs:** solely

**ADVERB**

[C1] only and not involving anyone or anything else

**Dictionary examples:**
- I bought it solely for that purpose.
- It seems he's not solely to blame for the accident.
- The product's success cannot be explained solely by the popularity of the ads.

**Learner example:**
In my opinion, everything depends solely on us and taking everyday decisions determines our future.
**solicitor** /ˌsəˈlɪs.ɪ.tər/

**Noun [c]**

[C1] in Britain, a lawyer who gives legal advice and help, and who works in the lower courts of law

**Dictionary example:**
We got a solicitor to draw up the contract.

**Learner example:**
If we [do] not hear from you within 10 days we shall be obliged to put the matter in the hands of our solicitors, which is not what we desire.

---

**solid** /ˈsɒl.id/

**Adjective**

**Hard**

[B2] hard and firm, without holes or spaces

**Dictionary examples:**
- solid ground/rock
- a solid object
- a solid structure

**Learner example:**
Having solid ground beneath her feet again she sighed with relief for having survived this adventure.

**Strong**

[B2] strong and not easily broken or damaged

**Dictionary example:**
- solid furniture

**Learner example:**
[If] you have an accident, you have less chance [of] get[ting] hurt if you are sitting in [a] big, solid vehicle.

**Not liquid/gas**

[C1] not a liquid or a gas

**Dictionary examples:**
- Liquid and solid waste is collected in the tank.
- Freeze the mixture for about 3 hours or so until solid.
Learner example:
Of the total amount of electrical power produced in the world, solid fuel is by far the most important contributor (44%).

**solid gold/silver/wood, etc.**
[C1] gold/silver/wood, etc. with nothing added

Dictionary example:
a solid silver bracelet

Learner example:
The dark marble is easy to keep clean and the solid brass handles look luxurious.

C**ERTAIN**
[C2] Solid information, proof, etc. is based on facts and you are certain that it is correct.

Dictionary examples:
This provided solid evidence that he committed the crime.
The drama course gives students a solid grounding in the basic techniques of acting.

Learner example:
It may help you, because you have a solid background and plenty of theoretical information which you could use in practice.

**solidarity** /ˌsɒl.ɪˈdær.ə.ti/

Noun [u]
[C1] agreement and support between people in a group who have similar aims or beliefs

Dictionary example:
Several lecturers joined the march to show solidarity with their students.

Learner example:
All the people were dancing, singing, laughing and enjoying their time in the company of these beautiful children from poor African streets, with a great sense of solidarity.

**solitary** /ˈsɒl.r.tər.i/

Word family:
Nouns: solitude
Adjectives: solitary
ADJECTIVE

ONLY
[C2] A solitary person or thing is the only person or thing in a place.

Dictionary example:
a solitary figure/walker

Learner example:
What is more, a star should remain with the people despite her or his celebrity, and bear in mind the old and perhaps worn-out, but none the less true comparison: a general without a faithful army is just a solitary soldier amid the field.

DONE ALONE
[C2] A solitary activity is done alone.

Dictionary example:
solitary walks

Learner example:
It was a month-long solitary journey through India.

---
solitude /ˈsɒl.i.tjuːd/

Word family:
Nouns: solitude
Adjectives: solitary

NOUN [U]
[C1] being alone

Dictionary example:
He went upstairs to read the letter in solitude.

Learner example:
You'll find true solitude and a place for serious contemplation of life's big questions.

---
solo /ˈsəʊ.ləʊ/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]; ADVERB
[B2] done alone by one person only

Dictionary examples:
a solo performance/flight
to sail/fly solo
He used to play with a group but now he has gone solo/has a solo career.
Learner example:
They all started with a solo car[e]er.

NOUN [C] (PLURAL solos)
[B2] a piece of music for one person or one instrument

Dictionary examples:
a trumpet solo
Parker’s solo on ‘A Night in Tunisia’ was so amazing that the pianist backing him simply stopped playing.

Learner example:
They were amazing, the drummer was so fast – when he was playing the drum solo, I couldn’t even see his hands and his drum sticks.

some /ˈsʌm/

DETERMINER

LARGE AMOUNT
[B2] a large amount or number of something

Dictionary examples:
It’ll be some time before we meet again.
It was some years later when they next met.
We discussed the problem at some length.

Learner example:
It’s some years ago now, sixteen years I think.

NOT USING NAME
[C1] used to refer to a particular person or thing without stating exactly which one

Dictionary examples:
Some lucky person will win more than $1 000 000 in the competition.
Some idiot's locked the door!
There must be some way you can relieve the pain.

Learner example:
Maybe you hate the memory of these boring literature classes at school, but I'm sure each of you is interested in some subject or other.
**somehow** /ˈsʌm.haʊ/

**ADVERB**

**REASON NOT CLEAR**

[B2] for a reason which is not clear

**Dictionary example:**
I know what we're doing is legal, but somehow it doesn't feel right.

**Learner example:**
I did not know who was talking to me but somehow I knew that it must be an urgent matter. Why else [w]ould a stranger wake me in the middle of the night?

**something** /ˈsʌm.θɪŋ/

**PRONOUN**

**be/have something to do with sth/sb**

[C1] to be related to something or a cause of something but not in a way which you know about or understand

**Dictionary example:**
It might have something to do with the way it's made.

**Learner example:**
Well, it has something to do with politics, but as you know, I don't understand a word of it because I don't care about it.

**be something** **INFORMAL**

[C2] to be a thing which is important, special, or useful

**Dictionary examples:**
The President visiting our hotel – that would really be something.
It's not much but it's something.

**Learner example:**
My God I thought this woman sure was something.

**something like**

[C2] similar to or approximately

**Dictionary example:**
He paid something like $2000 for his car.

**Learner example:**
He earns something like £100,000 a week or even more.
something of a *sth*
[C2] used to describe a person or thing in a way which is partly true but not completely or exactly

**Dictionary examples:**
It came as something of a surprise.
He has a reputation as something of a troublemaker.

**Learner example:**
I had always thought Peter Murphy was something of a mummy’s boy.

---

**somewhat** /ˈsʌm.wɒt/ FORMAL SLIGHTLY

**ADVERB**
[C1] slightly

**Dictionary examples:**
The resort has changed somewhat over the last few years.
She's somewhat more confident than she used to be.
We were somewhat tired after our long walk.

**Learner example:**
We found the written article to be somewhat inaccurate, since several facts were mistaken and others were blown out of proportion.

---

**somewhere** /ˈsʌm.weə/ ADVERB

**somewhere around/between, etc.**
[B2] approximately

**Dictionary examples:**
Somewhere between 900 and 1100 minor crimes are reported in this city every week.
It will take us somewhere between three and four hours to get to Madrid.
The company’s annual turnover is somewhere around £70.7 million.

**Learner example:**
The gathering will take place somewhere between the first and second week of the month, so you can come somewhere around then.
son–in–law /ˈson ɪn lɔː/  

NOUN [C] (PLURAL sons–in–law)  
[B2] your daughter's husband  

Dictionary example:  
My son–in–law helped me mend the fence.

soon /suːn/  

ADVERB  

sooner or later  
[B2] used to say that you do not know exactly when something will happen, but you are certain that it will happen  

Dictionary example:  
Sooner or later she's going to realize what a mistake she's made.  

Learner example:  
Anyway I think that sooner or later you will have problems with your heart or stomach.

no sooner ... than  
[C1] used to show that something happens immediately after something else  

Dictionary example:  
No sooner had we got home than the phone rang.  

Learner example:  
No sooner had I entered a pub than the waitress smiled warmly at me.

would sooner  
[C2] would prefer  

Dictionary example:  
I'd sooner spend a bit more money than take chances with safety.  

Learner example:  
However, with many living examples of unemploye[d] [people] getting by on benefits, some young people have been influenced to think that they would sooner live on benefits than work all week and receive moderate wages.

soothing /ˈsuː.ðɪŋ/  

ADJECTIVE  
[C2] making you feel calm or in less pain
Dictionary example:
We listened to some soothing music.

Learner example:
The appropriate "lounge" music would only add to the soothing and relaxing effect that this scenery would have on us and would probably go unnoticed.

**sophisticated** /soʊˈfɪst.ɪ.kətɪd/

**ADJECTIVE**

**WITH EXPERIENCE**

[B2] well-educated and having experience of the world or knowledge of culture

**Dictionary examples:**
She was slim, svelte and sophisticated.
I don't suppose I have any books that would suit your sophisticated tastes.
He was older than me and from London and I thought him very sophisticated.

**Learner example:**
Her conversation was very sophisticated.

**ADVANCED**

[B2] A sophisticated machine or system is very advanced and works in a clever way.

**Dictionary examples:**
I think a more sophisticated approach is needed to solve this problem.
These are among the most sophisticated weapons in the world.

**Learner example:**
These days we can use [a] computer, television [or other] sophisticated equipment.

**sore** /sɔːr/

**ADJECTIVE**

**a sore point**

[C2] a subject which causes disagreement or makes people angry when it is discussed

**Dictionary example:**
Money is a bit of a sore point with him at the moment.

**Learner example:**
The family gathering was a bit of a sore point.
sorrow /ˈsɒr.əʊ/

NOUN [u] FORMAL
[C2] when someone feels very sad

Dictionary example:
He expressed his sorrow at the news.

Learner example:
Perhaps being smart and over–achieving may sound like an offer that is too tempting to turn down, but it is as much of a burden as it is a blessing. These qualities bring forth the worst in one's peers, leading to loneliness and sorrow.

sorry /ˈsɒr.i/

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

SAYING NO
[B2] used to show politeness when refusing something or disagreeing

Dictionary examples:
I'm sorry but I think you've made a mistake.
I'm sorry, I can't agree.
I'm sorry, but I just don't think it's a good idea.
Sorry, you can't go in there.

Learner example:
I am sorry, but I completely disagree with the comments you have [made about] the festival.

sort /sɔːt/

NOUN

sort of INFORMAL
[B2] used to describe something approximately

Dictionary examples:
It's a sort of pale orange colour.
They were sort of waving.

Learner example:
I sort of felt like I had done my part to make the concert a suc[c]ess.
VERB [r]

ORDER
[B2] to arrange things into different groups or types or into an order

Dictionary examples:
Paper, plastic and cans are sorted for recycling.
I'm going to sort these old books into those to be kept and those to be thrown away.
You can use the computer to sort the newspaper articles alphabetically, by date, or by subject.

soul /səʊl/

NOUN

SPIRIT
[B2] [c] the part of a person which is not their body, which some people believe continues to exist after they die

Dictionary example:
She suffered greatly while she was alive, so let us hope her soul is now at peace.

Learner example:
Finally, two very old and serious aunts, a friend of the [irs], my Grandma and a [retired] couple from our neighbourhood were ready to call any soul from heaven to talk to us.

PERSON
[B2] [c] informal a person

Dictionary example:
I didn't see a soul when I went out.

Learner example:
Unlike a year ago, she did not tell a soul.

body and soul
[C2] used to emphasize that someone does something with all their effort and energy

Dictionary example:
They entered into the relationship body and soul.

Learner example:
If nowadays women are, for [the] vast majority, working, it occurs to me that some of them are not willing to devote themselves body and soul to their work.

keep body and soul together
[C2] to be able to pay for your food, clothing and somewhere to live
Dictionary example:
His wages are barely enough to keep body and soul together.

Learner example:
Not only does he keep body and soul together, but he is [o]n good terms with his wife.

sound  /saʊnd/

NOUN [C or U]

the sound of *sth* INFORMAL
[C2] how something seems to be, from what you have been told or heard

Dictionary examples:
I like the sound of the beef in red wine sauce.
He’s really enjoying college, by the sound of it.

safe and sound
[C2] completely safe and without injury or damage

Dictionary example:
After three days lost in the mountains, all the climbers arrived home safe and sound.

Learner example:
So, by the time you read this letter I’ll probably be safe and sound in Liverpool.

VERB

sound angry/happy/rude, etc.
[B2] to seem angry, happy, rude, etc. when you speak

Dictionary examples:
He sounded very depressed when we spoke on the telephone yesterday.
At the press conference, he sounded at his most relaxed.

Learner example:
He sounded so excited!

soundtrack  /ˈsaʊnd.træk/

NOUN [c]
[B2] the music used in a film or a television programme

Dictionary example:
The film’s soundtrack includes music by Bob Marley.
Learner example:
The first time I heard it was in a movie, named "8 Mile". This song was the soundtrack of that movie.

source /sɔːs/

**NOUN [C]**

**COME FROM**

[B2] where something comes from

**Dictionary examples:**
a source of heat/energy/light
Oranges are a good source of vitamin C.
Experts are trying to track down the source of the contamination in the water supply.
We walked up the river to its source in the hills.
Money is often a source of tension and disagreements in young married couples.

Learner example:
Fish is a great source of vitamins.

**PERSON**

[C1] someone who gives information to the police, newspapers, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
The story came from a source within government.

Learner example:
For the next report, I advise you to get the correct information from the source.

sow /səʊ/

**VERB [T] (sowed, sown, sowed)**

[C1] to put seeds into the ground

**Dictionary example:**
to sow seeds/crops

Learner example:
Farmers had to plough, sow and harvest cotton on their own, using their labour and hands.
soya /ˈsɔɪ.ə/

NOUN [u]
[C1] a substance made from beans and used to make many foods

Dictionary example:
This milk is made from soya.

Learner example:
[We offer] a huge range of soya products, energy bars, jam and spreads, suitable for diabetic[s], and a good choice of herbal teas.

---

space /speɪs/

Word family:
Nouns: space
Adjectives: spacious

NOUN

AREA AROUND
[B1] [u] that which is around everything that exists and which is continuous in all directions

Dictionary examples:
He was absent-mindedly staring/gazing into space.
Virtual Reality aims to give us artificial worlds to explore, outside normal space and time.

Learner example:
Just think of this one example when you go to visit a zoo and you see the elephant or the tiger or lion walking up and down and up and down in their "prison" and staring into space.

---

spacious /ˈspeɪ.ʃəs/

Word family:
Nouns: space
Adjectives: spacious

ADJECTIVE
[C1] large and with a lot of space

Dictionary example:
a spacious apartment/office

Learner example:
The rooms are spacious enough but they are very cold and that means that during the winter we have to wear many clothes in order to stay warm.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>spade</td>
<td>/sperd/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a tool with a long handle and a flat, metal part at one end used for digging

**Dictionary example:**
I need a spade to move all this earth.

**Learner example:**
He put his provisions and the most neccessary tools in his rucksack and took down his favourite spade, for this was not just any ordinary dig.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>spam</td>
<td>/spæm/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] emails that you do not want, usually advertisements

**Dictionary example:**
Most of the emails I receive are spam.

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>spare</td>
<td>/speər/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VERB**

**GIVE**

[C1] [r] to give time or money to someone

**Dictionary examples:**
I have to go soon, but I can spare a few minutes.
Can you spare me some change?

**Learner example:**
Thank you for sparing your time to read my letter and I look forward to the next edition of your newspaper.

**to spare**

[C1] If you have time, money, etc. to spare, you have more than you need.

**Dictionary example:**
I arrived at the station with more than an hour to spare.

**Learner example:**
I even started to do the shopping on the Net, and I think this is the perfect solution for the business[s] woman with family and little time to spare.
spare no effort/expense, etc.
[C2] to use a lot of effort/expense, etc. to do something

Dictionary example:
We will spare no effort to find out who did this.

Learner example:
"However, there is a remote chance that you can be cured and we will spare no pains in order to help you," he was told.

spare a thought for sb
[C2] to think about someone who is in a bad situation

Dictionary example:
Spare a thought for all the people who have lost their homes.

Learner example:
At this point, we should spare a thought for those who are not involved in the sport world.

spark /spaːk/

NOUN [C]

FIRE
[C2] a very small, bright piece of burning material

Dictionary example:
The fire was caused by a spark from a cigarette.

Learner example:
As the last spark ceased to glow, all the people stood up and sang the Canadian national anthem.

START
[C2] a small idea or event which causes something bigger to start

Dictionary example:
a spark of hope/inspiration

Learner example:
And with this spark of enthusiasm for faster food, some (to me unknown) genius came up with the Microwave oven, designed to cook most things in under 5 minutes.

VERB [T] (also spark off)
[C2] to cause an argument, fight, etc. to start happening

Dictionary examples:
to spark a debate/protest
to spark criticism/fears

2229
Learner example:
Please notice that I am not blaming alcohol as the origin of the problem, rather, I am blaming it because it sparks off a reaction that worsens the problem.

**sparkling** /ˈspɑː.klɪŋ/

**ADJECTIVE**

**SHINING**

[B2] shining brightly because of reflected light

**Dictionary example:**
sparkling diamonds

**Learner example:**
Finally, my college is not far from the coast, where you will find beautiful beaches and the sparkling, blue sea.

**SPECIAL**

[C1] special or exciting

**Dictionary examples:**
a sparkling performance
sparkling conversation

**Learner example:**
After, it's time for lunch with a lot of Champagne (for a more sparkling atmosphere!).

**sparsely** /ˈspɑː.sli/

**ADVERB**

[C2] with small amounts and scattered over a large area

**Dictionary example:**
This whole area is very sparsely populated.

**Learner example:**
A lot of these young people usually come from sparsely populated areas and want to move to a major city in order to be where things are happening.
speak /spiːk/ (spoke, spoken)

Word family:
Nouns: speaker, speech
Verbs: speak
Adjectives: speechless

VERB

generally/personally, etc. speaking
[B2] used to explain that you are talking about something in a general/personal, etc. way

Dictionary example:
Well, generally speaking, it's quicker if you take the train.

Learner example:
Generally speaking, the best way to keep fit is to live a healthy life.

IN PUBLIC
[B2] [I] to make a speech to a large group of people

Dictionary example:
She was invited to speak at a conference in Madrid.

Learner example:
[O]n behalf of all its members, I would like to invite you to speak at one of our meetings.

speak for/on behalf of sb
[C1] to express the feelings, opinions, etc. of another person or a group of people

Dictionary example:
I've been chosen to speak on behalf of the whole class.

Learner example:
I am sure that I speak on behalf of the rest of the members of this club.

so to speak
[C2] used to explain that the words you are using do not have their usual meaning

Dictionary example:
That was our accommodation, so to speak.

Learner example:
In those cases, travelling turns into a sort of alienation, so to speak.

speaks for itself
[C2] If something speaks for itself, it is clear and needs no further explanation.

Dictionary example:
The school's excellent record speaks for itself.
Learner example:
On the one hand the economic success of sports events speaks for itself.

speak volumes
[C2] If something speaks volumes, it makes an opinion, characteristic or situation very clear without the use of words.

Dictionary example:
She said very little, but her face spoke volumes.

Learner example:
It remains to be seen whether the effect of stem cells when applied to humans would be the same, but the achievements speak volumes about the fact that stem cells may one day turn a new page in many people's lives and let them get rid of that humiliating label of a "disabled person."

speak your mind
[C2] to say exactly what you think without worrying if it will upset anyone

Dictionary example:
She has very strong opinions and she's not afraid to speak her mind.

Learner example:
His father is even more eccentric, speaks his mind and has no manners at all.

not be on speaking terms
[C2] to not speak to someone because you have argued with them

Dictionary example:
My brother and I aren't on speaking terms.

Learner example:
Just imagine how many are those who hate their relatives or at least one of their relatives and aren't even on speaking terms with them or him.

| special | ˈspeʃ.əl |

Word family:
Nouns: specialist, speciality
Verbs: specialize
Adjectives: special
Adverbs: specially

ADJECTIVE

special attention/care/treatment
[B2] treatment that is better than usual

Dictionary example:
I don't expect special treatment – I just want to be treated fairly.
**specialist** /ˈspeʃ.əlist/

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** specialist, speciality  
**Verbs:** specialize  
**Adjectives:** special  
**Adverbs:** specially

**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] someone who has a lot of experience, knowledge, or skill in a particular subject

**Dictionary examples:**  
a software specialist  
She's a specialist in modern French literature.  
She's a specialist in childhood illnesses.  
a leading cancer/eye specialist

**Learner example:**  
Now, fully equipped and powerful computers can be so small and mobile that some specialists predict that new devices will replace [the] book.

**speciality** /ˌspeʃ.iˈæl.ə.ti/

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** specialist, speciality  
**Verbs:** specialize  
**Adjectives:** special  
**Adverbs:** specially

**NOUN [C]**  
[C1] a product, skill, etc. that a person or place is especially known for

**Dictionary example:**  
We tasted a local speciality made from goat's cheese.

**Learner example:**  
But even McDonald's realised there is another trend on the rise – local food and specialities – and therefore[e] started putting them on the[ir] menu.
**specialize** (also UK specialize) /ˈspɛʃ.əl.aɪz/

Word family:
Nouns: specialist, speciality
Verbs: specialize
Adjectives: special
Adverbs: specially

**VERB [i]**
[B2] to spend most of your time studying one particular subject or doing one type of business

Dictionary examples:
She's hired a lawyer who specializes in divorce cases.
a restaurant that specialises in seafood
I enjoy working in general medicine, but I hope to be able to specialize in the future.

Learner example:
Some specialise in acting and others [work] back stage like adjusting the sound or light and preparing the outfits.

**species** /ˈspiː.ʃiːz/ (plural species)

Noun [c]
[B2] a group of plants or animals which share similar characteristics

Dictionary examples:
Mountain gorillas are an endangered species.
Over a hundred species of insect are found in this area.

Learner example:
Then I wrote an article about saving endangered species.

**specific** /spəˈsɪf.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: specification
Verbs: specify
Adjectives: specific
Adverbs: specifically

Adjective
PARTICULAR THING
[B2] used to refer to a particular thing and not something general
**Dictionary examples:**
English for specific purposes
The disease seems to be specific to certain types of plant.
Is there anything specific you want from the shops?

**Learner example:**
We need to see animals, study them, and in some cases find out why specific types of animals can’t live in the nature which we have spoiled.

**EXACT**
[C1] exact or containing details

**Dictionary example:**
Could you be more specific about the problem?

**Learner example:**
To be more specific, our students discovered that the majority of your exhibits did not function at all.

---

**specifically /spəˈsɪf.ɪ.kli/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** specification
**Verbs:** specify
**Adjectives:** specific
**Adverbs:** specifically

**ADVERB**

**PARTICULAR PURPOSE**
[C1] for a particular reason, purpose, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
They're designed specifically for children.
She bought it specifically to wear at the wedding.

**Learner example:**
I specifically chose to travel with you since your travel brochure promised a half-day trip to St. Andrews, where I was to meet my friend Ann.

**EXACTLY**
[C1] exactly or in detail

**Dictionary examples:**
I specifically told them that she doesn’t eat meat.
The law specifically prohibits acts of this kind.

**Learner example:**
More specifically, students have to complete numerous questions with very long answers for four different subjects, and the time available for each subject is three hours.
**specification** /ˌspes.if.iˈkei.jən/

**Word family:**
Nouns: specification
Verbs: specify
Adjectives: specific
Adverbs: specifically

**NOUN [C] FORMAL**

[C1] a detailed description of how something should be done, made, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
They are made exactly to the customer’s specifications.

**Learner example:**
Translating technical specifications prepared by no[n]-native speakers can often cause serious problems.

**specify /ˈspes.ɪ.fai/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: specification
Verbs: specify
Adjectives: specific
Adverbs: specifically

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to state or describe something clearly and exactly

**Dictionary examples:**
He said we should meet but didn’t specify a time.
The peace treaty clearly specifies the terms for the withdrawal of troops.
The newspaper report did not specify how the men were killed.
My contract specifies (that) I must give a month’s notice if I leave my job.
The loan must be repaid within a specified period/by a specified date.

**Learner example:**
You did not specify what kind of work you are supposed to do either in a restaurant or in a museum.

**specimen /ˈspes.ə.min/**

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] an animal, plant, etc. used as an example of its type, especially for scientific study
Dictionary example:
This is one of the museum’s finest specimens.

Learner example:
Plant life is being given a hard time, as the would-be mountain explorers walk off the designated [paths] and wreak havoc in the wilderness, destroying many priceless specimens.

spectator /ˈspek.tər/  
NOUN [c]  
[B2] someone who watches an event, sport, etc.

Dictionary example:
They won 4–0 in front of over 40 000 cheering spectators.

Learner example:
At midnight sharp, fireworks covered the concert hall and I, as well as the rest of [the] spectators, felt the excitement and delight I’ve never felt before.

spectrum /ˈspek.trəm/  
NOUN [c] (spectra)  
ALL POSSIBILITIES  
[C1] all the different ideas, opinions, possibilities, etc. that exist

Dictionary example:
He has support from across the whole political spectrum.

Learner example:
At the other [end] of the spectrum of opinions you can find some people who need to park in the city for business matters, like a local shopkeeper I talked to, who is afraid of losing customers.

COLOURS  
[C2] the set of colours into which light can be separated

Dictionary example:
The colours of the spectrum can be seen in a rainbow.

Learner example:
Then, at dawn, the sun slowly rises, producing a spectacular spectrum of colours, ranging from deep purple to blinding yellow.
speculate /ˈspek.ə.lət/

Word family:
Nouns: speculation
Verbs: speculate

VERB [I or T]
[C2] to guess possible answers to a question when you do not have enough information to be certain

Dictionary examples:
The police refused to speculate about the cause of the accident.
The newspapers have speculated that they will get married next year.

Learner example:
One can speculate endlessly without any inkling of what the subject involves and will never be able to be sure whether there is any truth behind their contemplations.

speculation /ˌspek.əˈleɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: speculation
Verbs: speculate

NOUN [u]
[C1] when people guess about something without having enough information to be certain

Dictionary example:
She has dismissed the claims as pure speculation.

Learner example:
I seriously urge your organisation to base your reports on hard facts instead of speculation.

speech /spiːtʃ/

Word family:
Nouns: speaker, speech
Verbs: speak
Adjectives: speechless

NOUN
FORMAL TALK
[B2] [C] a formal talk given usually to a large number of people on a special occasion
Dictionary examples:
I had to **give/make** a speech at my brother's wedding.
The Governor of New York **delivered** a rousing speech to the national convention.
He gave the **after-dinner** speech.
Did you hear her **acceptance** speech at the Oscars ceremony?

**Learner example:**
I suggest that if you want to invite someone to give a speech, you have to invite athletes.

**free speech/freedom of speech**
[C2] the right to say or write what you want

**Dictionary example:**
They fought for the right to free speech.

**Learner example:**
Music, especially punk-music, symbolizes freedom of speech.

---

**speechless**  /ˈspiːtʃ.ləs/

**Word family:**
Nouns: speaker, speech
Verbs: speak
Adjectives: speechless

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] unable to speak because you are so angry, shocked, surprised, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
I couldn't believe what he was telling me – I was speechless.

**Learner example:**
Last year, I had the opportunity to visit Chania [again] with my family and I was speechless when I understood that everything has undergone rapid change, because of tourism.

---

**speed**  /spiːd/

**NOUN**

**MOVEMENT**
[B2] [u] very fast movement

**Dictionary examples:**
I get a real thrill from speed.
He put on a sudden burst of speed.
Both cars were travelling at speed when the accident happened.
Learner example:
Every summer I go to watersports because I like water. I'm very good at swimming and I like the speed of some watersports.

**up to speed**
[C1] having all the most recent information about a subject or activity

Dictionary example:
The course should bring you up to speed with the latest techniques.

Learner example:
Apart [from] this you can keep yourself up to speed with what's happening around the world on various fronts.

**exceed the speed limit**
[C1] to drive faster than you are allowed to according to the law

Dictionary example:
She was caught exceeding the speed limit.

Learner example:
There are three ground rules you have to follow: stop at stop-signs, don't exceed the speed limit and don't be in the way of other cars.

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**spending** /ˈspen.dɪŋ/

Word family:
**Nouns:** spending
**Verbs:** spend

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] the money which is used for a particular purpose, especially by a government or organization

Dictionary examples:
government spending on health
spending cuts

Learner example:
"If I become Prime Minister, the first issues on my political agenda will be to curb government spending on armaments, to reorganise the bureaucratic system, to reduce the rate of unemployment," he told me the last time I saw him.

---

**sphere** /sfɪə/

**NOUN [c]**
[C1] a subject or area of knowledge, work, etc.
Dictionary example:
the political sphere

Learner example:
There is a very big crew, all of them very good in their sphere of work.

---

### spice /spaɪs/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** spice
**Adjectives:** spicy

**NOUN**

**EXCITEMENT**

[C2] [u] something that makes something else more exciting

**Dictionary example:**
A scandal or two adds a little spice to office life.

**Learner example:**
Yes, we just have to believe in ourselves, add a little spice to our days and face the world – no matter which world.

---

### spin /spɪn/

**VERB [I or T] (spinning, spun)**

**TURN**

[C1] If something spins or you spin something, it turns around and around quickly.

**Dictionary example:**
The car spun across the road.

**Learner example:**
When the valve of the reservoir is opened, it passes through a pipe and it makes the turbine spin.

---

### spine /spaɪn/

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] the long structure of bones down the centre of your back, which supports your body

**Dictionary example:**
She injured her spine in a riding accident.
Learner example:
I had to carry my luggage to my room on the 3rd floor, which was hard as I suffer from a spine injury.

**send shivers/a shiver down your spine**
[C2] to make you feel afraid or excited

Dictionary example:
The sound of his voice sent shivers down my spine.

Learner example:
Simply looking at her sent shivers down his spine – there was the love of his life, the dearest woman on good old Earth, that he's never met before.

**spiral** /ˈspɛər.əl/

NOUN [C]

a downward spiral
[C2] a situation which is getting worse very quickly, and which is difficult to control

Dictionary example:
After his death, the family went into a downward spiral.

Learner example:
Unemployment is one of the major problems of our society. It is the first step of a downward spiral.

**spirit** /ˈspɪr.it/

Word family:
Nouns: spirit
Adjectives: spiritual
Adverbs: spiritually

NOUN

WAY OF FEELING
[B2] [NO PLURAL] the way people think and feel about something

Dictionary examples:
The players have a very strong team spirit.
As rock musicians in the 1960s, they were very much part of the spirit of the age/times.
We acted in a spirit of cooperation.

Learner example:
In addition to [that], you should invite athletes who have experience in sports to speak about team spirit and the role that sports [have] in our life.
in good/high/low, etc. spirits
[B2] feeling good/excited/unhappy, etc.

Dictionary example:
The whole class was in good spirits that day.

Learner example:
I was in high spirits until I got my paper back.

GHOST
[B2] ! [c] a form of a dead person such as a ghost

Dictionary example:
an evil spirit

Learner example:
I thought the house could have ghosts or spirits and because of this, I tried to convince myself that it ha[d] been [my] imagination, but suddenly the lights went out.

NOT BODY
[C1] [c or u] the part of a person which is not their body, which some people believe continues to exist after they die

Dictionary example:
I believe my spirit will live on after I die.

Learner example:
I would like to tell [José San Martin] that even if he could not reach his goal, without him, we would still [be] a dependent country. Furthermore, that his spirit was, is and will be in our hearts and minds.

DRINK
[C1] ! [c] a strong alcoholic drink, such as whisky or vodka

Dictionary example:
I don't often drink spirits.

Learner example:
There will be [starter]s, meat, fish, desserts... and a lot of Rioja's wine, of course! Champagne and spirits too.

spiritual /ˈspɪr.tju.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: spirit
Adjectives: spiritual
Adverbs: spiritually
ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to deep feelings and beliefs, especially religious beliefs

Dictionary example:
Traditional ways of life fulfilled both economic and spiritual needs.

Learner example:
I’d like to get in contact with the amazing spiritual life in [India]. There is no other country in the world with so many different religions and sects.

spiritually ˈspɪr.tju.əli/

Word family:
Nouns: spirit
Adjectives: spiritual
Adverbs: spiritually

ADVERB
[C2] in a way that relates to deep feelings and beliefs, especially religious beliefs

Dictionary example:
We returned from our holiday refreshed both physically and spiritually.

Learner example:
This view of life and work is not right, according to my beliefs, since being rich can lead to happiness, but may also lead you to poverty, spiritually speaking.

spit ˈspɪt/

VERB [I or T] (spitting, spat, also US spit)
[C2] to force out the liquid in your mouth

Dictionary examples:
I don’t like to see people spitting in public.
He took a mouthful of coffee and then spat it out.

Learner example:
Eric could ride a horse like nobody else, he could spit the furthest and climb the highest trees, and one year Eric broke his leg and had to be taken to hospital in an ambulance.
spite  /spəɪt/

NOUN

FEELING

[C2] [u] a feeling of anger towards someone which makes you want to hurt or upset them

Dictionary example:
He hid my new jacket out of spite.

Learner example:
She did not do that out of spite or vengeance.

splash  /splæʃ/

VERB

LIQUID

[B2] [ı or ı] If a liquid splashes or you splash a liquid, drops of it hit or fall on something.

Dictionary examples:
Water was splashing from a hole in the roof.
Unfortunately some paint splashed onto the rug.
She splashed her face with cold water.

Learner example:
But in some towns we stayed [in], there were public swimming pools so we could even splash in the water.

splash about/around/through, etc.

[B2] to move in water so that drops of it go in all directions

Dictionary example:
The children splashed about in the puddles.

Learner example:
So we were splashing around and then went to dry ourselves.

NOUN [c]

SOUND

[B2] the sound of something falling into or moving in water

Dictionary example:
They sat listening to the splash of raindrops on the lake.
Learner example:
[My friend, the mechanic Alex, heard a strange noise, a very powerful splash in the sea, [and] a lot of water came into the boat.

DROP OF LIQUID
[C2] a drop of liquid which has fallen on something, or the mark made by it

Dictionary examples:
There were several small splashes of paint on the carpet.
Add a splash of lemon juice.

Learner example:
And at precisely 6pm, the sky is painted with a splash of orange and there you can enjoy one of the best sunsets in the world.

make a splash INFORMAL
[C2] to get a lot of public attention

Dictionary example:
The film made quite a splash in the US.

Learner example:
Moreover, it is no use splashing your money about [on] expensive gifts because this behaviour shows that you are not happy but your purpose is to make a splash.

splendid /ˈsplen.dɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: splendour
Adjectives: splendid

ADJECTIVE
[C1] very good or very beautiful, special, etc.

Dictionary examples:
a splendid idea
a splendid view

Learner example:
As far as interviewing sports personalities is concerned, it would be a splendid idea to interview Gerry Armstrong because he would be able to inform students about football, as he is a very good player.

splendour /ˈspen.dər/

Word family:
Nouns: splendour
Adjectives: splendid
NOUN [C or U]

[C2] when something is extremely beautiful or luxurious

Dictionary example:
Tourists marvelled at the splendour of the medieval cathedral.

Learner example:
Opposite and above us towered huge mountains like rocky giants reaching their hands up into the cloudless sky. Our painful legs were forgotten, the scratches paled into insignificance in the face of such majestic splendour.

split /spɪt/

VERB (splitting, split, split)

DIVIDE

[B2] [i or ɪ] (also split up) to divide into smaller parts or groups, or to divide something into smaller parts or groups

Dictionary examples:
The prize was split between Susan and Kate.
Split the aubergines in half and cover with breadcrumbs.
The teacher split the children into three groups.

Learner example:
In my opinion we might just split a full-time salary.

SHARE

[C1] [ɪ] to share something by dividing it into smaller parts

Dictionary example:
The cost of the wedding will be split between the two families.

Learner example:
Sharing is cheaper since you always split the bills two or more ways and in your own place you cook your own food.

COME APART

[C2] [i or ɪ] If something splits or if you split it, it comes apart so that there is a long, thin hole in it.

Dictionary examples:
He split his trousers when he bent over.
Her shoes were splitting apart at the sides.
The wooden floor had cracked and split in the heat.

Learner example:
It made a satisfying crashing noise as the frame and glass split.
DISAGREE

[C2] [u or ə] If a group of people splits, or something splits them, they disagree and form smaller groups.

Dictionary examples:
This issue could split the Conservative Party.
The government is split on the issue of hunting.

Learner example:
This debate has affected a lot of discussions and spl[u]blic opinion.

spoil /spɔɪl/

Word family:
Verbs: spoil
Adjectives: unspoiled

VERB [u] (spoiled or spoilt, spoiled or spoilt)

CHILD

[C1] If you spoil a child, you let them have anything they want or do anything they want, usually making them badly behaved.

Dictionary example:
Her children are completely spoiled.

Learner example:
Few children are more spoiled than Japanese children.

spokesman /ˈspəʊks.mən/

NOUN [c] (plural spokesmen)

[C1] a man who is chosen to speak officially for a group or organization

Dictionary example:
He was the spokesman for their organization.

Learner example:
Becoming spokesman or woman for a good cause will lead to more popularity of and more attention for the cause.
**spokesperson /ˈspəʊks.pə.sən/**

**NOUN [C]** **(PLURAL spokespeople)**

[C1] someone who is chosen to speak officially for a group or organization

**Dictionary example:**
She was the spokesperson for the group.

**Learner example:**
As the local community spokesperson, my ability to plan, initiate and execute the cleaning of rivers, within our local community as a start, will be beneficial to the "Protect our river" requirements.

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**sponsor /ˈspɒn.sə/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** sponsor, sponsorship

**Verbs:** sponsor

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to give money to someone to support an activity, event, or organization, sometimes as a way to advertise your company or product

**Dictionary examples:**
The team is sponsored by JVC, so the players wear the letters JVC on their shirts.
Eva said she was doing a ten-mile walk for charity and asked if I’d sponsor her for £1 a mile.

**Learner example:**
The whole [event] is organized by university students and is sponsored by local firms.

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**sponsorship /ˈspɒnt sæʃəp/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** sponsor, sponsorship

**Verbs:** sponsor

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**NOUN [u]**

[C1] when someone gives money to support something

**Dictionary example:**
We wanted to set up a youth club, and asked local businesses for sponsorship.

**Learner example:**
The aim of this proposal is to explain the reason why our company can sponsor our country’s tennis championship and outline the benefits we will gain from this sponsorship.

---

**sporty** /ˈspoʊ.ti/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** sport
- **Adjectives:** sporty

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**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] Sporty people are good at sports.

**Dictionary example:**
I’m not very sporty.

**Learner example:**
Our events this summer have proved that the sporty young people in the International students’ sports club are both ambitious and know how to have fun.

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**spot** /spɒt/  

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** spot
- **Verbs:** spot
- **Adjectives:** spotless

---

**NOUN [c]**

**PLACE**

[B2] a place

**Dictionary example:**
This looks like a nice spot for a picnic.

**Learner example:**
Lake Frene is just a lake, there’s nothing to do and it’s a crowded spot.

**SKIN**

[B2] an unpleasant, small, red mark on your skin
Dictionary example:
He suffered badly with spots as a teenager.

**have a soft spot for sb/sth**
[C2] to like someone or something a lot

Dictionary example:
I've always had a soft spot for her.

Learner example:
I would definitely like to return there because I really enjoy museums and as I have always had a soft spot for art, I can say that that Foundation is my cup of tea.

**put sb on the spot**
[C2] to ask someone a question which is difficult or embarrassing to answer at that time

Dictionary example:
Sorry to put you on the spot, but I really need an answer.

**on the spot**
[C2] immediately

Dictionary example:
I accepted the job on the spot.

Learner example:
And when it was Meredith’s turn to tell her about her impending wedding, she felt she was going to have a heart attack on the spot.

**VERB [ɪ] (–tt–)**
[B2] to see or notice something or someone

Dictionary examples:
I've just spotted Malcolm – he's over there, near the entrance.
If you spot any mistakes in the article just mark them with a pencil.
The police spotted him driving a stolen car.
I soon spotted what was wrong with the printer.
The policewoman spotted that I hadn't got my seat belt on and signalled me to stop.

Learner example:
It is very easy to spot because there is a big sign [for] the hotel next to the building.

**spotless /ˈspɒt.əls/**

Word family:
Nouns: spot
Verbs: spot
Adjectives: spotless
ADJECTIVE
[C2] completely clean

Dictionary example:
By the time I’d finished, the whole room was spotless.

Learner example:
Sitting in her armchair, Ann realised that she was by herself for the first time after many difficult weeks spent with her mother in a spotless bedroom of a Swiss hospital.

spotlight /ˈspɒt.laɪt/

NOUN

the spotlight
[C2] when someone gets public attention by being on television, in the newspapers, etc.

Dictionary examples:
to be in the spotlight
She’s rarely out of the media spotlight these days.

Learner example:
Besides the conference centre will [put] our town in the spotlight and many political leaders will come and be aware of our problems.

[C2] [c] a strong light which can be pointed in different directions

Dictionary example:
They turned the spotlight on the lead guitarist during his solo.

Learner example:
At last, when the first notes came out of the or[c]hestra, a spotlight showed the enormous figure of Ludwig van Mill strolling in the forest, blowing his horn and grinning at the trees.

spouse /ˈspaʊs/

NOUN [C] formal
[C2] your husband or wife

Dictionary example:
Is his spouse still living?

Learner example:
It might be that the object in question reminds the owner of a beloved person, a deceased relative, a lost love, [or] a trip with his or her spouse.
**spray /spreɪ/**

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] liquid in a container which forces it out in small drops

*Dictionary examples:*
- hair spray
- spray paint

*Learner example:*
Actually, there was an attempt to cut down on using and producing sprays which destroy the ozon[e] layer.

**VERB [r]**

[B2] to force liquid out of a container in many small drops

*Dictionary examples:*
- The fields are sprayed with pesticides.
- She sprayed a little perfume on her wrists.
- Vandals had sprayed graffiti on the wall.

*Learner example:*
I quickly helped [the] others to decorate the hall – we blew up as many balloons as we could and sprayed them with gold and silver.

**spread /spred/**

**VERB (spread, spread)**

**GRADUALLY AFFECT**

[B2] [] to gradually affect a larger area

*Dictionary examples:*
- The fire spread very rapidly because of the strong wind.
- It started off as cancer of the liver but it spread to other areas of the body.

*Learner example:*
It seemed that the fire might spread more.

**INFORMATION**

[B2] [I or T] If information spreads, or if someone spreads it, it is communicated to many people.

*Dictionary examples:*
- News of his victory spread quickly.
- Have you been spreading gossip about them again?
Learner example:
The news spread all over the village.

**COVER AREA**

[B2] [I or T] (also spread out) to cover an area

Dictionary examples:
The suburbs spread for miles in every direction.
Our offices are spread (out) over a very wide area.

Learner example:
It has about 500 inhabitants, who live in 128 houses, which are spread over a big area.

**ARRANGE**

[C1] [I] (also spread out) to arrange something over a large area, especially something that was folded

Dictionary examples:
I spread a blanket over his legs.
We spread the map on the floor.
He spread the cards out on the table.
She spread out her towel on the sand and lay down.

Learner example:
She looked at all the diaries that were all spread out around her on the bed.

**SURFACE**

[C2] [I] to move a soft substance across a surface so that it covers it

Dictionary examples:
What I really like is hot, buttered toast spread with strawberry jam.
He spread a thin layer of glue on the paper.

Learner example:
[The] British are astonished when they see Catalans rubbing their bread with ripe tomatoes. Likewise Spaniards feel surprised when Europeans spread butter on it instead.

**TIME**

[C2] [I] (also spread out) to arrange for something to happen over a period of time and not at once

Dictionary example:
The payments will be spread over two years.

Learner example:
This would both spread the cost and make the whole plan more workable.
MOVEMENT

[B2] [U NO PLURAL] when something moves to cover a larger area or affect a larger number of people

Dictionary examples:
Jazz records fostered the spread of American culture.
More should be done to stop the spread of this disease.

Learner example:
It is true that these days people have much more choice in entertainment, the spread of computers and video games is just one example.

spreadsheet  /ˈspred.ʃiːt/

NOUN [C]

[B2] a chart produced on a computer which helps you to do business calculations and planning

Dictionary example:
She prepared a spreadsheet with the new sales information.

Learner example:
I would be very interested in joining your club, in order to learn how to use basic software like word processing, spreadsheet or database software.

spring /sprɪŋ/

NOUN

WATER

[C1] [c] a place where water comes out of the ground

Dictionary example:
hot springs

Learner example:
Also there is a hot spring beside a river.

VERB

spring back/forward/out, etc.

[C2] to jump or move somewhere suddenly
Dictionary examples:
The cat sprang onto the sofa.
I tried to shut the door, but it kept springing open.

Learner example:
Suddenly, we heard a clap of thunder and all of us sprang to our feet.

spring to mind

[C2] If a word or idea springs to mind, you suddenly think of it.

Dictionary example:
He asked if I knew any good places to go, but nothing sprang to mind.

Learner example:
Darwinism and the "survival of the fittest" springs to mind here – only the ones that fight hardest and compete against others make it to the top.

sprinkle /ˈsprɪŋ.kl/

VERB [T]
[C2] to gently drop small pieces of something over a surface

Dictionary example:
Sprinkle the cake with sugar before serving.

Learner example:
Near the cathedral, in an imposing Baroque building, there is the collection of modern Tinguely’s fountains. Built with recycled materials, thousands of pieces move aimlessly, sprinkling water everywhere.

spur /spɜːr/ 

VERB [T] (also spur on) (spurring, spurred)
[C2] to encourage someone to do something or something to happen

Dictionary example:
Spurred on by his fans, he won the next three games easily.

Learner example:
It may spur them on to achieving more in the future.

NOUN [C]

on the spur of the moment
[C2] If you do something on the spur of the moment, you do it suddenly, without planning it.
Dictionary example:
On the spur of the moment we decided to go to London for the day.

Learner example:
In reality, many people buy things on the spur of the moment only to discover later that they, in fact, do not meet their expectations.

**spy /spaɪ/**

**VERB**

**INFORMATION**
[C1] [I] to secretly try to discover information about a person, country, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
He was accused of spying.

**Learner example:**
Also, some countries have fears about foreigners coming from underdeveloped countries and may consider some of them as a source of troubles including crimes, spying and maybe terrorism.

**squad /skwɒd/**

**NOUN [C]**

**bomb/drug/fraud, etc. squad**
[C2] a group of police officers who have special skills to deal with particular problems

**Dictionary example:**
He was a member of the bomb squad.

**Learner example:**
This is why governments today have their own Internet police squads.

**death/firing/hit, etc. squad**
[C2] a group of people who are trained to kill, usually with guns

**Dictionary example:**
He faced the firing squad.

**Learner example:**
The police are also accused of organizing death squads, which enter slums and execute instead of incarcerating suspects, including many children.

[C2] a sports team
**Dictionary example:**
the England rugby squad

**Learner example:**
He was only seventeen years old when he was transferred from the junior academy, to the senior squad of Parathinaikos.

---

**squander /ˈskwɒndər/**

**VERB [ɪ] [C2]** to waste time, money, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
He squandered all his money on alcohol and drugs.

**Learner example:**
By a quirk of fate, one day I realised that her parents were oblivious to the places that she visited or the products she squandered her money on.

---

**squash /skwɒʃ/**

**VERB**

**CRUSH FLAT**

[B2] [ɪ] to crush something into a flat shape

**Dictionary example:**
He accidentally sat on her hat and squashed it.

**PUSH INTO**

[B2] [ɪ] **OFTEN PASSIVE** to push someone or something into a small space

**Dictionary example:**
The kids were all squashed into the back seat.

**Learner example:**
My idea of fun is not getting up at seven o’clock in the morning to take a bus where we are squashed by lots of rude people we don’t even know.

---

**squeak /skwiːk/**

**Word family:**

**Verbs:** squeak

**Adjectives:** squeaky
VERB [i]
[C2] to make a short, high sound

Dictionary example:
His shoes squeaked loudly as he walked.

Learner example:
The wood of the drawer squeaked.

squeaky /ˈskwiː.ki/

Word family:
Verbs: squeak
Adjectives: squeaky

ADJECTIVE
SOUND
[C2] making short, high sounds

Dictionary example:
a squeaky voice

Learner example:
He pushed open the squeaky wooden entrance doors, noticing the smell of fresh cyan coloured paint.

squeeze /skwiːz/

VERB [T]
PRESS
[B2] to press something firmly

Dictionary examples:
She squeezed his hand and said goodbye.
Cut the lemon in half and squeeze the juice into the bowl.
Once he had finished cleaning the floor, he squeezed the cloth out.
He reloaded the gun, took aim and then squeezed the trigger.

Learner example:
It must have been nine o’clock and I was there, sitting [i]n my armchair, squeezing a cushion in my arms.

squeeze through/past, etc.
[C1] to move somewhere where there is very little space
**Dictionary example:**
She squeezed through a narrow gap in the wall.

**Learner example:**
There are [a] huge [number] of workers every morning trying to squeeze through the tiny door.

---

**stab /stæb/**

**VERB [T] (−bb−)**

[B2] to push a knife into someone

**Dictionary examples:**
She was stabbed in the arm.
The victim had been stabbed to death.

**Learner example:**
She raised the knife high in the air and stabbed it right into her stomach.

---

**stability /stəˈbɪl.ə.ti/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** stability
**Adjectives:** stable

**NOUN [U]**

[C1] when something is not likely to change or move

**Dictionary example:**
political/financial stability

**Learner example:**
In Yugoslavia sport was an important factor contributing to the overall stability of the federation.

---

**stable /ˈsteɪ.bl/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** stability
**Adjectives:** stable

**ADJECTIVE**

**SITUATION**

[C1] not likely to change, become worse, or end suddenly
Dictionary examples:
Prices have remained fairly stable in recent years.
The doctor said his condition was stable.
a stable relationship

Learner example:
That is due to [the] low economic development of this country, which is nowadays relatively stable.

PERSON
[C1] mentally calm and not easily upset

Dictionary example:
He's not a very stable person.

Learner example:
Children with [a] good coping mechanism are emotionally stable in facing their problems.

NOUN [C]
[C2] a building where horses are kept

Dictionary example:
We put the horses in their stables.

Learner example:
Not only is the noise they make so unbearable that we cannot sleep or drop off in the afternoon, but your pilots seem to enjoy low-flying raids over our stables, thus disturbing our horses.

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stage  /steɪdʒ/
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NOUN [C]

PART
[B2] a period of development, or a particular time in a process

Dictionary examples:
The project is in its final stages and should be completed by August.
They did the last stage of their journey on foot.
Our marriage is going through a difficult stage at the moment.
Their youngest child is at the stage where she can say individual words but not full sentences.
I'm not tired at the moment but I will need a rest at some stage during the walk.
At this stage, most children are able to read simple words.
Andrew spends all his spare time playing with his computer but it's probably just a stage he's going through.

Learner example:
At that stage of our holiday, we stayed quiet [for] some days in order to rest a bit after all those hours of driving.
VERB [v]

**stage a concert/show, etc.**
[C2] to organize and produce a performance of music or a play, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
They staged a free concert in Central Park.
The local drama group is staging a production of the musical 'Grease'.

**Learner example:**
My daughter's nursery school staged 'Buratino'.

---

stagger /ˈstæg.ər/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** stagger
**Adjectives:** staggering

VERB

[C2] [i] to walk as if you might fall

**Dictionary example:**
He staggered drunkenly towards the door.

**Learner example:**
Drearily and wearily they carried on, sometimes squelching through the mud, sometimes staggering on loose rocks.

---

staggering /ˈstæg.ə.rɪŋ/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** stagger
**Adjectives:** staggering

ADJECTIVE

[C1] very shocking and surprising

**Dictionary example:**
He earns a staggering amount of money.

**Learner example:**
However, it is expected to rise to a staggering 98% in 2010.
stain /ˈsteɪn/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a dirty mark on something that is difficult to remove

Dictionary examples:
a blood/grass stain
You can remove a red wine stain from a carpet by sprinkling salt over it.

Learner example:
I realised that I had a stain on my trousers.

VERB

MARK
[C2] to leave a dirty mark on something which is difficult to remove, or to become dirty in this way

Dictionary examples:
That paint stained my shirt.
While she was changing the wheel on her car, her coat had become stained with oil.
Tomato sauce stains terribly – it's really difficult to get it out of clothes.

Learner example:
There was only one bed, in which they were both supposed to sleep, and the pillow was stained with something that looked like blood.

DAMAGE
[C2] to permanently spoil something such as someone's reputation

Dictionary examples:
Several politicians have had their reputations stained by the expenses scandal.
The country's history is stained with the blood of countless innocent men and women.

Learner example:
All those “mistakes”, to put it kindly, stain the public image of our association AND the hospital.

staircase /ˈsteə.kiəs/

NOUN [c]
[C1] a set of stairs and the structure around them

Dictionary example:
a spiral staircase

Learner example:
The second floor can only be accessed by an outside staircase or a pole that runs through the second floor, like those at fire fighters' stations.
**stake** /steɪk/

**NOUN**

**be at stake**

[C2] If something is at stake, it is in a situation where it might be lost or damaged.

**Dictionary example:**
We have to act quickly – people's lives are at stake.

**Learner example:**
The whole human race's future is at stake.

**stale** /sterl/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] old and not fresh

**Dictionary examples:**
stale bread
Cake *goes* stale quickly if it's not covered.

**Learner example:**
Furthermore, the food was nothing special – the bread for breakfast was stale and the rice for dinner was cold.

**stamina** /ˈstæm.ɪ.nə/

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] the physical or mental energy that allows you to do something for a long time

**Dictionary example:**
Marathon runners need a lot of stamina.

**Learner example:**
She is a healthy strong girl with stamina.
**stamp** /stæmp/

**VERB**

**MARK**

[B2] [ɪ] to put a mark on an object either by printing on it or pushing into it with a small tool

**Dictionary examples:**
It is necessary to stamp your passport.
Every carton of yoghurt is stamped with a sell-by date.

**Learner example:**
There was only a small sign stamped on the door, saying that it was "closed for repairs".

**FOOT**

[C2] [ɪ] or [t] to put your foot down on the ground hard and quickly, often to show anger

**Dictionary examples:**
"No!" she shouted, stamping her foot.
The audience started jeering and stamping their feet.
He stamped on my foot.

**Learner example:**
I missed him so, that even if he w[o]uld pout and stamp his feet I would beam at him tenderly and kiss him gently on his cheek.

**stance** /stənts/

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] an opinion or belief about something, especially if you say it in public

**Dictionary examples:**
What's their stance on nuclear energy?
They are adopting/taking a very tough stance on drugs.

**Learner example:**
For all the above–mentioned reasons, and as president of the local youth club, I would like to express my stance on this subject and offer viable solutions to the local council.
**stand** /ʃtænd/

**VERB (stood, stood)**

**stand** *(sth)* in/against/by, etc. *sth*

[B2] to be in or to put something in a particular place or position

Dictionary examples:
His walking stick stood by the door.
You’ll have to stand the sofa on its end to get it through the door.
The room was empty except for a wardrobe standing in one corner.

Learner example:
As he stepped forward I knelt down and pulled his leg, so that he fell over and hit a small table standing beside the sofa.

NOT BE DESTROYED

[C1] [i] if a building stands, it has not been destroyed.

Dictionary example:
After the earthquake not a single building was left standing in the village.

Learner example:
The city was filled of magnificent monuments, some of them still standing today.

**stand at** *sth*

[C1] to be at a particular level, amount, height, etc.

Dictionary example:
Inflation currently stands at 3 per cent.

Learner example:
It was overtaken by furniture and equipment, which stood at 23 per cent in 2001, but only at 15% in 1981.

**ACCEPT**

[C1] [r] to be able to accept or deal with a difficult situation

Dictionary examples:
She couldn’t stand the pressures of the job.
The pain was more than he could stand.

Learner example:
Finally, last week we had a meeting and we decided to complain about that because nobody could stand the situation any more.

**it stands to reason**

[C2] If it stands to reason that something happens or is true, it is what you would expect.
Dictionary example:
It stands to reason that a child who is constantly criticized will have little self-confidence.

Learner example:
So it stands to reason that there is no place for Piggy in Jack's world.

**STATE**

[C2] [I] to be in a particular state or situation

Dictionary examples:
The house stood empty for years.
The player is currently standing second in the world rankings.

Learner example:
The cottage next to ours stood empty.

**stand trial**

[C2] If someone stands trial, they appear in a law court where people decide if they are guilty of a crime.

Dictionary example:
to stand trial for murder

Learner example:
He was going there in order to arrest Christians and bring them to Jerusalem to stand trial for their treason.

**stand to gain/lose sth**

[C2] to be in a situation where you can get/lose money or an advantage

Dictionary example:
He stands to gain a fortune if the company is sold.

Learner example:
International tourism should be encouraged, rather than reduced, because countries that are still developing stand to gain a lot from visitors from other parts of the world.

**where you stand (with sb)**

[C2] what someone thinks about you, how they expect you to behave, and how they are likely to behave

Dictionary example:
She said she will never leave her husband, so now at least I know where I stand.

**where sb stands (on sth)**

[C2] what your opinion is about something

Dictionary example:
We asked the head teacher where he stood on the wearing of jewellery in school.
Learner example:
From where I stand, some action must be taken urgently because the problems are constantly exacerbating.

**stand a chance**
[C2] to have a chance of success or of achieving something

**Dictionary examples:**
He stands a good chance of winning the election.
These kids don't stand a chance of getting an education.

**Learner example:**
If this measure were taken, the outcome would be of fundamental importance for the currently unemployed because they will stand a chance of finding a job and making a living.

**as it stands**
[C2] as something is now, without changes in it

**Dictionary example:**
The law as it stands is very unclear.

**Learner example:**
In my opinion, this debate is rooted in a deeper questioning of society's foundations: some people see society as it stands today as inherently flawed, an amorphous group of people who follow and worship anyone that gives them pleasure.

**ELECTION**
[C2] [i] to compete in an election for an official position

**Dictionary example:**
to stand for office/parliament

**Learner example:**
As a member of a party called Democratic Union she stood for election in Poland and is now in parliament.

**stand your ground**
[C2] to refuse to change your opinion or move your position despite attempts to make you

**Dictionary example:**
They tried to make me accept a lower wage, but I stood my ground.

**Learner example:**
She said she would stand her ground. In fact, she hoped that after the first flush of infatuation was over, Francis would come [to] long for his former love.

**NOUN**

**FOR SELLING/SHOWING**
[C1] [c] a table or small structure from which goods are sold or shown
Dictionary examples:
a hot dog stand
Visit our stand at the trade fair.

Learner example:
It would be extremely beneficial to our company to have a stand there next year.

make/take a stand  
[C2] to publicly defend something or stop something from happening

Dictionary examples:
It's about time someone made a stand.
He refuses to take a stand on this issue.

Learner example:
We cannot simply stand by while our greenery is being [destroy]ed, so I am making a stand.

FURNITURE  
[C2] [c] a piece of furniture for holding things

Dictionary example:
a music/hat stand

Learner example:
We go backstage, the audience is still clapping and the people in the orchestra are beating with their bow on the music stand.

standard  /ˈstændəd/

NOUN

QUALITY  
[B2] [c or u] a level of quality, especially a level that is acceptable

Dictionary examples:
a high standard of service
low safety standards
His work was below standard.
She sets very high standards for herself.
This essay is not of an acceptable standard – do it again.

Learner example:
In conclusion, I hope that my ideas will help to improve [the] standards of this café and will bring more customers [in] the future.

standard of living  
[B2] how much money and comfort someone has

Dictionary example:
a low/high standard of living
Learner example:
I think we would have a better standard of living if we had this situation.

**BEHAVIOUR**

[C2] [USUALLY PLURAL] a level of behaviour, especially a level that is acceptable

Dictionary example:
high moral standards

Learner example:
According to my moral standards, adults should not take advantage of children's lack of experience and they should certainly not incite them to tell lies and betray others.

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] usual rather than special, especially when thought of as being correct or acceptable

Dictionary examples:
White is the standard colour for this model of refrigerator.
These are standard procedures for handling radioactive waste.
The metre is the standard unit for measuring length in the SI system.

Learner example:
It should be a standard price.

**standpoint** /ˈstænd.poʊnt/

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a particular way of thinking about a situation or problem

Dictionary example:
to look at something from a political/religious standpoint

Learner example:
From a moral standpoint it can be argued that the income distribution that comes from such incredible payments is unacceptable.

**star** /stɑːr/

**NOUN [c]**

[BEST] [C1] someone or something that is better than all the others in a group

Dictionary examples:
He is one of our star players.
She was the star of the English class.
Learner example:
He led Brazil to win two more World Cups, and in both of them he was the star player, the black prince.

two–star/three–star, etc.
[C1] used to show how good a restaurant or hotel is

Dictionary example:
a five–star hotel

Learner example:
Also the facilities were great and people started building houses, and the small village became an attractive town with museums, universities, wonderful beaches, five–star hotels and other beautiful facilities.

stardom /ˈstɑː.dəm/  
**NOUN** [u]
[C2] when someone is very famous for acting, singing, etc.

Dictionary example:
She is heading for stardom.

Learner example:
The phenomenon of stardom is a complex one.

stare /steər/  
**VERB** [i]
[B2] to look at someone or something for a long time and not move your eyes

Dictionary examples:
Don’t stare at people like that, it’s rude.
Chuck sat quietly for hours staring into the distance, thinking of what might have been.

Learner example:
David had seen her once before in a park, staring at him.

start /stɑːt/  
**Word family:**
**Nouns:** start  
**Verbs:** start, restart
VERB [I or T]

BUSINESS

[B2] (also start up) If a business or other organization starts, or if someone starts one, it is created and starts to operate.

Dictionary examples:
She started her own software company.
A lot of new restaurants have started up in the region.

Learner example:
It was the first time in many years he had the opportunity or time to think over his situation and life. He had started his company fifteen years ago and had been successful.

SWITCH ON

[B2] If you start a machine or an engine, you switch it on, and if a machine or engine starts, it begins to work.

Dictionary examples:
The car wouldn't start.
Do you know how to start the lawn mower?

Learner example:
The car would not start and it was impossible to get a taxi because it was Saturday evening, so the only thing we could do was to run all the way to the school.

to start with

[B2] used before saying the first thing in a list of things

Dictionary example:
To start with, we need better computers. Then we need more training.

Learner example:
There is some information I should tell you about. To start with, the T.V repairman didn't come on Wednesday morning as expected.

NOUN

from start to finish

[C1] from the beginning of something to its end

Dictionary example:
I enjoyed the film from start to finish.

Learner example:
I found out that the service itself should last at least one and half hour[s] from start to finish.

for a start

[C1] used when you are giving the first in a list of reasons or things

Dictionary example:
I won't be going – I've got too much homework for a start.
Learner example:
So this creates an awareness of the obligation to look after oneself for a start.

**make a start**

[C2] to begin doing something

**Dictionary example:**
We need to make a start on (preparing) the brochure next week.

**ADVANTAGE**

[C2] [c] an advantage that you have over someone else when you begin something

**Dictionary example:**
I’m grateful for the start I had in life.

**Learner example:**
With a better start in life these children will be less likely to end up on the street again.

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**starvation** /staˈver.ʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** starvation
**Verbs:** starve
**Adjectives:** starving

**NOUN [U]**

[C2] the state of having no food for a long period

**Dictionary example:**
These people are dying of starvation.

**Learner example:**
While a few decades ago people used to die from starvation even in industrialised countries like France, nowadays the situation has changed and food can be found so easily that it has become an increasing source of health-related problems when exceeded.

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**starve** /sta:v/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** starvation
**Verbs:** starve
**Adjectives:** starving

**VERB [I or T]**

[C1] to become ill or die because you do not have enough food, or to make someone ill or die because they do not have enough food
Many people have starved to death in parts of Africa.

People were starving to death and various crimes took place.

starving  /ˈstaːv.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: starvation
Verbs: starve
Adjectives: starving

ADJECTIVE

ILL/DYING
[B2] ill or dying because there is not enough food

Dictionary example:
starving people

Learner example:
What shocked me most was the misery and poverty: thousands of homeless people roaming the streets starving and cold.

HUNGRY
[B2] informal very hungry

Dictionary example:
I'm absolutely starving.

Learner example:
I've always been greedy, but [at] that moment, while my Chemistry teacher was explaining a difficult lesson, I was really starving.

state  /steɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: statement
Verbs: state

NOUN [C]

CONDITION
[B2] the condition that something or someone is in
**Dictionary examples:**
The building is in a terrible state.
She was found wandering in a confused state *(of mind).*
Give me the keys – you’re in no fit state to drive.
After the accident I was in a state *of shock.*
I came home to an unhappy state *of affairs.*
The kitchen was in its original state, with a 1920s sink and stove.

**Learner example:**
Some people say TV can be harmful because it keeps our mind in a passive state.

**COUNTRY**

[C1] a country or its government

**Dictionary examples:**
The drought is worst in the central African states.
Britain is one of the *member* states of the European Union.
The government was determined to reduce the number of state-owned industries.
Some theatres receive a small amount of funding from the state.

**Learner example:**
I opted, since I must talk about my country's history, to choose an event not from the [w]hole history of the Greek nation, but from that of the independent Greek state (kingdom or republic, it depends [on] the period), which ha[d] a life of about 270–280 years.

**VERB [T] FORMAL SLIGHTLY**

[B2] to officially say or write something

**Dictionary examples:**
Our warranty clearly states the limits of our liability.
Union members stated *(that)* they were unhappy with the proposal.
Please state *why* you wish to apply for this grant.
Children in the stated areas were at risk from a lack of food, the report said.

**Learner example:**
Dear Mr Thomas, I've read your advertisement in [the] last issue of "The Traveller", [where] you state that you are looking for people to work on your campsites with English-speaking tourists.

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[B2] provided, created or done by the state

**Dictionary examples:**
state education/industries
state control
state funding/pensions

**Learner example:**
In general, the rules at private schools are much [strict]er than the ones at state schools.
**statement** /ˈsteɪt.mənt/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** statement

**Verbs:** state

**NOUN [c]**

**THING SAID**

[B2] something that someone says or writes officially

**Dictionary examples:**
- The government is expected to issue a statement about the investigation to the press.
- He produced a signed statement from the prisoner.
- We were not surprised by their statement that the train services would be reduced.

**Learner example:**
- Dear Editor Referring to your article of today, I want to correct some statements [made].

**MONEY**

[C2] (also bank statement) a piece of paper that shows how much money you have put into your bank account and how much you have taken out

**Dictionary example:**
- I always check my statement.

**Learner example:**
- My collection consists of original, pre-WW2 hand-written documents – anything from love letters to bank statements, chores lists handed out to servants to pre-nuptial agreements, as long as it is hand-written, finds its way to my archives.

**state-of-the-art** /ˌsteɪt.əv.ðiˈɑːt/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] using the newest ideas, designs, and materials

**Dictionary example:**
- It is a computer system that uses state-of-the-art technology.

**Learner example:**
- It is the impressive and simply state-of-the-art graphics that entice the player to spend hours in front of the screen.
statistic /stəˈtɪs.tɪk/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** statistics, statistic  
**Adjectives:** statistical

**NOUN [c]**  
[C1] a fact in the form of a number that shows information about something  

**Dictionary example:**  
Statistics show that skin cancer is becoming more common.

**Learner example:**  
Women have always been as bright and educated as men – statistics show that in Germany there are more women entering for exams at the universities than there are men.

statistical /stəˈtɪs.tɪk.əl/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** statistics, statistic  
**Adjectives:** statistical

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] relating to statistics  

**Dictionary example:**  
There is no statistical evidence to support his claims.

**Learner example:**  
I just wondered why your newspaper didn't stick to the statistical figures and the pie chart we announced on the next day [after] the fund-raising activity.

statistics /stəˈtɪs.tɪks/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** statistics, statistic  
**Adjectives:** statistical

**NOUN [PLURAL]**  
[B2] a collection of facts in the form of numbers that shows information about something  

**Dictionary examples:**  
Statistics show/suggest that women live longer than men.  
According to official statistics, the Japanese work longer hours than workers in most other industrialized countries.
Learner example:
According to statistics based on the questionnair[e], the majority of students feel the most enthusiasm for [their] English class.

**status** /ˈster.təs/

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] an accepted or official position, especially in a social group

**Dictionary examples:**
The association works to promote the status of retired people as useful members of the community.
There has been an increase in applications for **refugee** status.
The success of her book has given her unexpected **celebrity** status.
Applicants should have a degree or a qualification of equal status.

**Learner example:**
Their status and income were shadowed by the state.

**status symbol** /ˈster.təs,sɪm.bəl/

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] something that people want to have because they think it will make people admire them

**Dictionary example:**
For him, a big car is an important status symbol.

**Learner example:**
Jobs now play a very important role as status symbols.

**stay** /steɪ/

**VERB [i]**

**stay put** INFORMAL

[C2] to continue to be in the same place

**Dictionary example:**
He told me to stay put while he fetched the car.

**Learner example:**
It was extremely stressful and she didn’t like the working conditions and atmosphere at work, but as it was [difficult] to find another job, she stayed put.
**steadily** /ˈsted.əl.i/

Word family:
Adjectives: steady
Adverbs: steadily

ADVERB

[B2] at a gradual, regular rate

**Dictionary example:**
Prices have increased steadily since the war.

**Learner example:**
In the past people didn’t read books all the time. Neither did their kids at school. Today they read even less books but the number of copied and read articles or book extracts has increased steadily.

**steady** /ˈsted.i/

Word family:
Adjectives: steady
Adverbs: steadily

ADJECTIVE

**GRADUAL**

[B2] happening at a gradual, regular rate

**Dictionary examples:**
The procession moved through the streets at a steady pace.
Orders for new ships are rising, after several years of steady decline.
Over the last 10 years, he has produced a steady flow/stream of articles and papers.
Progress has been slow but steady.

**Learner example:**
There is also a steady rise in underweight [young girls] today.

**STILL**

[B2] still and not shaking

**Dictionary examples:**
You need steady hands to be a dentist.
Make sure you hold the ladder steady.

**Learner example:**
I know very well you have steady nerves but what is strong can turn weak as well.

**NOT CHANGING**

[C1] not changing
**Dictionary example:**
She drove at a steady speed.

**Learner example:**
Once on the road, keep a steady speed (not too slow, not too fast) and try to look confident.

**steady job/work**
[C2] a job that is likely to continue for a long time and pay you regular money

**Dictionary example:**
I wish he'd get a steady job.

**Learner example:**
They now had steady jobs, she reasoned; their time at college had been turbulent and not quite happy and they had badly needed a mother figure to see [it] through, but that time was over now.

---

**steam /stiːm/**

**NOUN [u]**

**GAS**
[B2] the hot gas that is produced when water boils

**Dictionary examples:**
Steam rose from the simmering stew.
a steam engine
the age of steam
The pump is driven by steam.

**Learner example:**
I've been interested in trains, in particular steam trains, since my childhood.

**let off steam**
[C2] to get rid of your anger, excitement, etc. by being noisy or using a lot of energy

**Dictionary example:**
The children need to run around and let off steam.

**Learner example:**
I believe that listening to it on a daily basis will be an ideal way for us to relieve the day’s pressure and let off steam.

---

**steel /stiːl/**

**NOUN [u]**

[B2] a very strong metal made from iron, used for making knives, machines, etc.
Dictionary examples:
steel pipes
a stainless steel sink

Learner example:
The object that I would choose is without any doubt my Katana, my Japanese Sword. It is a weapon that reminds me of my childhood games. I also like the form, and the cool steel of the blade.

steep /stiːp/

ADJECTIVE

LARGE
[C1] A steep increase or fall in something is very big and quick.

Dictionary example:
There has been a steep increase/rise in prices.

Learner example:
However, there was a steep increase in 1978 to 1982 when the figure reached about 60 million tonnes.

steer /stɪər/

VERB

CONTROL DIRECTION
[B2] [I or T] to control the direction of a vehicle

Dictionary examples:
She carefully steered the car around the potholes.
This car is very easy to steer.

Learner example:
After an hour she could keep [her] balance but she still had problems steering, but that didn't matter.

steer clear of sb/sth
[C2] to avoid someone or something because they are unpleasant or dangerous

Dictionary examples:
Steer clear of Tony this morning – he's in a bad mood.
Her speech steered clear of controversial issues.

Learner example:
Eating health[i]ly doesn't mean starving, eating plants or steering clear of meat.
### steering wheel  /ˈstrɪər.ɪŋˌwiːl/

**NOUN [c]**

| B2 | a wheel that you turn to control the direction of a vehicle |

**Dictionary example:**
He took both hands off the steering wheel.

**Learner example:**
After leaving your house on Monday morning, I gripped the steering wheel, fixed my eyes firmly on the road, and bravely drove my way up to Scotland.

### stem  /stem/

**VERB [T] (stemming, stemmed)**

**stem from sth PHRASAL VERB**

| C1 | to develop as the result of something |

**Dictionary example:**
Her problems stem from childhood.

**Learner example:**
This educational approach stems from strong family values and religious beliefs.

### step  /step/

**NOUN [c]**

**STAGE**

| B2 | one of the things that you do to achieve something |

**Dictionary examples:**
What's the **next** step in the programme?
We must stay one step **ahead** of our competitors.
Most people believe that the decision to cut interest rates was a step **in the right direction**.
The President **took** the unusual step of altering his prepared speech in order to condemn the terrorist attack.

**Learner example:**
We'd like to know how it feels to be in the film business, how you started and the steps you've taken to be where you are now.

**step by step**

| C1 | moving slowly from one stage of something to the next |
Dictionary example:
I know there’s a lot to prepare, but just take things step by step and don’t worry.

Learner example:
The book actually guides you step by step on how you can cope with this fear and defeat it.

**retrace your steps**
[C2] to go back somewhere the same way that you came

Dictionary example:
I was lost so I retraced my steps.

Learner example:
Mentally retracing his steps of the morning, he remembered rushing out of his place at the last minute.

**verb (-pp-)**

**step down** [C2] phrasal verb
to leave an important job

Dictionary example:
He stepped down as manager of the Italian team.

Learner example:
Thus, he decided to retire, to step down from the tough and competitive environment and planned for the rest of his life.

**nouns**

**stepfather** /ˈsteptʃɑːðər/

[C] the man who is married to your mother but is not your father

Dictionary example:
His stepfather gave him a job.

Learner example:
Once, Matthew told Pat that he was mistreated by his stepfather in his childhood.

**stepmother** /ˈsteptmʌðər/

[C] the woman who has married your father but is not your mother

Dictionary example:
My stepmother is only a few years older than me.
Learner example:
He made up his mind to defeat them, and asked his stepmother for some kibidango, one of the traditional snacks in Japan.

**stereotype /ˈster.i.oʊ.tæp/**

Word family:
Nouns: stereotype
Adjectives: stereotypical

**NOUN [C]**

[C1] a fixed idea that people have about what a particular type of person is like, especially an idea that is wrong

Dictionary example:
racial stereotypes

Learner example:
It seems commonly accepted that the new "high-tech" society has turned us into lazy people, without aims, targets, even hobbies in our spare time, unless watching videos or playing computer games. I am a student, I am young and I know a lot of people like me who do not fit in this stereotype.

**stereotypical /ˌster.i.əˈtɪp.ɪ.kəl/**

Word family:
Nouns: stereotype
Adjectives: stereotypical

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] having the qualities that you would expect a particular kind of person to have

Dictionary example:
a stereotypical student

Learner example:
Another person would rather perceive a stereotypical celebrity, a singer or a sports star as a greedy, self-absorbed and shallow pleasure seeker, concerned only with his or her own appearance and flaunting undeserved wealth.

**stern /stɜːn/**

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] very serious and without any humour
Dictionary examples:
a stern expression/face
stern criticism

Learner example:
He shot his sister Sarah a stern look which did not deter her from grinning maliciously.

stick /stɪk/
Word family:
Verbs: stick
Adjectives: sticky, stuck

VERB (stuck, stuck)

stick (sth) in/into/through, etc.
[B2] If something sharp sticks into something, it goes into it, and if you stick something sharp somewhere, you push it into something.

Dictionary example:
The nurse stuck the needle into his arm.

Learner example:
The body of his boss's wife lay on the ground, a knife stuck in her heart.

stiff /stɪf/

ADJECTIVE

HARD
[B2] hard and difficult to bend

Dictionary examples:
stiff cardboard
a stiff collar
His clothes were stiff with dried mud.

DIFFICULT TO MOVE
[B2] not easy to move

Dictionary examples:
The handle on this door is rather stiff.
My knee is rather stiff this morning.

Learner example:
She tried to sit up straight and quickly realised all her mus[c]les were stiff from non activity.
FORMAL
[C2] behaving in a way that is formal and not relaxed

Dictionary example:
He was always very stiff with us.

Learner example:
In spite of his often stiff attitude, Mr Stevens' very detailed description of their contact in the past and his eagerness to visit Miss Kenton in 1956 show that he does have strong feelings for her, even though he still hides this behind the eternal argument of "a need for contact of a purely professional character".

stiff drink/whisky/vodka, etc.
[C2] a strong alcoholic drink

Dictionary example:
I need a stiff brandy.

Learner example:
Then, she prepared herself a stiff drink: gin and tonic with some ice, the very same one she used to have when Jack was there.

SEVERE
[C2] very severe or difficult

Dictionary examples:
stiff competition/opposition
We need stiffer penalties for drink driving.

Learner example:
The area is already full with a number of big supermarket premises and even these big businesses face stiff competition from the local shops which are open 24 hours a day.

ADVERB
bored/scared/worried, etc. stiff
[B2] extremely bored/scared/worried, etc.

Dictionary example:
The lecture was awful – I was bored stiff!

Learner example:
Squeaky noises coming out from the deep corners of my house frightened me. I [was] scared stiff.

still /stɪl/

ADVERB
better/worse still
[B2] even better/worse
Dictionary examples:
I'll meet you at the theatre. No, better still, let's meet in a pub and have a drink first.
I'm worried that his car has broken down, or worse still, that he's had an accident.

Learner example:
To my mind, the best place to do the painting is my bedroom, because you'll have plenty of space to work, and, better still, we won't bother anybody.

ADJECTIVE

NOT MOVING
[B2] not moving

Dictionary examples:
Children find it difficult to sit/stand/stay still for very long.
I can't brush your hair if you don't keep/hold still.

Learner example:
I'd like to have my dog painted, too, but I'm afraid that'll be impossible because it won't stay still!

WATER/AIR
[C2] Still water or air does not have waves or wind.

Dictionary examples:
She dived into the still water of the lake.
The air was so still that not even the leaves on the trees were moving.

Learner example:
At the foot of the monastery's ruins was a pool, wide and still, and smooth in the sunlight, surrounded by flowers and tall trees, wonderfully bloomed.

stimulate /ˈstim.jʊ.leɪt/

VERB

ENCOURAGE
[B2] [ɪ] to encourage something to grow, develop or become active

Dictionary example:
The government plans to cut taxes in order to stimulate the economy.

Learner example:
This would hopefully stimulate the opening of several outdoor cafés downtown that we need as alternative meeting points for adults and youngsters.

MAKE EXCITED
[B2] [ɪ] or [ɪ] to make someone excited and interested about something
Dictionary examples:
The film was intended to stimulate and amuse.
Good teachers should ask questions that stimulate students to think.

Learner example:
I really enjoy watching [the] movies which are provided in your theatre because all [the] movies that I have seen are thought-provoking enough to stimulate our interest.

**stimulus** /ˈstɪm.jə.ləs/

NOUN [C or U] (PLURAL stimuli)
[C2] something that makes something else happen, grow, or develop more

Dictionary example:
The report provided the stimulus for more studies.

Learner example:
Nicole saw these events as the pursuit of excellence, I tend to agree with her and find them advantageous because they can serve as a goal and as a motivational stimulus for many athletes.

**stir** /stər/

VERB (–ry–)

MOVE
[C2] [I or T] to move slightly or make someone move slightly

Dictionary example:
The baby stirred in its sleep.

Learner example:
There is no wind, not a leaf is stirring.

FEEL
[C2] [I] (also stir up) to make someone feel a strong emotion

Dictionary example:
The case has stirred great anger among the public.

Learner example:
Clearly, that was what I found so intriguing about the event: that mesmerizing state of being united in awe – not being able to grasp fully the rationale behind the unpredictable turns history takes but feeling one's emotions stirred and expressing this frankly.
stitch /stɪʃ/  

NOUN  

THREAD  
[C2] a short line of thread that is sewn through a piece of material  

Dictionary example:  
The stitches around the neck are coming undone.  

WOUND  
[C2] one of the small pieces of thread that is used to sew together a cut  

Dictionary example:  
She needed 50 stitches in her head.  

stock /stɒk/  

NOUN [u]  

SHOP  
[B2] all the goods that are available in a shop  

Dictionary examples:  
We're expecting some new stock in this afternoon.  
This shop sells its old stock at a very low prices.  
We'll be getting our new stock in on Friday.  

Learner example:  
In [the] fashion industry, [a] sale begins at the end of each season and just lasts a short time, because those [shop] owners want to make room for new stock.  

in stock/out of stock  
[B2] available/not available in a shop  

Dictionary example:  
The book is out of stock at the moment.  

Learner example:  
And sometimes the item you are looking for is out of stock.  

take stock (of sth)  
[C2] to think carefully about a situation before making a decision  

Dictionary example:  
We need to pause and take stock of what still needs doing.
**VERB [v]**

[C1] to have something available for people to buy

**Dictionary example:**
We stock a good range of spices.

**Learner example:**
Besides, unless you are quite wealthy, you can [only] buy what is in the shops and these tend to stock only what is in fashion, so it is hard not to be 'in'.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stocking /ˈstɒk.ɪŋ/</th>
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**NOUN [n]**

[C] a very thin piece of clothing that covers a woman's foot and leg

**Dictionary example:**
a pair of stockings

**Learner example:**
Try to avoid miniskirts, fishnet stockings and sexy outfits in general, we are "mountain people" and are not very keen on this kind of fashion!

<table>
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**stock market /ˈstɒkˌmɑː.kɪt/**

**NOUN [n] USUALLY NO PLURAL**

[C] the place where stocks and shares in companies are bought and sold

**Dictionary example:**
Stock markets around the world are reacting to news of the US president's announcement.

**Learner example:**
The second unlucky job was office workers whose business was related [to] the stock market in Korea.

<table>
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**stone /stəʊn/**

**NOUN**

**SEED**

[C] the hard seed that is at the centre of some fruits

**Dictionary example:**
a cherry stone
a stone's throw
[C2] a very short distance

Dictionary example:
The cottage is just a stone's throw from the sea.

Learner example:
I'm now living in Clapham, just a stone's throw away from the common, in an awesome bachelor's pad.

leave no stone unturned
[C2] to do everything that you can in order to achieve something or to find someone or something

Dictionary example:
Both sides have vowed to leave no stone unturned in the search for peace.

Learner example:
She has left no stone unturned so as to reach her goal, always asserting her assets and views with conviction.

stool /stuːl/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a seat that does not have a back or arms

Dictionary examples:
a bar/kitchen/piano stool
a three-legged stool

Learner example:
Despite being provided with a machine which gives out hot and cold drinks, the cafeteria does not contain any table, stool or chair.

stop /stɒp/

VERB (−pp−)

stop at nothing
[C1] to be willing to do anything in order to achieve something

Dictionary example:
He will stop at nothing to get what he wants.

Learner example:
They stopped at nothing to get the higher scores, to make themselves noticed, even if that meant telling some lies to a teacher about a schoolmate.
stop short of *sth/doing* *sth*  
[C2] to almost do something but decide not to do it  
Dictionary example:  
She stopped short of accusing him of lying.

**NOUN [C]**

**put a stop to *sth***  
[C1] to end something unpleasant  
Dictionary example:  
We must put a stop to the violence.  
Learner example:  
Maybe these new activities (video – videogames), which are quite distract[ing], are at the same time so addictive that youngsters find it hard to put a stop to it.

**stopover** /ˈstɒp.əʊ.və/  

**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] a short stop between parts of a journey, especially a plane journey  
Dictionary example:  
The plane tickets include a two–night stopover in Singapore.  
Learner example:  
We both thought that it was a good idea to have that stop–over at your place as it was on our route to Norway anyhow.

**storage** /ˈstɔːrɪdʒ/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** storage  
**Verbs:** store  

**NOUN [u]**  
[B2] when you put things in a safe place until they are needed  
Dictionary example:  
We've had to build some cupboards to give us more storage space.  
Learner example:  
I think that is [what] our futur[e] home will be like, [with] lots of clever storage, [and] probably a few robots to do all the chores like washing up, hoovering and cleaning the windows.
**store** /stoːr/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** storage  
**Verbs:** store

**NOUN [c]**

**in store**
[C1] going to happen soon

**Dictionary examples:**
You never know what's in store for you.
There's a bit of a shock in store for him when he gets home tonight!

**Learner example:**
Nobody knows what the future will have in store!

**VERB [T]**

**KEEP**
[B2] to put or keep things in a special place for use in the future

**Dictionary examples:**
I stored my possessions in my mother's house while I was living in Spain.
I've stored my thick sweaters and jackets (away) until next winter.

**Learner example:**
Then we can just go to the fridge where all the fresh food is stored ready to eat.

**COMPUTER**

[B2] to keep information on a computer

**Dictionary example:**
The data is stored on a hard disk and backed up on a CD.

**Learner example:**
First of all, using a computer is important for me because I can store my personal records such as my diary or expenses.

**storey** /ˈstoʊ.ri/  

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a level of a building

**Dictionary examples:**
a three–storey house
Their new house has four storeys including the basement.
Learner example:
It is a one-storey building in [the] Russian style with one, rather small, room with a bar and 10 tables.

stormy /ˈstoː.mi/

Word family:
Nouns: storm
Adjectives: stormy

ADJECTIVE

WEATHER
[B2] If it is stormy, the weather is bad with a lot of wind and rain.

Dictionary examples:
a stormy night
stormy seas

Learner example:
It was a cold and stormy night.

ARGUING
[C1] A stormy relationship or situation involves a lot of anger and arguments.

Dictionary examples:
a stormy relationship
a stormy meeting/debate

Learner example:
I had not expected that you would contact me again (especially after our stormy discussion a month ago).

story /ˈstoː.ri/

NOUN [C]

REPORT
[B2] a report in a newspaper or on a news broadcast of something that has happened

Dictionary example:
The main story in the papers today is the president’s speech.

Learner example:
If someone famous goes to a pub, he should be careful what he drinks, because he could find an interesting story about his alcoholism in [the] newspapers tomorrow.
to cut a long story short
[C1] to mention only the final result or point of something without going into other details

Dictionary example:
To cut a long story short, he never played baseball again.

Learner example:
Well, to cut a long story short, let's say tuition yes, facilities no.

EXPLANATION
[C2] an explanation of why something happened, which may not be true

Dictionary example:
Did he tell you the same story about why he was late?

Learner example:
Susan repeated the same story three or four times: Jason had come from work at 5 o'clock and she had gone to the grocer's to get some potatoes for dinner.

straight /streɪt/

ADJECTIVE

HONEST
[B2] honest

Dictionary example:
a straight answer

Learner example:
I'm asking you to give us a reasonable and straight reply.

LEVEL
[B2] in a position that is level or vertical

Dictionary example:
That shelf's not straight.

get sth straight
[C1] to make sure that you completely understand a situation

Dictionary example:
Let me get this straight – am I paying for this?

Learner example:
Next time you should try to get your facts straight.

put/set the record straight
[C1] to tell people the true facts about a situation
Dictionary example:
I know they thought Alex was lying, and I wanted to put the record straight.

Learner example:
I hope that my letter will set the record straight and that the public shall be informed about the true events of that day.

keep a straight face
[C2] to manage to stop yourself from smiling or laughing

Dictionary example:
I can never play jokes on people because I can't keep a straight face.

ADVERB

sit up/stand up straight
[B2] to sit or stand with your body vertical

Dictionary example:
Stand up straight and put your shoulders back!

Learner example:
She tried to sit up straight and quickly realised all her mus[c]les were stiff from non activity.

come/get straight to the point
[B2] to say what you want to immediately and directly

Dictionary examples:
I'll come straight to the point, we've run out of money.
Can you get straight to the point? We need to go home!

Learner example:
I will come straight to the point, Mark. I think you're just killing yourself with your work.

not think straight
[C1] If you cannot think straight, you are not thinking clearly about something.

Dictionary example:
I was so tired, I couldn't think straight.

Learner example:
My stress wouldn't let me think straight.

straightforward /ˌstreɪtˈfɔː.wəd/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] easy to do or understand

Dictionary example:
Just follow the signs to Bradford – it's very straightforward.
**Learner example:**
The question of whether we should keep animals in zoos is not as straightforward as it may seem at first.

**strain**  /streɪn/

**NOUN**

**PRESSURE**

[B2] [C usually no plural or U] pressure put on something by a bad situation or by too much weight or force

**Dictionary examples:**
All those books put a strain on the shelf and it broke!
Excess weight puts a lot of strain on the heart.

**Learner example:**
I think I certainly could live without watching television for a week, but it would put a tremendous strain on my everyday life because I find watching TV relaxing and I like being swept by the flood of information that you watch and listen to without really paying attention to it.

**WORRY**

[B2] [C or U] when you feel nervous and worried about something

**Dictionary examples:**
She's a lot better than she was but she's still not ready to face the **stresses and** strains of a job.
He's been under a lot of strain recently.

**Learner example:**
[Our dog] helps us in our everyday life and [relieves the] stresses and strains.

**INJURY**

[C2] [C or U] an injury to part of your body that is caused by using it too much

**Dictionary example:**
back strain

**VERB**

**INJURE**

[B2] [T] to injure part of your body by using it too much

**Dictionary examples:**
I think I've strained a muscle.
Don't read in the dark or you'll strain your eyes.

**Learner example:**
I went to the optician's to have my eyes checked and he said I had some trouble with my eyesight, so he advised me to wear glasses and not to strain my eyes.
MONEY
[C2] [ɪ] to cause too much of something to be used, especially money

Dictionary example:
The war is straining the defence budget.

Learner example:
It sounded very good, but I soon discovered that the service was quite inadequate and all the staff there had to say was that they couldn't do any more and that the budget was too strained.

stranded /ˈstrænd/  

NOUN [C]

THREAD
[C2] a thin piece of hair, thread, rope, etc.

Dictionary example:
She tucked a strand of hair behind her ear.

Learner example:
She noticed a loose strand of white hair, and immediately pinned it back.

PART OF STORY
[C2] one part of a story, situation, idea, etc.

Dictionary example:
There are a number of different strands to the plot.

stranded /ˈstrænd/  

ADJECTIVE
[C2] unable to leave a place

Dictionary example:
We were stranded at the airport for ten hours.

Learner example:
Not a single member of the group would have imagined that the "Luxury coach" would break down and leave them stranded in the middle of nowhere, and what was worse without mobile network coverage.
**strangely** /ˌstreɪndʒ.li/

Word family:
Nouns: stranger
Adjectives: strange
Adverbs: strangely

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a way that is unusual, unexpected or difficult to understand

**Dictionary examples:**
She was strangely calm.
Strangely **enough**, I'm not feeling very hungry.

**Learner example:**
Strangely enough this has not happened yet to zoos.

**strap** /stræp/

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] a narrow piece of material used to fasten two things together or to carry something

**Dictionary examples:**
a watch strap
a bra strap
I want a bag with a shoulder strap.

**Learner example:**
When Cathy unwrapped the small parcel she found a little red book which had a slim strap with a tiny golden lock.

**strategic** /strəˈtiː.dʒɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: strategy
Adjectives: strategic
Adverbs: strategically

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] helping to achieve a plan, usually in business, politics, or war

**Dictionary examples:**
strategic planning
strategic weapons
The new offices are in a strategic **location**, with easy access to the motorway.
Learner example:
This would prove to be a strategic advantage, given the relatively reduced financial power our company has currently.

strategically /straˈtiː.dʒɪk.lɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: strategy
Adjectives: strategic
Adverbs: strategically

ADVERB
[C2] in a strategic way

Dictionary example:
A few strategically placed police officers monitored the situation.

Learner example:
Large containers strategically situated along the village seem an appropriate solution.

strategy /ˈstræt.ə.dʒi/

Word family:
Nouns: strategy
Adjectives: strategic
Adverbs: strategically

NOUN [C]
[B2] a plan that you use to achieve something

Dictionary examples:
the government's economic strategy
a military strategy
a long–term strategy
We're working on new strategies to improve our share of the market.

Learner example:
My strategy was simple: all the players had got [a] lot [of]experience, [so] I thought that the only chance to win [wa]s to bluff it out.

straw /strɔː/

NOUN
[C1] [u] the long, dried stems of plants such as wheat, often given to animals for sleeping on and eating

2300
Dictionary examples:
a straw basket/hat
straw-coloured hair

Learner example:
Last but not least, many Japanese style hotels and restaurants now have square holes in tatami (straw mat) rooms so that foreign visitors can comfortably stretch their legs under the low table without having to be seated on folded legs like Zen monks!

the final/last straw
[C1] the last in a series of unpleasant events which finally makes you stop accepting a bad situation

Dictionary example:
Last week he came home drunk at five in the morning, and that was the final straw.

Learner example:
The last straw was that as a result of the unrealised itinerary, I couldn't do what I had planned.

TUBE
[C2] [c] a thin plastic or paper tube that you use for drinking through

Dictionary example:
Could I have a straw, please?

stream /stri:m/

NOUN [c]

a stream of sth
[B2] a continuous flow of things or people

Dictionary examples:
There has been a steady stream of phone calls from worried customers.
I had a constant stream of visitors while I was ill.

Learner example:
This teahouse is packed throughout [the] day with workers and retired people, who come to sip tea, talk, and watch the endless stream of passers-by in the old city of China.

street /stri:t/

NOUN [c]

be streets ahead (of sb/sth)
[C2] to be much better or more advanced than someone or something else
**Dictionary example:**
American film companies are streets ahead of their European rivals.

---

**strength /streŋθ/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** strength
- **Verbs:** strengthen
- **Adjectives:** strong
- **Adverbs:** strongly

**NOUN**

**STRONG**

[B2] [u] the ability to do things that need a lot of physical effort or power

**Dictionary examples:**
upper body strength
It's a sport that requires great physical strength.

**Learner example:**
First of all, we must start [by] running [for] thirty minutes per day to improve our physical strength.

**GOOD QUALITIES**

[C1] [c] a good quality or ability that makes someone or something effective

**Dictionary examples:**
We all have our strengths and weaknesses.
The great strength of this arrangement is its simplicity.

**Learner example:**
As everything, education in Spain has its strengths and weaknesses.

**BEING BRAVE**

[C1] [u] when you are brave or determined in difficult situations

**Dictionary examples:**
I think she showed great strength of character.
He has a great deal of inner strength.

**Learner example:**
All in all, being famous takes a lot of courage and strength of personality to be able to face fame and all the risks that come along [with it].

**go from strength to strength**

[C1] to continue to become more successful

**Dictionary example:**
The business is going from strength to strength.
Learner example:
To sum up, I believe that if the suggestions outlined above are put into action our magazine will go from strength to strength.

INFLUENCE

[C2] [u] the power or influence that an organization, country, etc. has

Dictionary example:
economic strength

Learner example:
Due to the very function of sport, a country's success in international competition has been associated with its general strength and viability and has consequently been a matter of national pride.

strengthen /ˈstreŋ.θn/

Word family:
Nouns: strength
Verbs: strengthen
Adjectives: strong
Adverbs: strongly

VERB [I or T]

[B2] to become stronger or make something become stronger

Dictionary examples:
exercises to strengthen the leg muscles
The experience only strengthened his belief in God.

Learner example:
Using the bike keeps your body in good shape – the daily exercise is good for your heart [and] your lungs, and strengthens your muscles.

strenuous /ˈstreŋ.ju.əs/

ADJECTIVE

[C2] using or needing a lot of effort

Dictionary example:
strenuous exercise

Learner example:
With the ever-growing influence of modern techniques, it has become increasingly important to strive for near perfection in every move they make; the pursuit of excellence therefore carrying more weight than ever and leading to strenuous training programs.
stress /stres/

Word family:
Nouns: stress
Verbs: stress
Adjectives: stressed, stressful

NOUN

PRONUNCIATION
[B2] [k or s] when you say one part of a word more strongly than the rest

Dictionary examples:
The meaning of a sentence often depends on stress and intonation.
When 'insert' is a verb, the stress is on the second syllable, but when it is a noun, the stress is on the first syllable.

IMPORTANCE
[C1] [u] special importance that you give to something

Dictionary example:
At school, they laid/put/placed great stress on academic achievement.

Learner example:
On the other hand, I think they should put some more stress on improving their student's writing skills, even down to basics like grammar, because our sales people have to hand out a lot of written information as well, which will make us look much better – especially as far as the English-speaking market is concerned – if the English is flawless.

VERB

EMPHASIZE
[B2] [t] to emphasize something in order to show that it is important

Dictionary examples:
I stressed that this was our policy.
She stressed the importance of timing.

Learner example:
I would like to stress that very often famous people become reserved, bad-tempered and angry with the world for interfering [with] their lives.

PRONOUNCE
[B2] [t] to say one part of a word more strongly than the rest

Dictionary example:
In the word 'engine', you should stress the first syllable.
stretch /stretʃ/

VERB

MAKE BIGGER
[B2] [I or T] to become longer or wider, or to pull something so that it becomes longer or wider

Dictionary examples:
Don't pull my sweater – you'll stretch it.
The top had stretched in the wash.

BODY
[B2] [I or T] to make your body or part of your body straighter and longer

Dictionary examples:
"I'm so tired, " she said, yawning and stretching.
It's a good idea to stretch before you take any serious exercise.
Stretch your arms above your head.

Learner example:
First of all cycling is a sport so you have the possibility to move your body, to stretch your joints and to strengthen your muscles.

stretch away/into, etc.
[C2] to cover a large area

Dictionary examples:
The fields stretched away into the distance.
A huge cloud of dense smoke stretched across the horizon.
The Andes stretch for 7250 km along the west coast of South America.

Learner example:
I remember playing in the fields that stretched out to the horizon and sailing and swimming in the streams and lakes surrounding the small village where my parents live.

NOUN [C]
[C1] a continuous area of land or water

Dictionary examples:
This particular stretch of coast is especially popular with walkers.
Traffic is at a standstill along a five-mile stretch of the M11 just south of Cambridge.
Some very rare birds inhabit this stretch of the river.

Learner example:
There's a stretch of coastline in the south–east of Spain that one could still call "real Spain" not many years ago.
strict /strɪkt/

Word family:
Adjectives: strict
Adverbs: strictly

ADJECTIVE

RULE
[B2] If a rule, law, etc. is strict, it must be obeyed.

Dictionary examples:
She gave me strict instructions to be there by ten.
We need stricter controls on air pollution.
We follow very strict guidelines on the use and storage of personal details on computers.
Do you think stricter laws would help reduce automobile accidents?

Learner example:
I would like the government to impose strict rules and regulations on capturing animals.

BEHAVIOUR
[B2] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] always behaving in a particular way because of your beliefs

Dictionary examples:
a strict Hindu/Muslim/Christian/
She's a strict vegetarian and doesn't eat poultry or fish.

Learner example:
When organising our lunch, please note that seven of us are strict vegetarians.

EXACT
[C2] exactly correct

Dictionary example:
a strict translation of a text

Learner example:
You mustn't take this in its strict sense; when I say "severe", I mean aware and mindful of today's problems.

strictly /ˈstrɪkt.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: strict
Adverbs: strictly
EXACTLY
[B2] exactly or correctly

Dictionary examples:
That's not strictly true.
Strictly speaking, we're not allowed to give you any advice.

Learner example:
Strictly speaking, we don't think about the future when the subject is nature because we think that it's eternal.

strictly forbidden/prohibited
[B2] used to emphasize that something is not allowed

Dictionary example:
The use of cameras is strictly forbidden.

Learner example:
Eric was going to [have] serious problems, because smoking was strictly forbidden in this school.

strike /straɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: striker
Verbs: strike
Adjectives: striking

THINK
[B2] [t] If a thought or idea strikes you, you suddenly think of it.

Dictionary example:
It struck me that I had forgotten to order the champagne.

Learner example:
Sitting there, waiting, I began to think and an idea struck me.

what struck me/the first thing that struck me...
[B2] used when talking about a very obvious quality that you noticed when you first saw or met someone or something

Dictionary examples:
What struck me about Cole was how grown-up he seemed for a seven-year-old.
The first thing that struck me about Emma was her extraordinary beauty.

Learner example:
What strikes me most is the way she is dealing with other people.
STOP WORK
[B2] I] to stop working for a period of time because you want more money, better working conditions, etc.

Dictionary example:
Train drivers are threatening to strike over pay.

Learner example:
The town[’s] transport workers have started to strike."

strike a balance
[C1] to give two things the same amount of attention

Dictionary example:
It’s important to strike a balance between spending and saving.

Learner example:
Everything has good and bad sides, the most important thing is to strike a balance.

strike sb as sth
[C2] If someone or something strikes you as having a particular quality, they seem to have that quality.

Dictionary examples:
He didn’t strike me as a passionate man.
They strike me as creative and original people.
His comments struck me as aggressive.

Learner example:
Mrs Kingshaw strikes me as a rather frivolous woman.

strike gold, oil, etc.
[C2] to find a supply of gold, oil, etc. in the ground

Dictionary example:
They hope to strike oil in the desert.

Learner example:
Their very own father had struck oil, made tons of money with it and did not even want to give some to his children.

strike a match
[C2] to light a match in order to produce fire

Dictionary example:
I struck a match and lit the candle.

Learner example:
Their instant reaction was to park the car, put their raincoats on, get out and strike a few useless matches: they were their last light resour[c]e apart from the lightning in the sky and the weak [head]lights.
EFFECT
[C2] [ɪ] If something bad strikes something or someone, it affects them strongly and quickly.

Dictionary example:
The hurricane struck the coast at about eight in the morning.

Learner example:
And there had been the blight which struck half of the plantation.

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**striker** /ˈstraɪ.kər/

Word family:
Nouns: striker
Verbs: strike
Adjectives: striking

NOUN [C]

WORKER
[C1] someone who is on strike

Dictionary example:
Managers have threatened to sack the strikers.

Learner example:
There were also people who agreed with the strikers.

FOOTBALL PLAYER
[C2] a football player whose job is to try to score goals

Dictionary example:
He is a skilled striker.

Learner example:
Then their striker scored.

---

**striking** /ˈstraɪ.kɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: striker
Verbs: strike
Adjectives: striking

ADJECTIVE
[B2] easily noticed
Dictionary examples:
There are striking similarities between the two cases.
There's a striking resemblance between them.

Learner example:
The most striking thing was the fact that I filed it.

string /strɪŋ/

NOUN

ROPE
[B2] [c or u] very thin rope used for tying things

Dictionary examples:
a parcel tied with string
a ball/piece of string

Learner example:
In only two days, our relationship was like a strong string that [can] never be cut.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
[B2] [c] a piece of wire that is part of a musical instrument

Dictionary example:
guitar/violin strings

Learner example:
[T]he guitarist, who had just broken one string of his guitar, began to dr[j]nk some alcohol.

a string of sth
[C2] a number of similar things

Dictionary examples:
a string of questions
As a writer, she's enjoyed a string of successes.

Learner example:
Cities have grown, bringing with this growth a string of problems which were not thought of years ago.

pull strings
[C2] to secretly use the influence that you have over important people to get something or to help someone

Dictionary example:
I may be able to pull a few strings, if you need the money urgently.
Learner example:
This isn't secret: I thought some of these ideas might be of interest and perhaps an article about them [i]n your newspaper would pull the necessary strings at the City Hall to produce some very much needed changes.

**no strings (attached)**

[C2] If there are no strings attached to an offer or arrangement, there is nothing that is unpleasant that you have to accept.

Dictionary example:
I'll drive you home – no strings attached.

Learner example:
It is not that often that one comes across true 'no strings attached' generosity.

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**strip /strɪp/**

NOUN [C]

[C1] a long, narrow piece of something

Dictionary example:
a strip of paper

Learner example:
After that workers had to use the most basic tools and [their] hands to produce socks from the strips of silk.

---

**strive /straɪv/**

VERB [i] FORMAL (strove, strived, striven, strived)

[C2] to try very hard to do or achieve something

Dictionary examples:
to strive for happiness/peace
We are constantly striving to improve our service.

Learner example:
The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, who strives valiantly, [...] who, at best, knows the joys of high achievement, and who, at worst, if [he] fails, at least fails while daring greatly.
stroke /strəʊk/

NOUN [C]

ILLNESS

[B2] a sudden problem in your brain that changes the flow of blood and makes you unable to move part of your body

Dictionary example:
She suffered/had a stroke which left her unable to speak.

Learner example:
I'm sure there's a high risk [of] a heart attack or a stroke if you go on the way you [are going] now.

SWIMMING

[C1] a style of swimming

Dictionary example:
What stroke do you prefer?

Learner example:
Although both may know how to swim, the professional, who was trained in proper strokes and hydrodynamic[s], will definitely turn out the better swimmer.

a stroke of luck

[C2] something good that happens to you by chance

Dictionary example:
He had exactly the part that I needed so that was a stroke of luck.

Learner example:
After a one-hour interview she was asked whether she could be starting work the very next day. A real stroke of luck.

MOVEMENT

[C2] a movement that you make against something with your hand, a pen, brush, etc.

Dictionary example:
a brush stroke

Learner example:
The power of the brush strokes and the intense energy in the image made me sigh with adoration.

VERB [T]

[B2] to gently move your hand over a surface
Dictionary examples:
Stroke the dog if you like, it won't bite.
He stroked her hair.
She lovingly stroked Chris's face with the tips of her fingers.

Learner example:
And do not forget to stroke your cat!

**stroll** /strəʊl/

**VERB**

**stroll along/down/through, etc.**

[C1] to walk somewhere in a slow and relaxed way

**Dictionary example:**
They strolled along the beach.

**Learner example:**
Some of us were a bit upset because they wanted some free time to stroll around the shops or have a chat over a drink.

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] a slow, relaxed walk somewhere

**Dictionary example:**
We went for a stroll around the city centre.

**Learner example:**
In the evening you can take a stroll to a vineyard nearby and authentic country food is available there.

**strong** /strɒŋ/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** strength

**Verbs:** strengthen

**Adjectives:** strong

**Adverbs:** strongly

**ADJECTIVE**

**GOOD QUALITY**

[B2] of a good quality or level and likely to be successful or effective
**Dictionary examples:**
a strong economy
They're a very strong team.
She's the strongest candidate we've interviewed for the post.

**Learner example:**
My reason for applying for this trip is that I am very interested in meeting people from different countries and as I have a strong background in languages I would be very helpful in the communication field.

**DETERMINED**
[B2] A strong feeling, belief, or opinion is felt in a very deep and serious way.

**Dictionary example:**
She has strong opinions/views about religion.

**Learner example:**
Nowadays the importance of family life is a matter which arouses fierce[ly] strong passions.

**PERSONALITY**
[B2] If a person or their personality is strong, they are confident and able to deal with problems well.

**Dictionary examples:**
All my aunts were strong women.
He has a strong personality, but don't let him bully you.

**Learner example:**
Mary was a strong and intelligent woman. She was stronger and her personality was more developed than her aunt's.

**strong language**
[C1] words that some people might consider to be offensive

**Dictionary example:**
The movie contains strong language.

**Learner example:**
But what I do see is local kids standing by the corner, chat[t]ing, smoking fags and using strong language.

**sb's strong point**
[C1] something that someone is very good at

**Dictionary example:**
Cooking is not my strong point.

**Learner example:**
She's got a lot of strong points, more than weaknesses.

**a strong chance/possibility, etc.**
[C2] something that is very likely to happen
Dictionary example:
There's a strong possibility of rain this afternoon.

**strong opposition/support, etc.**
[C2] a lot of opposition/support, etc.

Dictionary example:
There has been strong opposition to the cuts.

Learner example:
Therefore, in spite of strong opposition [by] the car companies and people's egoistic interests, car traffic should be gradually reduced and eventually prohibited.

**be still going strong**
[C2] continuing to be successful or healthy after a long time

Dictionary examples:
The club was set up in 1987, and it's still going strong.
He's 93 and still going strong!

Learner example:
I am proud of him and happy that he is still going strong.

---

**strongly** /ˈstrɒŋ.lɪ/

Word family:
**Nouns:** strength
**Verbs:** strengthen
**Adjectives:** strong
**Adverbs:** strongly

**ADVERB**
[B2] very much or in a very serious way

Dictionary examples:
They strongly believe their children should make choices for themselves.
Many locals are strongly opposed to the development.

Learner example:
I strongly disagree with the statement saying that "At school, students should only study what they enjoy".

---

**structural** /ˈstrʌk.tʃər.əl/

Word family:
**Nouns:** structure
**Verbs:** restructure
**Adjectives:** structural, structured
**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] relating to the structure of something

**Dictionary examples:**
structural damage
The last five years have seen big structural changes in the company.

**Learner example:**
Moreover, Hong Kong has been undergoing various structural changes and economic issues since the financial turmoil in 1998.

**structure /ˈstrʌk.tʃə/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** structure
**Verbs:** restructure
**Adjectives:** structural, structured

**NOUN**

**WAY PARTS ARE ARRANGED**
[B2] [c or u] the way that parts of something are arranged or put together

**Dictionary examples:**
the grammatical structure of a sentence
They have a very old-fashioned management structure.

**Learner example:**
On the other hand, as far as the Greek language is concerned, I think it would be very hard for you and for everybody to learn it because of its difficult and very complicated grammar, vocabulary and structure.

**BUILDING**
[C2] [c] a building or something that has been built

**Dictionary example:**
The house was a wooden structure.

**Learner example:**
For example, for most foreign visitors to Japan I think it is a wonderful experience to go to Nara city and see the world’s oldest and biggest wooden structure, or to see traditional Noh dance and Kabuki play.

**VERB**
[C2] [t] to arrange something in an organized way

**Dictionary example:**
How is the course structured?
Learner example:
Since women in the Western countries started working in the 70s, there has been a big change in the way our family life is structured.

**structured**  /ˈstrʌktʃəd/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** structure
**Verbs:** restructure
**Adjectives:** structural, structured

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] organized so that the parts relate well to each other

**Dictionary example:**
a structured series of lectures

**Learner example:**
The exchange of political or economic ideas, as well as new tec[h]nology, can provide the basis for a structured development of which could emerge a just and truly happy society.

**struggle**  /ˈstrʌɡ.əl/

**VERB**
[I]

**TRY HARD**
[B2] to try very hard to do something difficult

**Dictionary examples:**
He's been struggling to pay off his debts.
Fish struggle for survival when the water level drops in the lake.

**Learner example:**
Think about the people in the poor countries! They struggle to survive.

**FIGHT**
[B2] to fight someone when they are holding you

**Dictionary example:**
He struggled with his attacker who then ran off.

**Learner example:**
I bit his hand and ran to the phone. He reached me and we struggled for 10 minutes.

**TRY TO DEFEAT/PREVENT**
[C2] to use a lot of effort to defeat someone or prevent something
Dictionary examples:
For years she struggled with/against the establishment to get her theories accepted.
He is struggling with an ankle injury.

Learner example:
Just like Mahatma Gandhi, who advocated non-violent methods of struggle, Picasso struggled against Fascism [by] peaceful means, namely with his art.

NOUN [C]

EFFORT
[B2] [USUALLY NO PLURAL] when you try very hard to do something difficult

Dictionary examples:
It was a real struggle to stay awake during the film.
The people of this country will continue in their struggle for independence.
She never gave up the struggle to have her son freed from prison.

Learner example:
Their life was a severe financial struggle, and Tom's dream was to run somewhere far away.

FIGHT
[B2] a physical or mental fight

Dictionary examples:
a struggle with an armed robber
the struggle between good and evil
Clearly there will be a power struggle within the party.

Learner example:
My friend started to walk into the water when suddenly a crocodile grabbed her leg. After a long struggle, she managed to get herself up on land.

stubborn  /ˈstʌb.ən/  

Word family:
Nouns: stubbornness
Adjectives: stubborn

ADJECTIVE
[B2] determined not to change your ideas, plans, etc., although other people want you to

Dictionary examples:
He can be very stubborn sometimes.
They have massive rows because they're both so stubborn.

Learner example:
Anyway, Alex was too stubborn to give up and it was like talking to a brick wall.
stubbornness /ˈstʌb.ən.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: stubbornness
Adjectives: stubborn

NOUN [u]
[C2] the quality of being stubborn

Dictionary example:
We were infuriated by his stubbornness.

Learner example:
Henry’s words do not fail to show his royal stubbornness, only comparable to that of a mule.

stuck /stʌk/

Word family:
Verbs: stick
Adjectives: sticky, stuck

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]

NOT MOVE
[B2] not able to move anywhere

Dictionary examples:
This door seems to be stuck – can you help me push it open?
My key got stuck in the lock.
Seven of us were stuck in the lift for over an hour.
I hate being stuck behind a desk – I’d rather work outside.

Learner example:
You want to go to your job, to an important appointment or to the hospital because you have a health problem and you are always stuck in traffic.

NOT CONTINUE
[C1] not able to continue reading, answering questions, etc. because something is too difficult

Dictionary example:
I keep getting stuck on difficult words.

Learner example:
I have got stuck so many times. However, whenever I got stuck, I [said] to myself that nobody could speak a foreign language fluently from the beginning.
be/get stuck with sb/sth
[C2] to have to deal with someone or something unpleasant because no one else wants to

Dictionary example:
Whenever we eat out, I always get stuck with the bill.

Learner example:
Therefore you are stuck with "aunt Mabel" having fun while pulling your leg. What you mus[t]n't do in this sort of situation is lose your temper.

studio /ˈstjuː.di.əʊ/ (plural studios)
NOUN [C]

ART
[B2] a room where an artist, designer or photographer works

Dictionary example:
She has a studio at the back of the house where she does her painting.

Learner example:
I'll be very happy [if] you can give me a chance to use the camp's art studio and [hope] you'll be able to prepare some materials like oil paints, canvas and bru[s]hes for me.

study /ˈstʌd.i/

Word family:
Nouns: student, study
Verbs: study

NOUN

LEARNING
[B2] [u] when you learn about a subject, usually at school or university

Dictionary example:
the study of English literature

Learner example:
Everyone had to [include] the study of many disciplines.

EXAMINING
[B2] [c] when someone examines a subject in detail in order to discover new information
Dictionary examples:
a five-year study of the relationship between wildlife and farming
Some studies have suggested a link between certain types of artificial sweetener and cancer.

Learner example:
But, as a recent study [by] scientists has shown, the [grow]ing lack of ozon[e] is also due to the [emissions] produced by all the private cars.

VERB

EXAMINE
[B2] [I or T] to examine a subject in detail in order to discover new information

Dictionary example:
Researchers have been studying how people under stress make decisions.

Learner example:
In zoos, they are not just shown to the public: scientist[s] study their behaviour [so] as to understand what the particular animal real[l]y needs to survive.

LOOK AT
[B2] [T] to look at or read through something very carefully

Dictionary examples:
I want time to study this contract thoroughly before signing it.
He studied her face for signs of guilt.

Learner example:
The first thing I did when I arrived there was to study the city map, and then I went out for a walk.

stuff /stʌf/

NOUN [u]

know your stuff INFORMAL
[C2] to know a lot about a subject, or to be very good at doing something

Dictionary example:
She's an excellent teacher – she really knows her stuff.

Learner example:
The thing was that she should have been be able to tell them what to do; she never doubted her own abilities. She knew 'her stuff' all right.

VERB [T]

stuff sth in/into/behind, etc.
[C2] to push something into a small space, or to fill a container with something, often in a forceful or careless way
**Dictionary examples:**
He stuffed the papers into his briefcase and left.
This case is absolutely full – I can’t stuff another thing into it.

**Learner example:**
A casserole stood on the stove waiting for his arrival and the freeze[r] and fridge were stuffed full with food for the week he would be here.

**stumble /ˈstʌm.bl/**

**VERB [i]**

**FALL**

[C2] to step badly and almost fall over

**Dictionary example:**
Mary stumbled on the loose rocks.

**Learner example:**
My attic was so dark that I stumbled and fell.

**PAUSE**

[C2] to make a mistake, such as pausing or repeating a word, while speaking or performing

**Dictionary example:**
He kept stumbling over the same word.

**Learner example:**
One of the new-stars worried so much that she began stumbling over the words in the middle of her hit.

**stunned /stʌnd/**

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] very surprised and shocked

**Dictionary example:**
We were stunned by the news of her death.

**Learner example:**
I was stunned and gaped at him with blank horror.
**stunning** /ˈstʌn.ɪŋ/  

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] very beautiful or attractive  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a stunning dress  
a stunning view over the bay of Saint Tropez  
She's absolutely stunning.

**Learner example:**  
I think that it would be ideal for you to go there and take some pictures of it since the architecture is absolutely stunning!

**stupidity** /stjuːˈpɪd.ə.ti/  

**Word family:**  
Nouns: stupidity  
Adjectives: stupid  

**NOUN [u]**  
[C2] the state of being silly or unwise  

**Dictionary example:**  
The accident was caused by my own stupidity.

**Learner example:**  
The most important point however was that I found out that our two countries have similar problems and that prejudices against any country or people are based on stupidity and intolerance.

**style** /staɪl/  

**Word family:**  
Nouns: style  
Adjectives: stylish  

**NOUN**  
QUALITY  
[B2] [u] the quality of being attractive and fashionable or behaving in a way which makes people admire you  

**Dictionary example:**  
She's got style.
Learner example:
But when he came back, his popularity was increased. That’s reasonable, because he’s got style, he is authentic and brill[i]ant.

cramp sb’s style
[C2] to prevent someone from enjoying themselves, especially by going somewhere with them

Dictionary example:
Are you sure you don’t mind me coming with you? I’d hate to cramp your style.

Learner example:
I would never want neither to cramp their style nor to make them feel unimportant, lonely or lost.

subconsciously /su:bˈkɒn.tʃəs.li/

Word family:
Nouns: consciousness
Adjectives: conscious, unconscious, self-conscious
Adverbs: subconsciously, unconsciously

ADVERB
[C2] without being consciously aware of something

Dictionary example:
I think that subconsciously I knew I was in danger.

Learner example:
It is probably only wishful thinking that most people would wake up every morning wondering how to make the world a better place. In fact, most of us do it subconsciously.

subject

Word family:
Nouns: subject
Verbs: subject
Adjectives: subjective

NOUN [C] /ˈsʌb.dʒɪkt/

change the subject
[B2] to start talking about a different subject

Dictionary example:
I’d tried to explain the situation, but he just changed the subject.
Learner example:
Well, changing the subject, I accidentally broke your beautiful vase. I'm really sorry, I'll try to find another vase that looks similar.

drop it/the subject
[C2] to stop talking about something, especially because it is annoying or upsetting someone

Dictionary example:
I don't want to talk about it any more – let's drop the subject.

ADJECTIVE /ˈsʌb.dʒɪkt/

subject to sth
[C1] often affected by something, especially something unpleasant

Dictionary example:
Departure times are subject to alteration.

Learner example:
With regard to programme [items] subject to weather conditions – such as the boat trip on River Thames – please make sure that an alternative programme is foreseen in case of cancellation.

subject to sth
[C2] only able to happen if something else happens

Dictionary example:
The pay rise is subject to approval by management.

STORY/Painting
[C2] a person who is written about in a book or who is shown in a picture

Dictionary example:
Rembrandt is the subject of her latest novel.

Learner example:
No matter wherever we go, enjoy[ing] the beauty of [the] city, walking through the Jew[ish] district, discuss[ing] the subject of [a] painting or just sit[ting] in silence, [the] world is real only with him.

VERB /səbˈdʒekt/

subject sb/sth to sth PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to make someone or something experience something unpleasant

Dictionary example:
In prison, he was subjected to beatings and interrogations.

Learner example:
Homeless [people] are subjected to a very harsh and unheal[h]y st[y]le of life.
**subjective** /ˈsəbˈdʒek.tɪv/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** subject
- **Verbs:** subject
- **Adjectives:** subjective

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] influenced by someone's beliefs or feelings, instead of facts

**Dictionary example:**
- a subjective judgment

**Learner example:**
- I really love my city and country, but I am afraid I'm a little bit subjective.

**submit** /səˈmɪt/ (-tt-)

**VERB**

**GIVE**

[B2] [ɪ] to send a document, plan, etc. to someone so that they can consider it

**Dictionary examples:**
- Applications must be submitted before January 1st.
- The developers submitted building plans to the council for approval.

**Learner example:**
- According to my friends and professors, I am hardworking and never fail to submit my essays on time.

**OBEY**

[C2] [ɪ] to accept that someone has control over you and do what they tell you to do

**Dictionary example:**
- He was forced to submit to a full body search.

**Learner example:**
- Kingshaw has to submit to the role of victim once more.

**subsequent** /ˈsʌb.si.kwənt/

**Word family:**
- **Adjectives:** subsequent
- **Adverbs:** subsequently
ADJECTIVE
[C1] happening after something else

Dictionary example:
The mistakes were corrected in a subsequent edition of the book.

Learner example:
With a rapid economic growth and a subsequent increase in income level, working life in Korea has changed dramatically.

subsequently /ˈsʌb.sɪ.kwənt.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: subsequent
Adverbs: subsequently

ADVERB
[C1] after that

Dictionary example:
In 1982 he was arrested and subsequently convicted on drug trafficking charges.

Learner example:
Like nightmarish creatures, the McDonald’s have sprung up from the ground in a little over two decades, and subsequently inundated the Media with adverts for their "food" products.

subsidy /ˈsʌb.si.di/

NOUN [c]
[C1] money given by a government or other organization to pay part of the cost of something

Dictionary example:
housing subsidies for the poor

Learner example:
The rest of the money could be spent on subsidies for home owners and tenants and offering loans with a lower interest rate.

substance /ˈsʌb.stʌnts/

Word family:
Nouns: substance
Adjectives: substantial
Adverbs: substantially
NOUN

MATERIAL
[B2] [c or u] a solid, liquid, or gas

Dictionary examples:
an organic/chemical substance
a dangerous substance
What sort of substance could withstand those temperatures?

Learner example:
Chemical substances are added to our food.

the substance of sth
[C2] the most important part of what someone has said or written

Dictionary example:
The substance of his argument is that men are more logical than women.

substantial /ˈsʌb-stænʃəl/

Word family:
Nouns: substance
Adjectives: substantial
Adverbs: substantially

ADJECTIVE
[B2] large in amount

Dictionary examples:
a substantial sum of money
The first draft of his novel needed a substantial amount of rewriting.
The findings show a substantial difference between the opinions of men and women.

Learner example:
The taxis: Considering that you are willing to spend quite a substantial amount of money, this is the best transport one can get.

substantially /ˈsʌb-stæn.ʃəli/

Word family:
Nouns: substance
Adjectives: substantial
Adverbs: substantially

ADVERB
[C1] to a large degree
**Dictionary example:**
The new rules will substantially change how we do things.

**Learner example:**
The quality of the individual classes differed substantially.

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**substitute** /ˈsʌb.stɪ.tjuːt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** substitute, substitution
**Verbs:** substitute

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to use someone or something instead of another person or thing

**Dictionary examples:**
You can substitute oil for butter in this recipe.
Dayton was substituted for Williams in the second half of the match.

**Learner example:**
[M]y opinion is that we shouldn't substitute one for the other, but read one and watch [the] other.

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a thing or person that is used instead of another thing or person

**Dictionary examples:**
Tofu can be used as a meat substitute in vegetarian recipes.
Vitamins should not be used as a substitute for a healthy diet.

**Learner example:**
I had been looking forward to seeing his performance for ages, so as soon as I realized there was a substitute on the stage, I was really disappointed.

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**substitution** /ˌsʌb.stɪˈtjuːʃən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** substitute, substitution
**Verbs:** substitute

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C1] when you use someone or something instead of another person or thing

**Dictionary example:**
The coach has made two substitutions in the team.

**Learner example:**
The gradual substitution of the old bus fleet with a modern one would be a serious effort, [and] it would demand buckets of money.
subtitles /ˈsʌbˌtaɪ.təlz/  

NOUN [PLURAL]  
[C1] words shown at the bottom of a cinema or television screen to explain what is being said  

Dictionary example:  
It's a French film with English subtitles.  

Learner example:  
Another way of improving language is to project each film with subtitles.

subtle /ˈsʌt.l/  

ADJECTIVE  

NOT OBVIOUS  
[C2] not obvious or easy to notice  

Dictionary examples:  
a subtle change/difference  
a subtle hint  

Learner example:  
You will have to find your own subtle balance between the number of radiators you use and the opening of windows to create a suitable atmosphere.

NOT STRONG  
[C2] A subtle flavour, colour, etc. is delicate and not strong or bright.

Dictionary example:  
The garlic has a more subtle flavour than you might imagine.  

Learner example:  
What attracts your attention most are the colours: warm, pleasant to the eye, subtle and somewhat unrealistic.

CLEVER  
[C2] clever in a way that does not attract attention

Dictionary example:  
a subtle way of solving the problem  

Learner example:  
That is indeed a subtle talent, being able to balance between deciding and listening.
suburb /ˈsʌb.ɜːb/  

NOUN [c]  
[B2] an area on the edge of a large town or city where people who work in the town or city often live  

Dictionary examples:  
Box Hill is a suburb of Melbourne.  
We drove from middle-class suburbs to a very poor inner-city area.  

Learner example:  
Peterhof is only a small suburb of St. Petersburg and it is not famous [for] its nightlife.

subway /ˈsʌb.wɛi/  

NOUN [c]  
[B2] a passage under a road or railway for people to walk through  

Dictionary example:  
We could take the subway.  

Learner example:  
I began to walk along that narrow and dark subway.

successful /səkˈses.fəl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: success  
Verbs: succeed  
Adjectives: successful, unsuccessful  
Adverbs: successfully, unsuccessfully  

ADJECTIVE  
WORK  
[B2] having achieved a lot or made a lot of money through your work  

Dictionary examples:  
a successful businesswoman  
a successful career  
He runs a very successful computer business.  

Learner example:  
I would like to finish by asking Mr. Smith to talk a bit about his life and his successful career.
**successful** /səkˈses.əl.i/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** success
- **Verbs:** succeed
- **Adjectives:** successful, unsuccessful
- **Adverbs:** successfully, unsuccesfully

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a way that is successful

**Dictionary example:**
A number of patients have been successfully treated with the new drug.

**Learner example:**
As you can see, I managed to do the project successfully.

**successive** /səkˈses.iv/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** successor
- **Adjectives:** successive

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] happening after each other

**Dictionary example:**
He has just won the World Championship for the third successive year.

**Learner example:**
Their bodies no longer get worn out by successive pregnancies thanks to birth control medicines and techniques.

POPULAR

[B2] very popular

**Dictionary examples:**
a successful film
He's the author of several hugely successful children's books.

**Learner example:**
I suppose the facts about your film career, especially about your first film and [your] most successful film would be pretty interesting [as well].
successor /səkˈses.ər/

Word family:

Nouns: successor
Adjectives: successive

NOUN [c]

PERSON

[C1] someone who has a position or job after someone else

Dictionary example:
He is her most likely successor.

Learner example:
Cleopatra fell in love with him but he was murdered by his nephew and successor Octavio.

THING

[C2] an organization, product, etc. that follows and takes the place of an earlier one

Dictionary example:
This range of computers is very fast, but their successors will be even faster.

Learner example:
The natural successor of the car was first thought of in the late seventies, but due to lack of computing power for the control systems, the dual mode vehicle was never made.

succumb /səˈkʌm/

VERB [i] FORMAL

NOT STOP

[C2] to not be able to stop yourself doing something

Dictionary example:
I succumbed to temptation and had some cheesecake.

Learner example:
As days went by, I became more anxious and finally had to succumb to the urge to go to the game.

SUFFER

[C2] to die or suffer badly from an illness

Dictionary example:
Many of them succumbed to cholera.

Learner example:
Could he have succumbed to the cold? or maybe hunger?
such /sʌtʃ/

DETERMINER

REFER TO PERSON/THING
 [B2] used to refer to something or someone that you were just talking about, or something or someone of that type

Dictionary examples:
It's difficult to know how to treat such cases.
I tried to tell her in such a way that she wouldn't be upset.

Learner example:
Moreover we can plan different events where we invite people who aren't members [and] we can use such events [to bring in] new members.

no such thing
[B2] used to emphasize that something does not exist

Dictionary example:
There's no such thing as ghosts!

Learner example:
But when I asked for these, I was told that no such thing existed and so the advertisement was once again proved wrong.

ever such a
[C2] a very

Dictionary example:
She's ever such a good dancer.

Learner example:
The psychiatrist was a very nice young girl that helped me ever such a lot.

PRONOUN
[C2] used to refer to something or someone that you were just talking about, or something or someone of that type

Dictionary examples:
Our lunch was such that we don't really need an evening meal.
He is an employee of this company, and should be treated as such.
His circumstances are such that he has no need to work.

Learner example:
In my opinion the Microwave oven is the eight[h] wonder of the world and should be celebrated as such.
**suck /sʌk/**

**VERB**

[C2] [ɪ or ɪ] to have something in your mouth and use your tongue, lips, etc. to pull on it or to get liquid, air, etc. out of it

**Dictionary examples:**
- to suck a sweet/lollipop
- to suck your thumb

**Learner example:**
He laughed at me and told me that he poisoned the pages of the diary so he would suck his fingers to turn the pages and die.

**sudden /ˈsʌd.ən/**

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** sudden

**Adverbs:** suddenly

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] done or happening quickly and unexpectedly

**Dictionary examples:**
- His sudden death at the age of 53 came as a terrible shock to her.
- There was a sudden change in their plans.
- And Angie's leaving work in two weeks? It's a bit sudden, isn't it.

**Learner example:**
After arriving in Vienna, Martins was really shocked when he got to know about his friend's sudden death.

**NOUN**

**all of a sudden**

[B2] suddenly and unexpectedly

**Dictionary example:**
All of a sudden, he came bursting in through the door.

**Learner example:**
All of a sudden, a weird creature popped into his dream.
sue /suː/

VERB [I or T] (suing, sued)
[C1] to take legal action against someone and try to get money from them because they have harmed you

Dictionary example:
He's threatening to sue the newspaper for slander.

Learner example:
If you do not pay attention to any of my complaints and if I do not hear from you within 15 working days, I will not hesitate to sue you.

suffer /ˈsʌf.ər/

Word family:
Nouns: suffering, sufferer
Verbs: suffer

VERB

FEEL PAIN
[B2] [I] to experience pain or unpleasant emotions

Dictionary examples:
She really suffers in the winter when it's cold and her joints get stiff.
I think he suffered quite a lot when his wife left him.
If you're not happy with it, you should complain. Don't just suffer in silence.

Learner example:
I am sure it w[ould] suffer living in a small flat in a big city, with no park nearby to go [to] every day for a walk.

EXPERIENCE
[B2] [I or T] to experience something bad

Dictionary examples:
The party suffered a crushing defeat in the last election.
Twenty-five policemen suffered minor injuries during the protest.
The city suffered another blow last month with the closure of the local car factory.
If you will insist on eating three helpings of dessert, I'm afraid you'll have to suffer the consequences!
When you're working such long hours, it's almost inevitable that your marriage will start to suffer.

Learner example:
I think that if we don't do more than we are doing now, we will suffer the consequences and it'll be too late to do something about it.
sufferer /ˈsʌf.ə.rə/  
Word family:  
Nouns: suffering, sufferer  
Verbs: suffer  

NOUN [c]  
[C2] someone who suffers from an illness or other health problem  

Dictionary example:  
AIDS/cancer sufferers  

Learner example:  
The body becomes more and more frail and prone to illnesses so that the last ten years of the unnaturally prolonged life [are] spent in pain and agony, with the sufferer quite often acutely aware of his decaying and incapable body.

suffering /ˈsʌf.ə.rɪŋ/  
Word family:  
Nouns: suffering, sufferer  
Verbs: suffer  

NOUN [u]  
[B2] when someone experiences pain or unpleasant emotions  

Dictionary example:  
The war will cause widespread human suffering.  

Learner example:  
There had been too much suffering for days, months, years.

sufficient /səˈfɪʃ.ənt/  
Word family:  
Adjectives: sufficient, insufficient, self-sufficient  
Adverbs: sufficiently  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] as much as is necessary  

Dictionary examples:  
This recipe should be sufficient for five people.  
It was thought that he'd committed the crime but there wasn't sufficient evidence to convict him.  

Learner example:  
To resolve that, try to have a sufficient amount of sleep so that both your body and mind will keep fit.
sufficiently  /ˈsəfɪʃ.ənt.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: sufficient, insufficient, self-sufficient
Adverbs: sufficiently

ADVERB

[C1] as much as is necessary

Dictionary examples:
McGeechan has not recovered sufficiently to play in the semifinal tomorrow.
The case was sufficiently serious to warrant investigation by the police.

Learner example:
As for me, I like to think that my situation will be better than those who are not educated sufficiently.

suffix  /ˈsʌf.ɪkʃ/  

NOUN [C]

[B2] a group of letters that you add to the end of a word to make another word

Dictionary example:
The suffix ‘-ness’ added to the end of the word ‘sweet’ forms the word ‘sweetness’, changing an adjective into a noun.

suggest  /ˈsədʒest/

Word family:
Nouns: suggestion
Verbs: suggest

VERB [T]

SEEM TRUE

[B2] to make something seem likely to be true

Dictionary examples:
There's no absolute proof, but all the evidence suggests (that) he's guilty.
Something about what he said suggested that he wasn't happy.

Learner example:
So animals cannot be [as] unhappy as the topic suggests.
suggestion /ˈsədʒən/  

Word family:
Nouns: suggestion
Verbs: suggest

NOUN [c]

a suggestion of/that sth
[C2] something that makes something seem likely to be true

Dictionary example:
There's no suggestion of any connection between the two men.

suicide /ˈsuː.i.said/  

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] ! when you intentionally kill yourself

Dictionary examples:
to attempt/commit suicide
The suicide rate among men between the ages of 16 and 25 has risen alarmingly.
Many suicides occur in prisons.

Learner example:
The savage thinks he can change it but fails and commits suicide by hanging himself.

suit /suːt/  

Word family:
Nouns: suitability
Verbs: suit
Adjectives: suitable, unsuitable
Adverbs: suitably

NOUN [c]

follow suit
[C2] to do the same as someone else has just done

Dictionary example:
If other shops lower their prices, we will have to follow suit.

Learner example:
Bitten by a insurmountable curiosity she goes to India to [find out] about her and she even follows suit: she ends up [in] the Himalay[a]s driven by a strong desire to know more.
VERB [T]

BE RIGHT
[B2] to be convenient or suitable for a particular person, situation or occasion

Dictionary examples:
We could go now or this afternoon – whatever time suits you best.
The city lifestyle seems to suit her – she's certainly looking very well.
"How about eight o'clock outside the cinema?" “That suits me fine.”

Learner example:
If you find it difficult to arrange your visit for these two dates, please let us know which other Sunday would suit you most.

LOOK ATTRACTIVE
[B2] to make someone look more attractive

Dictionary examples:
You should wear more red – it suits you.
Short skirts don't really suit me – I haven't got the legs for them.

Learner example:
They usually wear casual clothes such as jeans, T-shirts and trainers, because they believe that th[ese] kind[s] of clothes suit them best.

be suited to/for sth
[C1] to be right for someone or something

Dictionary example:
These plants are better suited to a warm climate.

Learner example:
In my opinion mixed schools are best suited to [the] current environment.

suitability  /ˌsuː.təˈbɪl.i.ti/  

Word family:
Nouns: suitability
Verbs: suit
Adjectives: suitable, unsuitable
Adverbs: suitably

NOUN [U]

[C1] the state of being suitable

Dictionary example:
Nobody could doubt her suitability for the job.
Learner example:
His suitability for the post mentioned in your advertisement is so obvious that it strikes me [as] weird why you hesitate.

suitably /ˈsuː.te.blɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: suitability
Verbs: suit
Adjectives: suitable, unsuitable
Adverbs: suitably

ADVERB
[B2] in a way that is acceptable or right

Dictionary examples:
a suitably qualified person
Was he dressed suitably?

Learner example:
Nevertheless, a lot of people think animals are not suitably looked after – they have to live in small [space]s and, moreover, the weather [is] often rather different from [w]hat animals are used to.

sum /sʌm/

VERB

sum up (sth/sb) or sum (sth/sb) up PHRASAL VERB
[B2] to describe briefly the most important facts or characteristics of something

Dictionary example:
The purpose of the conclusion is to sum up the main points of your essay.

Learner example:
To sum up, young people are interested in many things but in my opinion, music, TV and clothes are issues about which they care more than others.

summarize /ˈsum.ər.aɪz/

Word family:
Nouns: summary
Verbs: summarize
VERB [i or ɪ] (also UK summarise)
[C1] to describe briefly the main facts or ideas of something

Dictionary example:
I'd like to briefly summarize the arguments for and against.

Learner example:
This report will attempt to summarise the findings, the trends and changes as well as analyse and explain the reasons for the changes between the periods and evaluate their impact on our lives.

summary /ˈsʌm.əri/

Word family:
Nouns: summary
Verbs: summarize

NOUN [c]
[B2] a short, clear description that gives the main facts or ideas about something

Dictionary example:
He gave a brief summary of events.

Learner example:
Below is a summary of the most relevant points and recommendations.

summit /ˈsʌm.ɪt/

NOUN [c]

MOUNTAIN
[C1] the top of a mountain

Dictionary example:
The climbers hope to reach the summit before nightfall.

Learner example:
For instance, heliboarding – that is, when a helicopter carries you to the summit of a mountain and you slide down on your own – is gaining popularity.

MEETING
[C2] an important meeting between the leaders of two or more governments

Dictionary examples:
a two-day summit
a summit meeting

Learner example:
In 1994 the UN held a summit on social development in Copenhagen.
summon /ˈsʌm.ən/

VERB [v]

ORDER
[C2] FORMAL to officially order someone to come to a place

Dictionary example:
He was summoned to a meeting.

Learner example:
As a result, my parents were summoned to see the headmaster for their daughter's misconduct and bad influence [on] other students.

HELP
[C2] to ask for someone or something that you need to help you in an emergency

Dictionary examples:
They summoned an ambulance.
She immediately summoned a doctor.

Learner example:
The villagers were also relieved that a 'bomoh' or witch–doctor had been summoned to exorcise the pontianak.

[C2] (also summon up) to make a great effort to produce a quality to help you deal with a situation

Dictionary examples:
He tried to summon up the courage to speak to her.
She summoned up all her strength and pushed against the door.

Learner example:
I summoned up my courage and asked her.

sunlight /ˈsʌn.laɪt/

NOUN [n]
[B2] the light from the sun

Dictionary example:
The garden was bathed in sunlight.

Learner example:
There are many sources of light in this world such as sunlight, moonlight, [and] candle light. [...] Nowadays, the electric light has become part of our lives, especially at night.
superb /suːˈpɜːb/  
ADJECTIVE  
[B2] excellent  

Dictionary examples:  
He is a superb dancer.  
Taylor scored a superb goal at the end of the first half.  

Learner example:  
My homemade pizzas are superb, although I say it myself, and I would like to make one for the two of us.

superficial /ˌsuː.pəˈfɪʃəl/  
Word family:  
Adjectives: superficial  
Adverbs: superficially  

ADJECTIVE  
NOT SERIOUS  
[C2] If someone is superficial, they never think about things that are serious or important.  

Dictionary example:  
He’s a very superficial person.  

Learner example:  
Are they the role models of an open-minded public or do they set wrong examples by encouraging superficial values based on appearance rather than personality, possessions rather than deeds, and wealth rather than virtues?  

NOT COMPLETE  
[C2] not complete and involving only the most obvious things  

Dictionary examples:  
superficial knowledge  
a superficial resemblance  

Learner example:  
Many people believe that our school obliges us to gain “superficial” knowledge, since the latter is based on our immature age and on our inadequate experience.
superficially /ˌsuː.pəˈfɪʃ.əl.i/

Word family:
Adjectives: superficial
Adverbs: superficially

ADVERB

[C2] in a way that is not deep or basic

Dictionary example:
Superficially, he is impressive, but his knowledge is really very slight.

Learner example:
Indeed too many people today travel too quickly and too superficially to learn anything from their experience.

superfluous /suːˈpɜː.flu.əs/

ADJECTIVE

[C2] not needed, or more than is needed

Dictionary example:
superfluous details/information

Learner example:
It was a very good party and it might be superfluous to add that I got terribly drunk and didn’t stagger home until seven in the morning.

superior /suːˈprɪ.ər.i/[

Word family:
Nouns: superior, superiority
Adjectives: superior

ADJECTIVE

BETTER

[C1] better than other things

Dictionary examples:
This is clearly the work of a superior artist.
She was chosen for the job because she was the superior candidate.
For all babies, breastfeeding is far superior to bottle feeding.
The government troops were superior in numbers.
Learner example:
Our service is superior in terms of price, but unfortunately doesn't have some features other competitors' services have.

OPINION
[C2] thinking that you are better than other people

Dictionary example:
She has a very superior manner.

NOUN [C]
[C1] someone in a higher position than you at work

Dictionary example:
I will have to report this to my superiors.

Learner example:
If you need [a] reference, please call my superior on the following number: 0181/340'72'59.

superiority /suːˌpɪə.riˈɒr.ə.ti/  

Word family:
Nouns: superior, superiority
Adjectives: superior

NOUN [U]

BETTER
[C2] when something is better than other things

Dictionary example:
the superiority of modern design

Learner example:
I believe a state which felt certain about the superiority of democratic values would not need to forbid any text, or any creative work for that matter.

OPINION
[C2] when you think that you are better than other people

Dictionary example:
She has an air of superiority.

Learner example:
She had an air of superiority and I found her conceited as she was not talking to anybody else except for the teacher.
**supernatural** /ˌsuː.pəˈnætʃ.ər.əl/

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] used to describe things that cannot be explained by our knowledge of science or nature

**Dictionary example:**

supernatural powers/forces

**Learner example:**

The book consists of six completely different 'ghost stories' which involve ghosts and supernatural phenomena, something that attracts young readers.

**NOUN**

the supernatural

[B2] things that cannot be explained by our knowledge of science or nature

**Dictionary example:**

She's very interested in the supernatural.

**supervise** /ˈsuː.pə.værz/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** supervision, supervisor

**Verbs:** supervise

**VERB** [I or T]

[B2] to watch a person or activity to make certain that everything is done correctly, safely, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**

The UN is supervising the distribution of aid by local agencies in the disaster area.
The children play while two teachers supervise.

**Learner example:**

Our main activity will be to supervise the 8 to 12 year [old]s during those activities.

**supervision** /ˌsuː.pəˈvrɪʒ.ən/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** supervision, supervisor

**Verbs:** supervise

**NOUN** [u]

[C1] when you supervise someone or something

2347
Dictionary examples:
He needs **constant** supervision.
Students are not allowed to handle these chemicals unless they are **under** the supervision of a teacher.

Learner example:
The little one was built especially for you, so that you can leave your children under the supervision of two well-trained lifeguards.

**supervisor** /ˈsuː.pər.vɪ.zər/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** supervision, supervisor  
**Verbs:** supervise  

**NOUN [C]**  
[C1] a person whose job is to supervise someone or something  

Dictionary example:  
His supervisor told him to work faster.

Learner example:  
I held the post of general supervisor in a campus in Oxford two years ago, and now I am working as a receptionist in a luxurious hotel.

**supplement**  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** supplement  
**Verbs:** supplement  
**Adjectives:** supplementary  

**NOUN [C] /ˈsʌp.lɪ.mənt/**  
[C2] an extra amount or part added to something  

Dictionary examples:  
to take a vitamin supplement  
a newspaper with a colour supplement

Learner example:  
No miracle promises for overnight improvements, no food supplement and pills will bring the desired results.

**VERB [T] /ˈsʌp.lɪ.mənt/**  
[C2] to add to something to make it larger or better  

Dictionary example:  
He supplements his income by working in a bar in the evenings.
Learner example:
He was moonlighting to supplement his income.

supplementary /ˌsʌp.lɪˈmen.tər.i/
Word family:
Nouns: supplement
Verbs: supplement
Adjectives: supplementary

ADJECTIVE
[C2] added to something

Dictionary example:
supplementary materials

Learner example:
This has also been noted by the local authorities, which has resulted in a supplementary grant to the Language Department of our college.

supplier /səˈplɑːr.ər/  
Word family:
Nouns: supplier, supply
Verbs: supply

NOUN [C]
[B2] a person or company that provides something that people want or need

Dictionary example:
They used to be a leading supplier of military equipment.

Learner example:
I have been employed by the Swedish fruit supplier "Northern Fruit Corp." for the last 6 years.

supply /səˈplɑːr/  
Word family:
Nouns: supplier, supply
Verbs: supply

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] an amount of something that is available for use
Dictionary examples:
a supply of water
Our food supplies were running out.
In London, demand for cheap housing far outstrips supply.

Learner example:
Please send me a list of [the] clothes [needed] and/or supplies.

VERB [T]
[B2] to provide things that people want or need, often over a long period of time

Dictionary examples:
to supply food/drugs to people
Electrical power is supplied by underground cables.
Three people have been arrested for supplying arms to the terrorists.
At the beginning of term, students are supplied with a list of books that they are expected to read.

Learner example:
I would be able to supply you with [a] reference from my employer.

support /saˈpɔːt/

Word family:
Nouns: support, supporter
Verbs: support
Adjectives: supportive

VERB [T]
AGREE
[B2] to agree with an idea, group, or person

Dictionary examples:
Do you support their views on nuclear weapons?
The majority of people in the town strongly support the plans for a new sports centre.

Learner example:
I support this idea because I believe that [it] is the [only] way to stop the traffic in cities.

ENCOURAGE
[B2] to give encouragement or financial help to someone or something because you want them to succeed

Dictionary examples:
I think it's important to support local businesses by buying locally.
The drug company is supporting cancer research.

Learner example:
These films are more attractive for older viewers and support the local film business.
**PROVE**
[C1] to help to show that something is true

**Dictionary example:**
There's no evidence to support his story.

**Learner example:**
All the claims made on your leaflet weren't at all supported by evidence.

**HOLD**
[C2] to hold the weight of someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
Is this ladder strong enough to support me?
The church dome is supported by marble pillars.
When babies first learn to stand, they hold on to something to support themselves.
I put a bandage on my knee to support it when I play tennis.

**Learner example:**
Next, electricity is transported by high voltage cables supported by towers up to a transformer station.

**NOUN [U]**

**AGREEMENT**
[B2] agreement with an idea, group or person

**Dictionary examples:**
Environmental groups are fast gaining support among young people.
Is there much public support for the proposal?
Support for the party leader has declined in recent weeks.
I signed a petition in support of the human rights campaign.

**Learner example:**
Dear Julian, I wanted to tell you that you have my moral support.

**MONEY**
[B2] the money someone needs in order to buy food and clothes and pay for somewhere to live

**Dictionary example:**
He is dependent on his father for support.

**Learner example:**
Receiving my pocket money last week, I was thinking what would happen if I lost my father's support.
**supporter** /səˈpoʊtər/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** support, supporter
- **Verbs:** support
- **Adjectives:** supportive

**NOUN [C]**

**OF IDEA/PERSON, ETC.**

[B2] someone who supports a particular idea, group or person

**Dictionary example:**
He is one of the Prime Minister’s **strongest** supporters within industry.

**Learner example:**
According to supporters of Animal Rights, people wouldn’t like being kept in zoos.

**supportive** /səˈpoʊtɪv/

Word family:
- **Nouns:** support, supporter
- **Verbs:** support
- **Adjectives:** supportive

**ADJECTIVE [C1]** giving help or encouragement

**Dictionary example:**
a very supportive friend

**Learner example:**
The sports facilities were perfect, and the people working in the sport centre were very friendly and supportive.

**suppose** /səˈpəʊz/

Word family:
- **Verbs:** suppose
- **Adverbs:** supposedly

**VERB**

**be supposed to be sth**

[B2] to be expected to be something, especially because of a rule, agreement, etc.
Dictionary examples:
The children are supposed to be at school by 8.45 a.m.
What are you doing out of bed? You’re supposed to be asleep!

Learner example:
It was supposed to be a surprise... I had been in London for [a] long time.

be supposed to be *sth*
[B2] to be considered by many people to be something

Dictionary example:
The scenery is supposed to be fantastic.

Learner example:
I knew that he had booked a table for two in one of [the] most expensive restaurants in town, where the food was supposed to be excellent.

be supposed to do *sth*
[B2] If you are supposed to do something, the rules say that you should do it.

Dictionary examples:
You’re supposed to pay by the end of the month.
You’re not supposed to smoke in here.

Learner example:
Unfortunately, the organizer came to me and let me know that I was not supposed to sell anything in that area.

LIKELY
[C1] [T] to think that something is likely to be true

Dictionary examples:
He found it a lot more difficult to get a job than he supposed it would be.
It is widely supposed (that) the minister will be forced to resign.

Learner example:
It is supposed that this man could have also been a chemist, [as] writings have been found and recovered with clues to what Da Vinci might have been doing in that field.

suppose/supposing (that)
[C1] used to introduce an idea for someone to consider

Dictionary example:
Suppose he phones tonight. What should I say?

Learner example:
Supposing you get the train. If you ring me up straight away when you arrive, I w[ill] pick you up at the station.
supposedly /səˈpəʊ.zɪd.li/

Word family:
Verbs: suppose
Adverbs: supposedly

ADVERB

[C1] used to show that you do not believe that something you have been told is true

Dictionary example:
Well, the tickets are supposedly in the mail.

Learner example:
“The Bride” sets out to kill the first of Bill’s assassins, supposedly the most dangerous person in the world in terms of knives.

suppress /səˈpres/

VERB [T]

FEELINGS

[C2] to control feelings so that they do not show

Dictionary example:
I could barely suppress my anger.

Learner example:
He tried to suppress his fear.

INFORMATION

[C2] to prevent information from being known

Dictionary example:
to suppress evidence/news

Learner example:
I personally, would bring my child up as a person who is able to discuss and who does not suppress any criticism at all.

FIGHT

[C2] to stop someone or something by using force

Dictionary example:
The rebellion was suppressed by government forces.
Learner example:
With the fresh sound of Clarisse's words of freedom and thought, happiness and nature, [there] arises in Montag the need of making a move, of rebelling against a flat and empty system that suppresses the individuality of men.

**sure /ʃɔːr/**

Word family:
Verbs: ensure
Adjectives: sure, unsure
Adverbs: surely

**ADJECTIVE**

**be sure of sth**
[B2] to be confident that something is true

Dictionary example:
He'll win this year, I'm sure of it.

Learner example:
I think that I [would be a] really useful person for your company. I'm sure of it.

**be sure of yourself**
[B2] to be confident of your own abilities, qualities, etc.

Dictionary example:
She seems a bit more sure of herself since she got a job.

Learner example:
He is a tall, dark man who walks with confidence and is sure of himself because of his success [in] the world of business.

**a sure thing**
[C1] something that is certain to happen

Dictionary example:
Death is the one sure thing about life.

Learner example:
There is only one sure thing, we are not able to even imagine what we will be able to do in the future to get communicated.

**be sure to do sth**
[C1] If you are sure to do something, it is certain that you will do it.

Dictionary example:
He's sure to go back there again.
Learner example:
What she does not know is that her ex-husband has a very serious type of cancer and is sure to
pass away in a few months (that is why he agrees to spend his summer with his son, knowing it
would be the last).

sure enough
[C2] as expected

Dictionary example:
He said the book was on his desk, and sure enough, there it was.

Learner example:
And sure enough, these challenging problems come unsolicited most of the time.

surely /ˈʃʊrli/

Word family:
Verbs: ensure
Adjectives: sure, unsure
Adverbs: surely

ADVERB

LIKELY
[B2] used to show that you believe something is very likely

Dictionary example:
Surely they'd have called us by now to say they're not coming.

Learner example:
Surely you are interested in how we spent the rest of our holiday?

EXPRESS SURPRISE
[B2] used to express surprise that something has happened or is going to happen

Dictionary examples:
Surely you don't expect me to believe that?
Surely he wasn't expecting us to pay the whole amount?

Learner example:
Surely it doesn't mean that they have learnt the exciting news?

surface /ˈsɜːrfəs/

NOUN

TOP
[B2] [c] the top or outside part of something
Dictionary examples:
The sun was reflected on the surface of the water.
Tropical rainforests used to cover 10% of the Earth's surface.
The marble has a smooth, shiny surface.
Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the surface of the moon.

Learner example:
When we came back to the surface we just looked like real miners.

PERSON
[B2] [NO PLURAL] what someone or something seems to be like when you do not know much about them

Dictionary example:
On the surface, he seemed very pleasant.

Learner example:
Miss Marple on the other hand is an old, nervous but gentle lady on the surface but inside that head of hers there is a brain [as] sharp as a knife, cutting through the mysteries she [is] involved in.

surge /sɜːdʒ/  
VERB
[C1] to increase very quickly

Dictionary example:
Prices surged on the stock exchange.

Learner example:
Followed by a dip briefly afterwards, the value surged to close to 100 million tonnes in 2002.

NOUN [C]
[C1] a large increase in something

Dictionary example:
a surge in spending

Learner example:
Also in technology, we have noticed a surge of the newest trends in even the smallest countries.

surgeon /ˈsɜː.dʒən/  
NOUN [C]
[C1] a doctor who is specially trained to perform medical operations
Dictionary example:
He is a leading surgeon at a London hospital.

Learner example:
I have been a surgeon for almost 20 years now, and I have worked in many different situations.

surgery  /ˈsɜː.dʒəˌri/  
NOUN

PLACE
[B2] [c] a place where doctors or other medical workers treat people

Dictionary example:
What time does the surgery open?

Learner example:
As she walked into the doctor’s surgery, she began to explain her problem to the doctor and that she couldn’t stand the idea of lice inhabiting her head.

OPERATION
[B2] [u] when a doctor cuts your body open and repairs or removes something

Dictionary examples:
heart surgery
The patient had/underwent surgery on his heart.
He made a good recovery after surgery to remove a brain tumour.

Learner example:
My mother had to go through gall-stone surgery in Finland, where she was spending her holiday.

surpass  /ˈsə.ˈpɑːs/  
VERB [T] FORMAL
[C2] to be or do better than someone or something else

Dictionary example:
The book’s success surpassed everyone’s expectations.

Learner example:
I visited "The Acropol" restaurant two weeks ago and to my astonishment it surpassed all my expectations.
**surplus** /ˈsɜːp.ləs/

**NOUN** [C or U]

[C2] an amount of something that is more than you need

**Dictionary example:**
Every year we produce a huge surplus of meat.

**Learner example:**
The most developed countries are the ones who didn't have a surplus of food and they had to find a way of producing it.

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**surprise** /səˈprɑːrz/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** surprise

**Verbs:** surprise

**Adjectives:** surprised, surprising

**Adverbs:** surprisingly

**NOUN**

**FEELING**

[B2] [U] the feeling that you get when something happens that you did not expect

**Dictionary examples:**
He looked at her in/with surprise.
He agreed to everything, (much) to my surprise.

**Learner example:**
He stared at me in surprise and didn't say anything.

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**surrender** /səˈrən.dər/

**VERB**

[C2] to stop fighting and admit that you have been beaten

**Dictionary example:**
Rebel troops are refusing to surrender.

**Learner example:**
Without the fire Ralph and Piggy have to surrender and as Piggy now has lost his vision he becomes weak and vulnerable [and] he must die – "The weak must go to the wall".
**surround  /səˈraʊnd/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** surroundings
- **Verbs:** surround
- **Adjectives:** surrounding

**VERB [T]**

**CONNECTED WITH**

[C2] If a feeling or situation surrounds an event, it is closely connected with it.

**Dictionary example:**
Mystery still surrounds the exact circumstances of his death.

**Learner example:**
However, there was at this point nothing pleasant about the atmosphere surrounding the house.

**surrounding  /səˈraʊnd.ɪŋ/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** surroundings
- **Verbs:** surround
- **Adjectives:** surrounding

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

[B2] in a position around something

**Dictionary example:**
A lot of the children at the school do not live in the town, but come in from the surrounding countryside.

**Learner example:**
If all of you would help by using these facilities, our village could be very attractive to people from surrounding villages, which could be very good for the economy of our village.

**surroundings  /səˈraʊn.dɪŋz/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** surroundings
- **Verbs:** surround
- **Adjectives:** surrounding

**NOUN [PLURAL]**

[B2] the place where someone or something is and the things that are in it
Dictionary examples:
beautiful/pleasant surroundings
Have you got used to your new surroundings?
Some butterflies blend in with their surroundings so that it’s difficult to see them.

Learner example:
The larger animals who aren’t threatened should live in their natural surroundings.

survey /ˈsɜː.veɪ/

NOUN [c]
[B2] an examination of opinions, behaviour, etc., made by asking people questions

Dictionary examples:
A recent survey found/showed that 58% of people did not know where their heart is.
They are conducting/carrying out/doing a survey.

Learner example:
I have made a little survey on the subject of my report and I have found that most of the pupils of our school consider that the region and the area around the school should be filmed first.

VERB
QUESTIONS
[C1] to ask people questions in order to find out about their opinions or behaviour

Dictionary example:
75% of midwives surveyed were in favour of home births.

Learner example:
However, a small amount of those surveyed (20%) expressed the opinion that they do not have any problems concerning transport or housing.

EXAMINE
[C1] to look at or examine something carefully

Dictionary example:
I got out of the car to survey the damage.

Learner example:
This means that we need a small team to survey the area first, and I am very happy to lead this team.

survival /səˈvaɪ.vəl/

Word family:
Nouns: survival, survivor
Verbs: survive
survive  /səˈvaɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: survival, survivor
Verbs: survive

survivor  /səˈvaɪ.vər/

Word family:
Nouns: survival, survivor
Verbs: survive

NOUN [u]
[B2] when someone or something continues to live or exist, especially after a difficult or dangerous situation

Dictionary examples:
The doctors told my wife I had a 50/50 chance of survival.
His main concern is to ensure his own political survival.

Learner example:
For many animals zoos are [their] only hope for survival: for example, [the] Chinese panda or white eagle.

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to continue to live or exist, especially after almost dying or being destroyed

Dictionary examples:
The baby was born with a heart problem and only survived for a few hours.
These plants cannot survive in very cold conditions.
The front passengers were lucky to survive the accident.
The family are struggling to survive on very little money.

Learner example:
They struggle to survive.

NOUN [C]
[B2] someone who continues to live after almost dying because of an accident, illness, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Rescuers have given up hope of finding any more survivors.
He was the sole survivor of the plane crash.
She's a cancer survivor/a survivor of cancer.

Learner example:
We were the only survivors.
suspect /saˈspekt/

Word family:
Nouns: suspect, suspicion
Verbs: suspect
Adjectives: suspicious
Adverbs: suspiciously

VERB [r]

THINK LIKELY
[B2] to think that something is probably true, or is likely to happen

Dictionary examples:
They suspected (that) he was lying.
I suspect she won’t come – she’s very busy.
"Do you think she’ll have told them?" "I suspect not/so."

Learner example:
He apologised, but he had some family problems and in fact he couldn't come. I suspect that's his mother – he didn't [say] clearly.

THINK GUILTY
[B2] to think that someone may have committed a crime or done something bad

Dictionary examples:
No one knows who killed her, but the police suspect her husband.
The police suspect him of carrying out two bomb attacks.

Learner example:
But other people were suspected of having killed them.

NOT TRUST
[C2] to not trust someone or something

Dictionary example:
She suspected his motives for offering to help.

NOUN [c] /ˈsʌs.pekt/
[B2] someone who may have committed a crime

Dictionary example:
He's the prime suspect in the murder case.

Learner example:
He had never thought that Doctor Quimper might [have] been a suspect, as well.
suspend /səˈspend/

VERB [T]

NOT ALLOW
[B2] to not allow someone to go to work or school for a period of time because they have done something wrong

Dictionary examples:
She was suspended from school for fighting.
He was suspended for four matches after arguing with the referee.

Learner example:
The director decided to suspend the girl because she had been rude.

STOP
[C1] to stop something happening or existing for a short time

Dictionary examples:
The semi-final was suspended because of bad weather.
The ferry service has been suspended for the day because of bad weather.
The President has suspended the constitution and assumed total power.
I’m suspending judgment on the book I’m reading until I’ve finished it.

Learner example:
At first the electrical and gas power were cut off and the transport was suspended but now everything is working.

suspense /səˈspens/

NOUN [U]

[C2] the feeling of excitement or nervousness that you have when you are waiting for something to happen

Dictionary examples:
There is a gradual build-up of suspense throughout the film.
What’s your answer then? Don’t keep me in suspense.

Learner example:
Exciting, fun and full of suspense, I’m sure I’m going to enjoy it, and remember it as a very good time.
suspicion /səˈspɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: suspect, suspicion
Verbs: suspect
Adjectives: suspicious
Adverbs: suspiciously

NOUN

BELIEF

[B2] [c] a belief or idea that something may be true

Dictionary example:
I have a suspicion that he only asked me out because my brother persuaded him to.

Learner example:
I asked my mother what had happened and she confirmed my suspicions.

THINK GUILTY

[C1] [c or u] a feeling or belief that someone has committed a crime or done something wrong

Dictionary examples:
"I'm arresting you on suspicion of illegally possessing drugs," said the police officer.
She is under suspicion of murder.
In this particular case, they are above/beyond suspicion.

Learner example:
Some of us were told to go there and to kill those who [were] under suspicion.

suspicious /səˈspɪʃ.əs/

Word family:
Nouns: suspect, suspicion
Verbs: suspect
Adjectives: suspicious
Adverbs: suspiciously

ADJECTIVE

SEEMING WRONG

[B2] making you feel that something illegal is happening or that something is wrong
Dictionary examples:
suspicious behaviour/circumstances
His wife became suspicious after finding blood in their car.
The fire at the bank is being treated as suspicious.
It's a bit suspicious that no one knows where he was at the time of the murder.
There's a suspicious-looking van parked at the end of the road.

Learner example:
Talking to Calloway made Martins very suspicious, because he [had] always thought of him as a nice and decen[t] person.

NOT TRUSTING

[B2] not trusting someone or something

Dictionary examples:
Many of them remain suspicious of journalists.
My mother has a very suspicious nature.
He gave me a suspicious look.

Learner example:
Paul was suspicious and asked her if she was alright. [Jane] replied with a yes, but she looked nervous. She went quickly upstairs and came back holding a baby in her arms. She told him that this baby was theirs.

suspiciously /səˈspɪʃ.ə.sli/

Word family:
Nouns: suspect, suspicion
Verbs: suspect
Adjectives: suspicious
Adverbs: suspiciously

ADVERB

[B2] in a way that shows that you do not trust someone or something

Dictionary examples:
He looked at her suspiciously.
He sniffed the soup suspiciously.

Learner example:
The old man, who was going upstairs, stopped and looked at us very suspiciously.
**sustain /səˈsteɪn/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: sustainability
Verbs: sustain
Adjectives: sustainable, unsustainable

**VERB [T]**

**CONTINUE**
[C2] to cause or allow something to continue for a period of time

**Dictionary example:**
The team may not be able to sustain this level of performance.

**Learner example:**
And they have to work hard to reach and sustain this high level.

**SUPPORT**
[C2] to support someone or something so that they can live or exist

**Dictionary example:**
The money he received was hardly enough to sustain a wife and five children.

**Learner example:**
The one concern I have is the ability of such a job to financially sustain an entire family.

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**sustainability /səˌsteɪ.nəˈbɪl.ə.ti/**

**Word family:**
Nouns: sustainability
Verbs: sustain
Adjectives: sustainable, unsustainable

**NOUN [U]**
[C2] the degree to which something is sustainable

**Dictionary example:**
We have to think about the sustainability of these energy sources.

**Learner example:**
State and Society should be held responsible for ensuring the environment’s sustainability and for preventing further damage.
**sustainable** /səˈstɪ.nə.bl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** sustainability  
**Verbs:** sustain  
**Adjectives:** sustainable, unsustainable

**ADJECTIVE**

**CONTINUE**  
[C1] able to continue over a period of time

**Dictionary example:**  
sustainable development/growth

**Learner example:**  
This is as you might know the aim of the concept of sustainable development.

**ENVIRONMENT**  
[C1] causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time

**Dictionary example:**  
sustainable energy

**Learner example:**  
Being an engineer in the field of renewable and sustainable energy which includes solar energy, hydropower and wind energy, I can say I am quite [knowledgeable about] the specific problem of environmental issues and about how to mitigate the serious impacts.

**swallow** /ˈswɒl.əʊ/

**VERB**

**EAT**

[B2] [I or T] to move your throat in order to make food or drink go down

**Dictionary examples:**  
My throat is so sore that it really hurts when I swallow.  
The snake swallowed the bird whole.

**Learner example:**  
When Mrs McGillicuddy was upstairs, she swallowed a fish bone.

**ACCEPT**

[C2] [T] to accept something unpleasant

**Dictionary example:**  
They found the final decision hard to swallow.
Learner example:
Occasionally he would beat her, but she just swallowed it with a sense of helplessness.

swallow your anger/disappointment/pride, etc.
[C2] to not show your feelings and to not allow them to affect the way that you behave

Dictionary example:
I swallowed my pride and asked them for help.

Learner example:
She has had to put up with all the psychological harm that her husband has put her through and at the same time, she has had to keep on struggling for her children, never giving in; holding back her tears, swallowing her pride just for the benefit of her daughters.

swan /swɒn/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a large, white bird with a long neck which lives on lakes and rivers

Dictionary example:
We saw two swans gliding down the river with their signets.

Learner example:
The ugly duckling became a beautiful swan.

swap /swɒp/

VERB [I or T] (swapping, swapped)
[C1] to give something to someone and get something from them in return

Dictionary example:
Would you mind if Dave swapped places with you for a bit?

Learner example:
People come here to swap opinions and news.

swear /sweə/ (swore, sworn)

VERB

RUDE WORDS
[B2] [I] to use language which people think is rude or offensive
Dictionary examples:
It was a real shock, the first time I heard my mother swear.
When the taxi driver started to swear at him, he walked off.

Learner example:
When I heard the ringing of the phone I became so furious that as soon as I answered the phone, I started swearing at it.

PROMISE
[B2] [I or T] to make a serious promise

Dictionary examples:
I don’t know anything about what happened, I swear (it).
She swore (that) she didn’t know what had happened to the money.
New gang members must swear to obey the gang leaders at all times.
In some countries, witnesses in court have to swear on the Bible.

Learner example:
That day I swore to myself that I would never trust anybody again.

TRUE
[C2] [T] used to say that you are sure something is true

Dictionary example:
I could have sworn that she said she lived in Canterbury.

Learner example:
I could have sworn there was at least £10 in it the day before.

sweat /swet/

NOUN [U]
[B2] the salty colourless liquid that comes through your skin when you are hot, nervous or ill

Dictionary examples:
The sweat was pouring off me ten minutes into the game.
By the time we’d climbed to the top of the hill, we were covered in sweat.
She wiped the beads of sweat from her forehead.

Learner example:
Pearls of sweat appeared on her forehead.

VERB [I]
[B2] to produce liquid through your skin because you are hot, nervous or ill

Dictionary examples:
The room was hot and I was starting to sweat.
The prisoners were sweating with fear.
Learner example:
I began to sweat and my fear changed to panic when we opened a door.

sweep /swiːp/

VERB (swept, swept)

CLEAN
[B2] [t] to clean the floor using a brush

Dictionary examples:
I've swept the floor.
He swept up the pieces of broken glass.

Learner example:
I found your watch yesterday, while I was sweeping the floor.

be/get swept along/away, etc.
[B2] to be pushed or carried along in a forceful way

Dictionary examples:
Many trees were swept away in the flood.
They got swept along by the crowd.

Learner example:
Suddenly, we were swept away by an avalanche.

sweep along/into/past, etc.
[C2] to move quickly, especially in a way that shows you think you are important

Dictionary example:
She swept past me in the corridor.

Learner example:
"We are Danish dynamite!" and let ourselves be swept along with the stream of people from all over the suburbs heading towards the city hall square of our Capital.

swift /swift/

Word family:
Adjectives: swift
Adverbs: swiftly

ADJECTIVE
[C2] happening or moving quickly

Dictionary example:
a swift response
Individual performances were amazing. Jimmy Page's heavy blues riffs, his swift solos and his talent [for] composing songs of an incredible richness clearly showed he was still one of the greatest figures of rock 'n' roll.

**swiftly /ˈswɪft.li/**

Word family:
Adjectives: swift
Adverbs: swiftly

**ADVERB**
[C2] quickly

Dictionary example:
The authorities have moved swiftly to quell the violence.

Learner example:
Time seems to flow more swiftly when we need it most, and those two days went by without us having finished the paper.

**swing /swɪŋ/**

**VERB [I or T] (swung, swung)**
[B2] to move smoothly backwards and forwards, or to make something do this

Dictionary example:
He walked briskly along the path swinging his rolled-up umbrella.

Learner example:
When Mary entered the bar, the room was empty and there was a rope swinging from a beam.

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a chair hanging on two ropes that children sit on and swing backwards and forwards

Dictionary example:
Jake wanted me to push him on the swing.

Learner example:
Do you remember the swing by the big tree in my garden?
switch  /swɪtʃ/

VERB [i]
[B2] to change from one thing to another

Dictionary examples:
She started studying English at college, but switched to Business Studies in her second year.
He's just switched jobs.

Learner example:
For many years I had created my system under MS–DOS (Disk Operating System), but two years ago I switched and since the[n] I've worked with Unix.

swollen  /ˈswəʊ.lən/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] larger than usual

Dictionary example:
a bruised, swollen face

Learner example:
I cried almost all day and wanted to go home as quick[ly] as possible but suddenly, someone took a photograph of me with swollen eyes.

sword  /sɔːd/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a weapon with a long sharp metal blade and a handle, used especially in the past

Dictionary example:
He rode towards me, waving his sword in the air.

Learner example:
I took the ancient sword in my hands and felt the power flow through my veins.

a double-edged sword
[C2] something that has both a positive and a negative effect

Dictionary example:
Being that intelligent is a double–edged sword – he finds it difficult to talk to ordinary people.

Learner example:
As you might see, technological advancements are a double–edged sword.
syllable /ˈsɪl.ə.bl/  

NOUN [c]  
[B2] a word or part of a word that has one vowel sound  

Dictionary example:  
The word "tiger" has two syllables.  

Learner example:  
I stressed the wrong syllable in the word "gamos" = marriage in Greek.  

syllabus /ˈsɪl.ə.bəs/  

NOUN [c] (syllabuses, syllabi)  
[C2] a list of the subjects that are included in a course of study  

Dictionary example:  
Freud isn't on the syllabus.  

Learner example:  
Physical Education is now generally considered an important part of a person's progress towards a mature, well-rounded adult human being, a fact that is reflected by the inclusion of Physical Education as [an] obligatory subject in national school syllabi.  

symbol /ˈsɪm.ə.l/  

Word family:  
Nouns: symbol  
Adjectives: symbolic  

NOUN [c]  
[B2] a sign, shape or object which is used to represent something else  

Dictionary examples:  
A heart shape is the symbol of love.  
The wheel in the Indian flag is a symbol of peace.  

Learner example:  
This was the first time it arrived and it was a point of hope for all the friends of nature and particularly for the World Wildlife Fund, wh[o] have chosen the panda [as their] symbol.
symbolic  /ˈsɪmˌbɒl.ɪk/  

Word family:
Nouns: symbol
Adjectives: symbolic

ADJECTIVE

[C2] representing something else

Dictionary example:
The blue, white, and red of the French flag are symbolic of liberty, equality and fraternity.

Learner example:
The reason why people value certain items so greatly is that these items have a great symbolic value to their owners.

sympathetic  /ˌsɪm.pəˈθet.ɪk/  

Word family:
Nouns: sympathy
Verbs: sympathize
Adjectives: sympathetic

ADJECTIVE

PROBLEMS
[B2] showing that you understand and care about someone's problems

Dictionary examples:
He suffers from back trouble too, so he was very sympathetic about my problem.
She was very sympathetic when I told her about my situation.

Learner example:
Nobody wants to talk to him apart from Alice, she feels sympathetic and understands him.

IDEAS
[C2] agreeing with or supporting someone's ideas or actions

Dictionary example:
He was sympathetic to their views.

Learner example:
I hope you'll be sympathetic to our demands and take some action.
sympathize /ˈsɪm.pəθaɪz/

Word family:
Nouns: sympathy
Verbs: sympathize
Adjectives: sympathetic

VERB [i] (also UK sympathise)

PROBLEMS
[C2] to understand and care about someone's problems

Dictionary example:
It's a really bad situation – I do sympathize with her.

Learner example:
In our lives, it is crucial that we develop relationships between other individuals, in order to have somebody to sympathize with us in bad times and stand on our side to help us.

IDEAS
[C2] to agree with or support someone's ideas or actions

Dictionary example:
I sympathize with the general aims of the party.

Learner example:
As a result, they tend to sympathize with more radical groups and parties in order to support a change in the current system.

sympathy /ˈsɪm.pəθi/

Word family:
Nouns: sympathy
Verbs: sympathize
Adjectives: sympathetic

NOUN [u]

CARING
[B2] when you show that you understand and care about someone's problems

Dictionary examples:
The president has sent a message of sympathy to the relatives of the dead soldiers.
I don't have much sympathy for her – I think she's brought her troubles on herself.

Learner example:
No matter how sensitive or impassive one's attitude towards animals is, after having thought it over thoroughly most of us feel deep sorrow and sympathy for the poor creatures kept in cages.
IDEAS
[C2] agreement with or support for someone's ideas or actions

Dictionary example:
Scott was in sympathy with this view.

symptom /ˈsɪmp.təm/

NOUN [c]

ILLNESS
[B2] a physical feeling or problem which shows that you have a particular illness

Dictionary examples:
He's complaining of all the usual flu symptoms – a high temperature, headache and so on.
He's been HIV-positive for six years, but just recently he's started to develop the symptoms of AIDS.

Learner example:
We asked her what had happened and she told us she had some weird symptoms so she went for an examination to see what was wrong. She finally discovered that... she was pregnant!

PROBLEM
[C2] a problem that is caused by and shows a more serious problem

Dictionary example:
The drinking was just a symptom of his general unhappiness.

Learner example:
The problem with tackling homelessness is that it is just a symptom.

synonym /ˈsɪn.ə.nɪm/

Word family:
Nouns: synonym
Adjectives: synonymous

NOUN [c]
[C2] a word or phrase that means the same as another word or phrase

Dictionary example:
'Quick' and 'fast' are synonyms.

Learner example:
Dynamic, Go–Getters, Ambitious, Stalwarts – These are just some of the synonyms that the young people of today's generation are known by.
**synonymous**  /ˈsɪnən.i.məs/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** synonym
**Adjectives:** synonymous

**ADJECTIVE**

**CONNECTED**
[C2] If one thing is synonymous with another, they are very closely connected with each other in people's minds.

**Dictionary example:**
It is a country where wealth is synonymous with corruption.

**Learner example:**
Working is synonymous with integration in the society.

**WORD**
[C2] If one word is synonymous with another, they have the same meaning.

**Dictionary example:**
Would you say that 'idle' is completely synonymous with 'lazy'?

**system**  /ˈsɪs.təm/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** system
**Adjectives:** systematic
**Adverbs:** systematically

**NOUN [C]**

**METHOD**
[B2] a way or method of doing things

**Dictionary examples:**
the American legal system
the public transport system
We'll have to work out a proper filing system.
Under our education system, you're supposed to be able to choose the type of schooling that your child receives.
the metric system of measuring and weighing

**Learner example:**
You will have the possibility to get to know our political system.

**BODY**
[C2] parts of the body that work together in order to make something happen
Dictionary example:
the body’s digestive/immune system

Learner example:
Now stem cells are widely used in cosmetic surgery – this extremely expensive treatment is offered to well-off people who want to look younger and strengthen their immune system.

**systematic**  /ˌsɪs.təˈmæt.ic/  

Word family:
Nouns: system
Adjectives: systematic
Adverbs: systematically

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] done using a fixed and organized plan

Dictionary example:
the systematic collection and analysis of information

Learner example:
On account of systematic and thorough rationalization in almost every sector of Western economics, workers are not needed as they were in the fifties or sixties.

**systematically**  /ˌsɪs.təˈmæt.i.kli/  

Word family:
Nouns: system
Adjectives: systematic
Adverbs: systematically

**ADVERB**
[C2] in a systematic way

Dictionary example:
We went through all the documents systematically.

Learner example:
Unemployment is a major problem today but it can be dealt with systematically and it is worth investing in a solution to this problem because of the social implications.
tabloid /ˈtæb.ləʊd/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a type of popular newspaper with small pages which has many pictures and short simple reports

Dictionary example:
She writes for one of the tabloids.

Learner example:
A famous person has no private life. There is always gossip in magazines and tabloids about the latest hot love stories among the stars.

ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to tabloids

Dictionary examples:
the tabloid press
a tabloid newspaper

tackle /ˈtæk.l/ 

VERB
DEAL WITH
[B2] [ɪ] to try to deal with a problem or to speak to someone about something bad that they have done

Dictionary examples:
new ways to tackle crime
There are many ways of tackling this problem. Have you tackled him about his attitude?

Learner example:
I've [found] some information because all these problems must be tackled now.

SPORT
[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] to try to get the ball from someone in a game such as football
**Dictionary example:**
He successfully tackled his opponent.

**Learner example:**
Always keep on learning different ways of passing, shooting and tackling, as there is no [end] [to] learning a new way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>tact</strong> /ˈtækt/</th>
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<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> tact</td>
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<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong> tactful</td>
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**NOUN [U]**
[C2] the ability to talk to people about difficult subjects without upsetting them

**Dictionary example:**
This situation needs to be handled with great tact.

**Learner example:**
One can't help admiring Lucy's tact, when during their ramble with the Emersons, Miss Lavish and the clergymen, she leaves Charlotte and Miss Lavish on their own, so that they could gossip.

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**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] careful not to say or do anything that could upset someone

**Dictionary example:**
She asked a few tactful questions.

**Learner example:**
My classmate Martin is very tactful but he has a great sense of humour.

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<td><strong>NOUN [C]</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>[C1] a way of doing something that you plan in order to achieve what you want</td>
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**Dictionary example:**
These bomb attacks represent a change of tactics by the terrorists.
Learner example:
One can learn about the way of life of the wise ancient Greeks and study the political system, their
society or even tactics used in battle.

tactless  /ˈtækt.łeɪs/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] not careful about saying or doing something that could upset someone

Dictionary example:
That was a really tactless thing to say.

Learner example:
You... you... you horrible and tactless person, you BASTARD', she shrieked and dashed out of the
room into the kitchen slamming the door behind her.

tail  /teɪl/

NOUN [C]

ANIMAL
[B2] the long, narrow part that sticks out at the back of an animal's body

Dictionary example:
The dog wagged its tail excitedly.

Learner example:
She is very beautiful with her long [b]ushy tail and soft paws.

the tail end of sth
[C2] the last part of something

Dictionary example:
the tail end of the eighties

Learner example:
Both Olivia's and the narrator's stories show India at crucial times of its history: at the tail end of
the "Raj" and at the [initial] stage of a modern and independent country.

take  /teɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: undertaking
Verbs: take, undertake
VERB [t] (took, taken)

**take milk/sugar, etc.**

[B2] to usually have milk/sugar, etc. in your tea or coffee

**Dictionary example:**
I've forgotten – do you take milk in your tea?

**REMOVE NUMBER**

[B2] to remove one number from another number

**Dictionary example:**
If you take 4 from 12 you get 8.

**GRAMMAR**

[B2] to need or be followed by another word or structure in order to be grammatically correct

**Dictionary example:**
This sense of the verb 'give' takes two objects.

**can't take sth**

[B2] to not be able to deal with an unpleasant situation

**Dictionary example:**
We argue all the time and I can't take it any more.

**Learner example:**
In the end, when Laura couldn't take it anymore, she decided to end her suffering by taking her life.

**take sth/sb seriously**

[B2] to consider a person, subject or situation to be important or dangerous and worth your attention or respect

**Dictionary example:**
We take any threats to national security very seriously.

**Learner example:**
Don't take everything so seriously otherwise you'll probably end up as an old maid and I don't think you want that.

**take pleasure/pride/an interest, etc.**

[B2] to have a particular, good feeling about something or someone

**Dictionary examples:**
He takes great pleasure in cooking.
I have always taken an interest in local history.

**Learner example:**
The amazing thing about him is that he takes pride in his appearance and the image others have of him.
take account of *sth*
[B2] to consider something when judging a situation

Dictionary example:
A good architect takes account of the building's surroundings.

Learner example:
I hope you will take account of our request.

take into account *sth*
[B2] to consider something when judging a situation

Dictionary example:
I think you have to take into account the fact that he's a good deal younger than the rest of us.

Learner example:
Taking into account all these arguments, I also think, like many people, that keeping animals in zoos is cruel and unnecessary.

take advantage of *sb/sth*
[B2] to treat someone or something badly in order to get what you want

Dictionary example:
I think she takes advantage of his good nature.

Learner example:
There will always be the threat of those men who take advantage of animals' inferior status.

take your breath away
[B2] If something takes your breath away, you feel surprise and admiration because it is so beautiful or exciting.

Dictionary example:
The view from the window took my breath away.

Learner example:
The landscape just takes your breath away sometimes.

take charge
[B2] to take control of or make yourself responsible for something

Dictionary example:
I was happy to let her take charge of the holiday arrangements.

Learner example:
I am 21 years old which means that I can take charge of school children.

take control
[B2] to start to rule or govern an area

Dictionary example:
The dictator took control of the country in 1933.
Learner example:
In the first part of the story animals take control of a farm in England.

take a deep breath
[B2] to fill your lungs with air

Dictionary example:
Take a deep breath and relax.

Learner example:
But if you took a deep breath after reading the question, don’t worry.

take sb’s word for it
[B2] to believe what someone says without any proof

Dictionary example:
Take my word for it – this curry is very hot!

Learner example:
Naturally we had to take his word for it.

take sb/sth for granted
[B2] to not show that you are grateful for someone or something, and forget that you are lucky to have them

Dictionary example:
Most of us take our freedom for granted.

Learner example:
So don’t take the telephone for granted, but keep in mind that our modern way of life is mainly due to its invention.

take it for granted
[B2] to believe that something is true without checking or thinking about it

Dictionary example:
I took it for granted that we’d be invited to the wedding.

Learner example:
I have taken it for granted that you will arrive for dinner.

take the/this opportunity to do sth
[B2] to use an occasion to do or say something

Dictionary example:
I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all of you.

Learner example:
Most of the comments [are] not right at all. I would like to take this opportunity to correct them.

take sb’s place
[B2] to do something instead of someone else
Dictionary example:
If I can’t make it to the theatre that night you can take my place.

Learner example:
First of all, it had been written that Danny Brook and Tina Truelove were starring, but Danny wasn’t there and somebody else took his place.

take effect
[C1] to start to produce results or changes

Dictionary example:
They had to wait ten minutes for the anaesthetic to take effect.

Learner example:
Some factories tried to organize the transport for the employees, but it took effect in small towns only, where people live with shorter distances.

take your time
[C1] to do something without hurrying

Dictionary example:
Take your time choosing – there's no hurry.

Learner example:
If you’re going to land at the 'Lugano–Agno' airport, as you told me in your last letter, the first thing I recommend to you is to be patient and take your time.

take it from me
[C1] accept that what I say is true, because I know or have experienced it

Dictionary example:
You could be doing a much less interesting job, take it from me.

Learner example:
As you probably already know, Greeks love sport so, take it from me, you won't have difficulty in finding sports facilities of any kind, wherever you decide to go.

take care of sth/doing sth
[C1] to be responsible for dealing with something

Dictionary example:
I did the cooking while Guy took care of the washing up.

Learner example:
As for special requirements, one man and one woman are vegetarians and the woman is allergic to cats. I hope you are able to take care of that.

take sth on board
[C1] to understand or accept an idea or a piece of information

Dictionary example:
Banks need to take on board the views of their customers.
Learner example:
The students feel that if the above suggestions were taken on board, the study centre could be an excellent support for them in their studies.

take the initiative
[C1] to be the first person to do something that solves a problem or improves a situation

Dictionary example:
Jackson had taken the initiative and prepared a report.

Learner example:
I took the initiative to contact Sue Wilton, who is the manager of the restaurant "El Plato".

take issue (with sb/sth)
[C1] to disagree with what someone says or writes

Dictionary example:
I would take issue with you on that.

Learner example:
On behalf of the staff who worked for this event, I would like to take issue with the report’s inaccuracies and unfair remarks.

take the liberty of doing sth
[C1] to do something that will have an effect on someone else, without asking their permission

Dictionary example:
I took the liberty of booking theatre seats for us.

Learner example:
I have taken the liberty of listing some of my ideas and suggestions and hope they will be of interest to you.

take note (of sth)
[C1] to pay careful attention to something

Dictionary examples:
Make sure you take note of what she says.
Safety standards are being tightened. Employers, take note.

Learner example:
I thank you for taking note of my view.

take sth personally
[C1] to think that someone is criticizing you or to feel that a failure or bad situation is your fault

Dictionary example:
You mustn't take everything so personally.
Learner example:
She tends to take things too personally, and sometimes she over[r]eacts.

take sb’s word for it
[C1] to believe what someone says without any proof

Dictionary example:
Take my word for it – this curry is very hot!

Learner example:
You can take my word for it that she is absolutely capable of carrying out this job – fond of children, patient, good-natured and competent.

UNDERSTAND
[C2] to understand something in a particular way

Dictionary example:
Whatever I say she'll take it the wrong way.

take sth as it comes
[C2] to deal with something as it happens, without planning for it

Dictionary example:
With an illness like this you just have to take every day as it comes.

Learner example:
We should, for once, put our [jea]lousy aside, start to appr[e]ciate what we have and take life as it comes.

MEASURE
[C2] to measure something

Dictionary example:
Have you taken her temperature?

Learner example:
The importance of absolute truth in keeping the laboratory records, in taking the temperature of the test animals, was "engraved" in our young minds.

I take it (that)
[C2] used when you think that what you say is probably true

Dictionary example:
I take it you’re not coming with us.

NEED A QUALITY
[C2] If something takes a particular quality, you need that quality in order to be able to do it.

Dictionary example:
It takes courage to challenge your manager.
Learner example:
It takes courage to give up a certain sense of security and face the unknown.

not take kindly to *sth*  
[C2] to not like something that someone says or does

Dictionary example:  
He doesn't take kindly to criticism.

Learner example:  
His wife didn't take kindly to his lateness and immediately snarled at him as though [she was] a tigress snapping her claws in a cat-fight.

take the law into your own hands  
[C2] to do something illegal in order to punish someone because you know that the law will not punish that person

Dictionary example:  
The police did nothing about the thefts, so they took the law into their own hands.

Learner example:  
Therefore, locals are scared to death, leading to their taking the law into their own hands.

take exception to *sth* FORMAL  
[C2] to be annoyed or insulted by something

Dictionary example:  
He took exception to being asked to sweep the floor.

Learner example:  
I hope you will not take exception to my words, but I think that this course of action is rather foolish and illogical.

take *sth* to heart  
[C2] If you take criticism or advice to heart, you think about it seriously, often because it upsets you

Dictionary example:  
Don't take it to heart – he was only joking about your hair.

Learner example:  
I hope you will take my adv[i]c[e] to heart.

take the plunge  
[C2] to do something important or difficult, especially after thinking about it for a long time

Dictionary example:  
We're finally going to take the plunge and buy a house.

Learner example:  
Being unable to stand this m[y]stery, I decided to take the plunge and follow him.
take shape
[C2] to start to develop and become more clear or certain

Dictionary example:
The project is slowly beginning to take shape.

Learner example:
It is high time that their dreams took shape!

take stock (of sth)
[C2] to think carefully about a situation before making a decision

Dictionary example:
We need to pause and take stock of what still needs doing.

take its toll
[C2] to have a bad effect on someone or something, especially over a long period of time

Dictionary example:
The stress was starting to take its toll on him.

Learner example:
The famine has obviously taken its toll on him.

take a turn for the better/worse
[C2] to become better or worse suddenly

Dictionary example:
The weather took a turn for the better.

Learner example:
Despite all the environmental problems it is up to us to prevent things from taking a turn for the worse.

NOUN

your take on sth
[C2] your opinion about a situation

Dictionary example:
What’s your take on the plan to close the library?

give and take
[C2] when people reach agreement by letting each person have part of what they want

Dictionary example:
In every friendship there has to be some give and take.
Learner example:
This relationship must be a balance of give and take, and considered as the basis for that process of growth which should help a young person to reach a point of life in which he or she will be able to make his or her own choices, being aware of the consequences.

**takeover** /ˈteɪkˌəʊ.vər/

**NOUN [c]**
[C1] when a company gets control of another company

*Dictionary example:*
The company was involved in a takeover last year.

*Learner example:*
Everything has to be cheap and fast and there are mergers and takeovers all the time.

**tale** /teɪl/

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] a story, especially one which is not true or is difficult to believe

*Dictionary examples:*
He told the most amazing tales about his life in India.
She told me some tale about missing the bus to explain her lateness.

*Learner example:*
She knows everything about Prague's history and many local stories and tales.

**talk** /tɔːk/

*Word family:*
**Nouns:** talk, talks
**Verbs:** talk
**Adjectives:** talkative

*Verb [i]*

**DISCUSS**
[B2] to discuss something with someone, often to try to find a solution to a disagreement

*Dictionary example:*
The two sides have agreed to talk.
Learner example:
I decided to talk to him and try to solve the problem.

**LECTURE**

[B2] to give a lecture on a subject

**Dictionary example:**
The next speaker will be talking about endangered insects.

**Learner example:**
We think that the best topic you could talk about is your latest book, you could try to develop the subject, explain to the members how to become a writer, from where and how do you get your ideas, and the subjects of your book.

**talk business/politics, etc.**

[C1] to discuss a particular subject

**Dictionary example:**
I don't like to talk business over lunch.

**Learner example:**
[Do] not talk politics or sports with him (!)

**know what you are talking about**

[C1] to understand a subject because of your experience

**Dictionary example:**
He doesn't know what he's talking about – he's never even been to Africa.

**Learner example:**
I beli[e]ve that you don't really know what you're talking about.

**talk about sth/doing sth**

[C2] to think about or make plans to do something in the future

**Dictionary example:**
They're talking about building a new fire station just up the road.

**Learner example:**
7 years ago they were talking about building another block of flats in the park.

**NOUN**

**TO GROUP**

[B2] [c] when someone speaks to a group of people about a particular subject

**Dictionary examples:**
He gave a talk about/on his visit to Bolivia.
I went to a few interesting talks.

**Learner example:**
Dear Tom, It was very nice to hear from you again and it's really kind of you to give a talk to our Cinema Club.
PEOPLE

[C2] [u] when people talk about what might happen or be true

Dictionary examples:
There's been some talk of possible job losses.
There's been a lot of talk about green issues lately.

Learner example:
It is also true that there has been a lot of talk about euthanasia.

talkative /ˈtɔːk.ə.tɪv/

Word family:
Nouns: talk, talks
Verbs: talk
Adjectives: talkative

ADJECTIVE
[C1] A talkative person talks a lot.

Dictionary example:
My son is very talkative.

Learner example:
I would advise you to film the classrooms, maybe a conversation class, during which students will be more talkative and less shy.

talks /tɔːks/

Word family:
Nouns: talk, talks
Verbs: talk
Adjectives: talkative

NOUN [PLURAL]
[C2] formal meetings, especially between political leaders, to discuss a problem and to try to reach an agreement

Dictionary examples:
peace talks
US officials are holding talks with EU leaders over trade.

Learner example:
It should be dealt with [through] peace talks and more active communications between the countries.
**tan** /tæn/  

**NOUN [C]**  
[B2] when your skin is brown from being in the sun  

*Dictionary example:*  
She had a lovely tan.  

*Learner example:*  
If you want to get a tan, this is the place to be.

**tangible** /ˈtæn.dʒə.bl/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] Something which is tangible is real and can be seen, touched, or measured.  

*Dictionary example:*  
tangible benefits/evidence  

*Learner example:*  
This was a tangible physical pleasure that I have felt ever since, whether I sing along with accompaniment, or in a chorus.

**tank** /tæŋk/  

**NOUN [C]**  
**VEHICLE**  
[C1] a large, strong military vehicle with a gun on it which moves on wheels inside large metal belts  

*Dictionary example:*  
Tanks rolled into the city at dawn.  

*Learner example:*  
They were inside the university and they were transmit[t]ing [o]n a radio frequency when the tanks invaded from the main entrance.  

**CONTAINER**  
[C2] a large container for storing liquid or gas  

*Dictionary examples:*  
a water tank  
a fuel/petrol tank
Learner example:
The heater is automatic and there is plenty of fuel oil in the tank.

tap /tæp/

NOUN [C]

KNOCK
[B2] a gentle knock or touch, or the noise made by knocking something gently

Dictionary examples:
I felt a tap on my shoulder.
There was a tap at the door.

Learner example:
While she was teaching, I felt asleep and two minutes later I felt a tap on my back.

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to knock or touch something gently

Dictionary example:
I tapped on the window to try to get her attention.

Learner example:
She lit up the whole stage when she danced, as she tapped her feet in rhythm with the music.

target /ˈtaːɡɪt/

NOUN [C]

OBJECT/PERSON SHOT AT
[B2] something or someone that you attack, shoot at, try to hit, etc.

Dictionary examples:
a military target
I had four shots but I didn't even hit the target.
Any major airport or station is potentially a terrorist target.
Foreign businesses in the region have become a target for attacks.

Learner example:
Paul Rebere, a famous professional assassin, had been in that room for two hours now, waiting for his target to show up.

AIM
[B2] something that you intend to achieve
Dictionary example:
If you want to lose weight, you have to set yourself a target.

Learner example:
My target is to be a professional tennis player but I need to work hard for it.

CRITICISM
[C1] [USUALLY NO PLURAL] the person or thing that people are criticizing or blaming for something

Dictionary example:
Recently she has been the target of a series of obscene phone calls.

Learner example:
People get nervous, the bus driver gets nervous and finally the interpreter becomes the target of passengers’ complaints.

target audience/market, etc.
[C2] the group of people that a programme, product, etc. is aimed at

Dictionary example:
Children aren’t really our target market.

Learner example:
The target audience will be students with intermediate- to upper-intermediate command of the language.

VERB [T]
[C2] to aim advertising, criticism, or a product at someone

Dictionary example:
The products are targeted at people in their late twenties.

Learner example:
When considering that the programme is targeted at young people, we conclude that it should be funny and amusing.

task /taːsk/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a piece of work, especially something unpleasant or difficult

Dictionary examples:
We usually ask interviewees to perform a few simple tasks on the computer just to test their aptitude.
The government now faces the difficult task of restructuring the entire health service.

Learner example:
To be honest, the task we were given was incredibly easy.
taste /ˈteɪst/  

Word family:  
Nouns: taste  
Verbs: taste  
Adjectives: tasty, tasteful, tasteless  

NOUN  

WHAT YOU LIKE  
[B2] [c or u] the particular things you like, such as styles of music, clothes, decoration, etc.  

Dictionary examples:  
You have very good taste!  
I don’t like his taste in music.  
She has very expensive tastes.  

Learner example:  
In my opinion, the variety of films you show cover all kinds of tastes.  

SHORT EXPERIENCE  
[B2] [NO PLURAL] a short experience of something different  

Dictionary example:  
This was my first taste of freedom.  

Learner example:  
Before you catch your plane, your group could visit our nice city and have a taste of our culture.  

ABILITY  
[B2] [u] the ability to experience different flavours in your mouth  

Dictionary example:  
When you’ve got a cold you often lose your sense of taste.  

be in good taste  
[C2] to be acceptable in a way that will not upset or anger people  

Dictionary example:  
His speech was in good taste.  

Learner example:  
I therefore thought that it would be in good taste to write about two of them.  

be in bad/poor taste  
[C2] to be unacceptable in a way that will upset or anger people  

Dictionary example:  
He told a joke about a plane crash which I thought was in rather poor taste.
**a taste for sth**
[C2] when you like or enjoy something

**Dictionary examples:**
I've developed a bit of a taste for opera.
Over the years I've lost my taste for travel.

**Learner example:**
This diary was supposedly in the hands of Madame Isabella Costa, the widow of the late Christian Rudolph, a German actor with a taste for antiques.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tasteful</th>
<th>/ˈteɪst.fəl/</th>
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**Word family:**
**Nouns:** taste  
**Verbs:** taste  
**Adjectives:** tasty, tasteful, tasteless

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] attractive and chosen for style and quality

**Dictionary example:**
a tasteful beige suit

**Learner example:**
They have refurbished the house in a very tasteful way, so you can still find some evidence of my grandmother once living there.

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**Word family:**
**Nouns:** taste  
**Verbs:** taste  
**Adjectives:** tasty, tasteful, tasteless

**ADJECTIVE**

**FOOD**
[C1] having no flavour

**Dictionary example:**
The meat was dry and tasteless.

**Learner example:**
The canteen’s food is tasteless and with almost the same menu every day.

**UGLY**
[C2] ugly or without style
Dictionary example:
tasteless decorations

Learner example:
A quick look at a major contemporary sports competition: Athletes bulging with muscles that were clearly not earned naturally, massive on–site medical invasion, and a tasteless supply of cheap gadgets.

OFFENSIVE
[C2] likely to upset or anger people

Dictionary example:
a tasteless joke

<table>
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<tr>
<th>word</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tax</td>
<td>/tæks/</td>
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**VERB** [v]

[C1] to make someone pay a tax

Dictionary example:
Husbands and wives may be taxed independently/together.

Learner example:
For example, polluters should be taxed more heavily, [and] they should be fined.

<table>
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<td>taxpayer</td>
<td>/ˈtæksˌpeɪ.ər/</td>
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**NOUN** [n]

[C2] a person who pays tax

Dictionary example:
Taxpayers deserve better services than this.

Learner example:
Unemployment is not only a problem [for] those without jobs but also one [for] those employed, at present, since taxpayers have to suffer the burden of providing [an] increasing number of people with unemployment with welfare [payments].

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<tr>
<td>teach</td>
<td>/tiːtʃ/ (taught, taught)</td>
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</table>

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** teacher, teaching
**Verbs:** teach
teach *sb* a lesson

[C2] to punish someone so that they will not behave badly again

**Dictionary example:**
The next time she's late, go without her. That should teach her a lesson.

**Learner example:**
He didn't want to hurt Diane just teach her a lesson.

teamwork /ˈtiːm.wɜːk/

**NOUN [U]**

[C1] when a group of people work well together

**Dictionary example:**
We won't achieve anything without good teamwork.

**Learner example:**
Nowadays teamwork is a skill that is highly demanded by employers.

tear¹ /teə/  

**VERB [i or ɪ] (tore, torn)**

tear *sth* out of/off/down, etc.

[C1] to remove something by pulling it quickly and violently

**Dictionary example:**
She tore his picture down from the wall.

**Learner example:**
If you can't bear seeing an ear being torn off from somebody's head, don't watch this video.

(b) torn between *sth* and *sth*

[C2] to be unable to decide between two choices

**Dictionary example:**
I'm torn between the apple pie and the chocolate mousse.

**Learner example:**
As a consequence, we find ourselves torn between what we want to eat and what we feel we should be eating.
**tear² /tɪə/**

**NOUN [C USUALLY PLURAL]**

**shed tears**

[C1] to cry

**Dictionary example:**
I shed a few tears when he left.

**Learner example:**
She was too preoccupied to talk to anybody and she had shed so many tears that she could cry no more.

**tease /tiːz/**

**VERB [I or T]**

[B2] to laugh at someone or say unkind things about them, either because you are joking or because you want to upset them

**Dictionary examples:**
I used to hate being teased about my red hair when I was at school.
I was only teasing, I didn't mean to upset you.

**Learner example:**
Ginny's classmates were always teasing her about her clothing.

**teaspoon /ˈtiː.spuːn/**

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a small spoon that is used for mixing drinks and measuring small amounts of food, or the amount this spoon can hold

**Dictionary example:**
Add two teaspoons of salt.

**Learner example:**
Lastly, thank you for asking me what I'd like from the USA, because I am a very serious collector of teaspoons with different countries' flags on them.
technical /ˈtek.nɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: technique, technician
Adjectives: technical
Adverbs: technically

ADJECTIVE

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY
[B2] relating to the knowledge, machines or methods used in science and industry

Dictionary example:
a few technical problems

Learner example:
Instead, due to some technical problems, it began at 20:15.

PRACTICAL SKILL
[B2] relating to practical skills and methods that are used in a particular activity

Dictionary example:
As a dancer she had great technical skill.

Learner example:
Federer glides over the court as if it’s the easiest thing, [and] apart from his technical and physical skills he is a great personality.

technically /ˈtek.nɪk.li/

Word family:
Nouns: technique, technician
Adjectives: technical
Adverbs: technically

ADVERB

SCIENCE/INDUSTRY
[C1] relating to the knowledge, machines, or methods used in science and industry

Dictionary example:
technically advanced weapons

Learner example:
Everybody has one of these technically engineered marvels and they come in different shapes, colours, prices and with a lot of configurable options.

DETAIL
[C2] according to the exact details of a rule, law, or fact
**Dictionary example:**
Irvine is technically British but lives in Dublin and races for the Irish team.

**Learner example:**
Working nine to five every weekday may not sound like too much of a bother, considering that it is technically only one third of the whole day, but we all know how depressing it can get when you’re doing the same thing over and over again.

---

**Technician**  /tekˈnɪʃ.ən/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** technique, technician
**Adjectives:** technical
**Adverbs:** technically

**Noun [C]**
[C1] someone whose job involves practical work with scientific or electrical equipment

**Dictionary example:**
a *lab* technician

**Learner example:**
It could be the fault of the sound technician, although I believe that for the next Activity day we [should] be provided with better equipment and loudspeakers.

---

**Techno**  /ˈtek.nəʊ/

**Noun [U]**
[C1] a type of electronic dance music

**Dictionary example:**
He’s really into techno.

**Learner example:**
As for the music, Red Hot Chilli [P]eppers did a really fine job with "Otherside", while the other video has the classic techno beat.

---

**Technological**  /ˌtek.nəˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kəl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** technology
**Adjectives:** technological
**Adverbs:** technologically
ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to, or involving, technology

Dictionary example:
Technological advances/developments in computing and telecommunications will reduce the need for many people to travel to work.

Learner example:
I think that the more technological developments we have, the more comfortable lives we enjoy.

technologically /ˌtek.nəˈlɒdʒ.i.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: technology
Adjectives: technological
Adverbs: technologically

ADVERB
[C1] in a way that relates to or involves technology

Dictionary example:
Their society was technologically advanced.

Learner example:
The economy nowadays is so technologically driven it is [a] common belief that having a job in the computer industry means high pay and perks.

tedious /ˈtiː.dɪ.əs/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] boring

Dictionary example:
a tedious job

Learner example:
The idea of going to work out to keep fit might be tedious sometimes but the majority of young people are interested in taking up an activity these days.

telecommunications /ˌtel.ɪˌkəˌmjuː.nɪˈkeɪ.ʃənz/

NOUN [PLURAL]
[B2] the sending and receiving of messages over distance, especially by telephone, radio and television
Dictionary example:
the telecommunications industry

Learner example:
Accompanied by the success of these telecommunications companies, a lot of jobs have been created.

telescope  /ˈtel.i.skəʊp/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a piece of equipment, in the shape of a tube, that makes things which are far away look bigger or nearer

Dictionary example:
a very powerful telescope

Learner example:
I just laugh when he tries to convince me of their existence, once he even told me that he saw a spaceship in the sky while he was observing the stars with his telescope.

tell  /tel/ (told, told)

VERB

can tell
[B2] to know or recognize something from what you hear, see, etc.

Dictionary examples:
You could tell that he was tired.
You can never tell whether Hajime's being serious or not.

Learner example:
I could tell it was the voice of a man, but I failed to identify it.

UNDERSTAND FROM
[B2] [ɪ] If something tells you something, it gives you information.

Dictionary example:
What does the survey tell us about the lives of teenagers?

Learner example:
We have all seen the reports which tell us about the problems of pollution from cars.

tell the difference
[C1] to notice a difference between two things
Dictionary examples:
I can’t tell the difference between an American and a Canadian accent.
This coffee is about half the price of that one and yet you really can’t tell the difference.

Learner example:
Not only will their critical sen[s]e atrophy but also they will not be able to tell the difference between what is right and wrong.

(I’ll) tell you what INFORMAL
[C2] used to suggest a plan

Dictionary example:
Tell you what, let’s go swimming and then get a pizza.

Learner example:
I’ll tell you what, why don’t you let me pay [for] a hotel room for a week, just the time you need to [make] some arrangements?

I told you so
[C2] used to say that you were right and that someone should have believed you

Dictionary examples:
He’s lazy? I told you so, didn’t I?
‘I think I’ve taken on too much work.’ ‘I told you so, didn’t I?’

Learner example:
See, I told you so”, Azman said with a grin.

telly /ˈtel.i/  
NOUN [C or U]  
[C1]  
television

Dictionary example:
I saw her on the telly.

Learner example:
In the end I think it is only a good laugh when there is nothing else on telly.

temper /ˈtem.pə/  
NOUN  
ANGER  
[B2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] when someone becomes angry very quickly
Dictionary examples:
She has a real temper.
He’s got a really bad temper.

Learner example:
In my opinion, the behaviour of the old lady is somewhat rude and sometimes, through her bad temper, she offends the customers.

lose your temper
[B2] to suddenly become angry

Dictionary example:
The children behaved so badly that I lost my temper.

Learner example:
Yesterday, I must confess, I lost my temper with my son.

keep your temper
[C2] to succeed in staying calm and not becoming angry

Dictionary example:
I can’t discuss this with you unless you promise to keep your temper.

Learner example:
He never offends people and he keeps his temper even if someone insults him.

temporarily /ˈtem.pəˌrər.i/  

Word family:
Adjectives: temporary
Adverbs: temporarily

ADVERB
[B2] for a short time

Dictionary example:
This office is closed temporarily for redecoration.

Learner example:
We can work temporarily [for] up to 6 months.

tempt /tempt/  

Word family:
Nouns: temptation
Verbs: tempt
**VERB [r]**

**be tempted**

[B2] to want something or to want to do something

**Dictionary examples:**
"Did you apply for that job?" "Well, I was very tempted but in the end I decided not to."
I was tempted to resign after my boss was so rude to me.

**Learner example:**
I am tempted to start taking tennis lessons at your sport[s] club if it's possible.

---

**temptation /tempˈteɪ.ʃən/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** temptation
**Verbs:** tempt

**NOUN [C or U]**

[B2] a feeling that you want to do or have something, although you know you should not

**Dictionary examples:**
In these situations, there is a huge temptation to lie.
As a young actress, she managed to resist the temptation to move to Hollywood.

**Learner example:**
I felt the irresistible temptation to meet new people and feel some freedom.

---

**tenant /ˈten.ənt/**

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] someone who pays rent to live in a room, house, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
I have tenants in my flat at the moment.

**Learner example:**
In an apartment building if all tenants have the will to see the whole structure as their home we can create beautiful surroundings.
tend  /ˈtend/  

Word family:
Nouns: tendency
Verbs: tend

VERB

tend to do *sth*  
[B2] to often do a particular thing or be likely to do a particular thing

Dictionary examples:
I tend to wear dark colours.
July and August tend to be our busiest months.

Learner example:
When something is not enjoyable, we tend not to do it.

tendency  /ˈten.dən.si/  

Word family:
Nouns: tendency
Verbs: tend

NOUN [C]
[C1] something that someone often does, or something that often happens

Dictionary examples:
She has a tendency to talk for too long.
There is a growing tendency for companies to employ people on short contracts.

Learner example:
There is a tendency to choose canned and preserved foods instead of fresh ones.

tender  /ˈten.dər/  

Word family:
Nouns: tenderness
Adjectives: tender

ADJECTIVE

GENTLE
[C2] kind and gentle

Dictionary example:
a tender kiss/look
Learner example:
I like to observe the careful and gentle way in which a mother communicates to [her] four-year-old child, selecting the words with great care with a tender look in her eyes.

**FOOD**
[C2] Tender meat or vegetables are soft and easy to cut.

Dictionary example:
This meat is lovely and tender.

Learner example:
Their steaks are so tender you hardly need your knife and sometimes the plates are too small for the steaks.

**at the tender age of 8/17/25, etc.** LITERARY
[C2] at the young age of 8/17/25, etc

Dictionary example:
She first appeared on stage at the tender age of 14.

Learner example:
She met my father at the tender age of 14, and she soon knew that this was the man she wanted to stay with for the rest of her life.

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**tenderness  /ˈten.də.nəs/**

Word family:
Nouns: tenderness
Adjectives: tender

**NOUN [U]**
[C2] the quality of being kind and gentle

Dictionary example:
We were struck by his tenderness towards the old people.

Learner example:
But I will cherish the fact that I have done my best to provide my children with love and tenderness, while watching them turning into adults in a brave new world such as ours.

---

**tense  /tents/**

Word family:
Nouns: tension
Adjectives: tense

---

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ADJECTIVE

NERVOUS

[B2] nervous, worried, and not able to relax

Dictionary example:
She was very tense as she waited for the interview.

Learner example:
Beyond the fact you feel tired and tense, I'm afraid that if you keep on working this way, you'll get [serious] health problems in the future.

SITUATION


Dictionary example:
There were some tense moments in the second half of the game.

Learner example:
There was a tense atmosphere.

tension /ˈtenʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: tension
Adjectives: tense

NOUN

FEELING

[B2] [u] a feeling that you are nervous, worried, and not relaxed

Dictionary example:
You could feel the tension in the room as we waited for our exam results.

Learner example:
Today's world is also known for stress and tension.

BETWEEN PEOPLE/GROUPS

[B2] [c or u] a feeling of fear or anger between people, groups or countries who do not trust each other

Dictionary examples:
etnic/racial tension
There are growing tensions between the two countries.

Learner example:
I was only eight years old but yet I could feel the tension between my parents.
term /tɜːm/

NOUN

WORD

[B2] [c] a word or phrase that is used to refer to a particular thing, especially in a technical or scientific subject

Dictionary examples:
a legal/medical/scientific/technical term
'Without let or hindrance' is a legal term which means 'freely'.

Learner example:
Extreme overworking can [even] lead to death and that was discovered and confirmed by Japanese doctors who created a special medical term for the [illness] caused by overworking.

terminal /ˈtɜː.mənəl/

NOUN [c]

[B2] a building where you can get onto an aircraft, bus, or ship

Dictionary example:
Your flight to Perth will leave from Terminal 4.

Learner example:
The Hotel that I booked for your group is the Moat House Hotel in Feltham, from Heathrow Terminal 3 [where] you will arrive on 29th of June, the best way to go there is to catch the minibus No 32.

terms /tɜːzmz/ /tɜːzm/ [PLURAL]

NOUN [PLURAL]

RULES

[B2] the rules of an agreement

Dictionary examples:
your terms of employment
Under the terms of their contract, employees must give 3 months' notice if they leave.

Learner example:
So we would be very grateful to get some information about the club and the terms of membership.
in ... terms/in terms of *sth*
[B2] used to explain which part of a problem or situation you are referring to

**Dictionary examples:**
In financial terms, the project was not a success.
In terms of quality control, the company has made great improvements.

**Learner example:**
In terms of accommodation, they [provide] it all which is good, but unfortunately you have to share your room with another person, which is not so good if you're shy or something like that.

**be on good/bad/friendly, etc. terms**
[C2] to have a good/bad, etc. relationship with someone

**Dictionary example:**
I'm still on friendly terms with my old colleagues.

**Learner example:**
The fact that they both live alone requires them to be on good terms with the rest of us.

**not be on speaking terms**
[C2] to not speak to someone because you have argued with them

**Dictionary example:**
My brother and I aren't on speaking terms.

**Learner example:**
Just imagine how many are those who hate their relatives or at least one of their relatives and aren't even on speaking terms with them or him.

**in no uncertain terms**
[C2] in a direct and often angry way

**Dictionary example:**
I told him to go away in no uncertain terms.

**Learner example:**
Intellectuals are used to saying in no uncertain terms that money represents the bad side of the sport.

**come to terms with *sth***
[C2] to accept a sad situation

**Dictionary example:**
He still hasn't come to terms with his brother's death.

**Learner example:**
She had, at last, come to terms with her loss and although she still, deep in her heart, grieved for Michael she now knew that she could move on.
terrace /ˈter.əs/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a flat area outside a house, restaurant, etc. where you can sit

Dictionary example:
We had our drinks on the terrace.

Learner example:
I enjoyed the evenings sitting on your terrace listening to your interesting stories about your childhood.

terribly /ˈter.ə.bli/

Word family:
Adjectives: terrible
Adverbs: terribly

ADVERB

VERY BADLY
[B2] very badly

Dictionary example:
I slept terribly last night.

Learner example:
Although he s[a]ng quite well, he danced terribly and that spoiled part of the show.

terrific /təˈrɪf.ɪk/

ADJECTIVE

LARGE/SERIOUS
[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] very large, great, or serious

Dictionary examples:
a terrific increase in prices
a terrific storm

Learner example:
Furthermore, the rubbish collection was a terrific problem, the smell was awful.
**terrify /ˈter.ə.fai/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** terror, terrorism, terrorist
- **Verbs:** terrify
- **Adjectives:** terrified, terrifying

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to frighten someone very much

**Dictionary example:**
The idea of parachuting out of a plane terrifies me.

**Learner example:**
Instead my thoughts drifted away and started to terrify me once more.

**terrifying /ˈter.əˌfɑː.ɪŋ/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** terror, terrorism, terrorist
- **Verbs:** terrify
- **Adjectives:** terrified, terrifying

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] extremely frightening

**Dictionary example:**
It was a terrifying experience.

**Learner example:**
That was the most terrifying thing I have ever seen.

**territorial /ˌter.ɪˈtɔːr.iəl/**

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** territory
- **Adjectives:** territorial

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] relating to the land that is owned or controlled by a particular country

**Dictionary example:**
a territorial dispute

**Learner example:**
In former times these territorial and religious disputes resulted in a decrease of population.
**territory** /ˈter.ət.r.i/  

Word family:  
Nouns: territory  
Adjectives: territorial  

NOUN  

**COUNTRY'S LAND**  
[B2] [c or u] land that is owned or controlled by a particular country  

**Dictionary examples:**  
He was shot down in enemy territory.  
The UN is sending aid to the occupied territories.  

**Learner example:**  
In a way, Sweden is a unique country because it has never had any wars on its territory and avoided the harmful effects of any conquerors.

**PERSON'S/ANIMAL'S LAND**  
[B2] [c or u] an area that an animal or person thinks belongs to them  

**Dictionary example:**  
Cats like to protect their territory.  

**Learner example:**  
I think that man shouldn't take animals out of their own territory.

**AREA OF KNOWLEDGE**  
[C2] [u] an area of knowledge or experience  

**Dictionary example:**  
With this project we'll be moving into unknown territory.  

**Learner example:**  
Sure, breaking the habit and 'exploring new, unknown territory' will certainly seem somewhat frightening at first, but we all have to deal with it.

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**terror** /ˈter.ər/  

Word family:  
Nouns: terror, terrorism, terrorist  
Verbs: terrify  
Adjectives: terrified, terrifying  

NOUN [u or l]  
[B2] a feeling of being very frightened
Dictionary examples:
They fled from the city in terror.
I will never forget the look of terror in her face.

Learner example:
I froze with terror.

terrorism /ˈter.ə.rɪ.zm/

Word family:
Nouns: terror, terrorism, terrorist
Verbs: terrify
Adjectives: terrified, terrifying

NOUN [u]
[B2] | the use of violence for political purposes, for example putting bombs in public places

Dictionary examples:
Governments must cooperate if they are to fight international terrorism.
The bomb explosion was one of the worst acts of terrorism that Italy has experienced in recent years.

terrorist /ˈter.ə.rɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: terror, terrorism, terrorist
Verbs: terrify
Adjectives: terrified, terrifying

NOUN [c]
[B2] | someone who is involved in terrorism

Dictionary examples:
There has been an increase in terrorist attacks.
The government has said that it will not be intimidated by terrorist threats.

Learner example:
Some people believed that their town was occupied by terrorists or even aliens.

tertiary /ˈtɜː.ʃə.rɪ/
**Dictionary example:**
a tertiary institution

**Learner example:**
Most poor families can only afford [to send] their children up to the secondary education and their eldest child up to the tertiary level.

test /ˈtest/  

**NOUN [C]**

**SITUATION**
[B2] a situation that shows how good something is

**Dictionary example:**
This project will be a real test of his ability.

**Learner example:**
It’s true that asserting oneself in society is a real test of self-reliance and that a lot of people encounter hardships.

**VERB [T]**

**CHECK**
[B2] to do something in order to discover if something is safe, works correctly, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
None of our products are tested on animals.

**Learner example:**
Before we can use a certain med[i]cine, hairspray, make-up, [etc.,] it might have been tested on animals to see [what] their reaction is.

**PROVE QUALITY/STRENGTH, ETC.**
[B2] If a situation tests someone, it proves how good, strong, etc. they are.

**Dictionary example:**
This next match will really test them.

**Learner example:**
This trip was organised by our form tutor, he wanted to test us [to see] if we trust[ed] each other and worked in a team.

testify /ˈtest.i.fai/  

**VERB [I]**

[C2] to say what you know or believe is true in a law court
Dictionary example:
Elliott testified that he had met the men in a bar.

Learner example:
They took her to the station and promised her immunity if she would testify against James.

text /tekst/

NOUN

BOOK/PLAY

[B2] [c] a book or play that is studied for an examination

Dictionary example:
'Jane Eyre' is our set text this year.

texture /ˈteks.tʃər/

NOUN [C or U]

[C1] the way that something feels when you touch it

Dictionary example:
wood with a rough texture

Learner example:
At the college they teach you how to make the arrangements, the use of colour, space, movement and texture.

thankful /ˈθæŋk.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: thanks
Verbs: thank
Adjectives: thankful
Adverbs: thankfully

ADJECTIVE

[C1] pleased or grateful about something

Dictionary example:
We were thankful that none of the children saw the accident.

Learner example:
This revolution led to our freedom and we are thankful to the heroic people of 1821, because if they didn't start the revolution, we wouldn't be here today.
thankfully /ˈθæŋk.fəli/  

Word family:  
Nouns: thanks  
Verbs: thank  
Adjectives: thankful  
Adverbs: thankfully  

Adverb  
[C1] used at the beginning of a sentence to show that you are pleased or grateful about something  
Dictionary example:  
Thankfully, nobody was hurt.  
Learner example:  
Thankfully, with the help of the government, a recycling centre was built nearby and so the rubbish littering the streets, as well as that being taken to the dump, was cut down by 60%.

thanks /θæŋks/  

Word family:  
Nouns: thanks  
Verbs: thank  
Adjectives: thankful  
Adverbs: thankfully  

Exclamation  

thanks to sb/sth  
[B2] because of someone or something  
Dictionary examples:  
I passed my driving test, thanks to the extra help my dad gave me.  
It's thanks to Sandy that I heard about the job.  

Noun [plural]  
[B2] words or actions that show you are grateful or pleased about something  
Dictionary examples:  
They expressed their thanks to the organisers.  
He wrote a letter of thanks to the hospital.  
Learner example:  
Give thanks also to your wife, we really appreciate her marvellous cooking.
CONJUNCTION

in that
[C2] because of or for this reason

Dictionary example:
The course is good in that it provides a very practical training.

Learner example:
Nowadays it is widely argued that professional sports are damaging to people's health in that they involve gruelling training sessions as an integral part of the occupation.

PRONOUN (PLURAL those)

that's it
[B2] used to say that something is correct

Dictionary example:
You need to push the two pieces together. That's it.

REACTION
[B2] used to express a reaction to something

Dictionary examples:
I didn't know she'd been so ill. That's terrible.
Turn the engine on, then put the car in gear. That's right.
Smile for the camera. That's more like it.

PAST
[B2] used to refer to events or experiences in the past

Dictionary example:
That was before we had a car.

Learner example:
That was when I went to live in Barcelona by myself in a student residence.

that's that
[C1] used to say that something has happened or a decision has been made and there is nothing more to say or do

Dictionary example:
I won't agree to it and that's that.

Learner example:
That's it and that's that!" as they say in the "Sorbis–advertis[e]ment" Bye!

2421
that is (to say)

[C1] used to correct something you have said or give more information about something

Dictionary example:
Everybody was at the meeting, well everyone except Jeanne, that is.

Learner example:
All in all, the students who participated in this programme were quite happy and had an enjoyable time there, except for some, that is.

this and that

[C2] different things which are not very important

Dictionary example:
"What are you doing today?" "Oh, just this and that."

Learner example:
He used to call his friends daily, chat about this and that, release the tension through silly jokes, even go out with them once in a while.

ADVERB

[B2] used when describing the size, amount, or state of something or someone

Dictionary examples:
She's too young to walk that far.
It wasn't (all) that good.

Learner example:
My English isn't that bad, actually I have been taught English in school for six years.

the /ðiː/

DETERMINER

TIME

[B2] used before numbers that refer to periods of ten years

Dictionary example:
the sixties

Learner example:
For example, people in the 1950s who didn't have computers are likely to have had difficulty in checking information, booking tickets, and communicating with each other.

COMPARE

[B2] used before each of two adjectives or adverbs to show how one thing changes depending on another
Dictionary example:
The longer we live here, the more we like it.

Learner example:
In many cases, the more things you learn, the less things you know.

the first person /ˌfɜːstˈpɜː.sən/

NOUN [NO PLURAL]
[B2] the form of a verb or pronoun that is used when people are speaking or writing about themselves. For example, 'I' and 'we' are first person pronouns.

Dictionary example:
Autobiographies are written in the first person.

theft /θeft/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] the action or crime of stealing something

Dictionary examples:
car theft
Unfortunately, we have had several thefts in the building recently.

Learner example:
So, who was [it] that made this [such a] perfectly-organised theft?

the last minute /ˌlɑːstˈmɪnɪt/

NOUN [NO PLURAL]
[B2] the latest possible opportunity for doing something

Dictionary examples:
They only told me at the last minute that they couldn't come.
Why do you always leave everything till the last minute?

Learner example:
We were very disappointed to hear that the actor was replaced by [an]other at the last minute.
theme /θiːm/

**NOUN [c]**
[B2] the subject of a talk, book, film, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
The theme of loss runs through most of his novels.

**Learner example:**
I think that the basic theme of the book is very original and the author has written lots of great novels.

the middle class /ˌmɪd.l̩ˈklɑːs/

**NOUN (also the middle classes)**
[C1] the social group consisting of well-educated people who have good jobs and are neither very rich nor very poor

**Dictionary example:**
These tax increases will affect the middle class badly.

**Learner example:**
They also show the efforts parents make to keep the family happy, especially when the middle class in Argentina started to struggle after the economic crisis in 2001.

themselves /ðəmˈselvz/

**PRONOUN**

**EMPHASIS**
[B2] used to emphasize the pronoun 'they' or the particular group of people you are referring to

**Dictionary examples:**
The staff themselves were unhappy with the decision.
They themselves had no knowledge of what was happening.

**Learner example:**
Many times they think they themselves [have taken] part in a car race.
then /ðen/

Adverb

In addition
[B2] used in order to add something to what you have just said

Dictionary examples:
I've got two essays to write and then my science project to finish.
This is the standard model, then there's the luxury version which costs more.

Now and then
[B2] If something happens now and then, it happens sometimes but not very often.

Dictionary example:
I love chocolate, but I only eat it now and then.

Learner example:
If you really love to have a snack now and then, try to eat fruit and vegetables, instead of sweets.

every now and then
[C1] sometimes, but not often

Dictionary example:
We still meet up every now and then.

Learner example:
Each day choose 10 new words and learn them by heart. In a week you will have learned 70 new words, and in a year 3640, a lot of words. Please, do not forget to repeat them every now and then.

Theoretical /θɪəˈret.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: theory
Adjectives: theoretical
Adverbs: theoretically

Adjective

Not proved
[C2] based on ideas rather than practical experience

Dictionary example:
This explanation is entirely theoretical.

Learner example:
And while we are lucky enough to be discussing this on a theoretical level, it is good to remember that for some people in the world, the lack of money leads to death on a daily basis.
IDEAS

[C2] based on the ideas that relate to a subject, not the practical uses of that subject

Dictionary example:
theoretical physics

Learner example:
Prof. Haken is the renowned head of one of the institutes of theoretical physics at the University of Stuttgart.

theoretically /θɪəˈret.ɪ.kli/

Word family:
Nouns: theory
Adjectives: theoretical
Adverbs: theoretically

ADVERB

[C2] in a way that obeys some rules but is not likely

Dictionary example:
It is theoretically possible.

Learner example:
Already now the problem of hunger and starvation seems immense, though – theoretically – the earthly supplies of food are sufficient to feed the approximately 8,000,000,000 people who live on this planet.

theory /ˈθɪə.rɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: theory
Adjectives: theoretical
Adverbs: theoretically

NOUN

IDEA

[B2] [C] an idea or set of ideas that is intended to explain something

Dictionary examples:
Darwin's theory of evolution
He has a theory that the hole was caused by a meteorite.

Learner example:
During his full time schedule, he worked on his project about "relative theory".
in theory
[B2] If something is possible in theory, it should be possible, but often it does not happen in that way.

Dictionary example:
In theory, the journey ought to take three hours, but in practice it usually takes four because of roadworks.

Learner example:
To sum up, in theory you can find a lot of solutions [to] this problem, but in practi[c]e, actually some people who hunt without permission [aren't] punished.

PRINCIPLES
[C2] [u] the set of principles on which a subject is based

Dictionary example:
economic theory

Learner example:
Only after a few decades of further research did it become clear how many possible applications game theory actually has.

therapeutic /,θer.əˈpjuː.tɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: therapy, therapist
Adjectives: therapeutic

ADJECTIVE

HEALTH
[C1] helping to cure a disease or improve your health

Dictionary example:
the therapeutic benefits of massage

Learner example:
The drink produced, tsikondia, is one of the ne[c]essary drinks for the cold nights of winter. It is also believed to have therapeutic effects on people's health.

RELAXED
[C1] helping you to feel happier and more relaxed

Dictionary example:
I find gardening very therapeutic.

Learner example:
Some people consider shopping therapeutic, much like a hobby.
therapist /ˈθer.ə.pɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: therapy, therapist
Adjectives: therapeutic

NOUN [c]
[C1] someone whose job is to treat a particular type of mental or physical illness

Dictionary example:
a speech therapist

Learner example:
Teams [for athletes or swimmers] are built of: coach, physiologist, diet therapist, physiotherapist, doctor and massage therapist.

therapy /ˈθer.ə.pi/

Word family:
Nouns: therapy, therapist
Adjectives: therapeutic

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] the work of treating mental or physical illness without using an operation

Dictionary examples:
speech therapy
group therapy

Learner example:
In another way, I can say that books [are] the best stress management therapy; they are easy to carry wherever you go.

there /ðeər/

ADVERB

POINT
[B2] at a particular point in a process or activity

Dictionary examples:
Do you want to play another game or do you want to stop there?
I'll have to stop you there, we've run out of time.
Keep on trying – you'll get there in the end.

Learner example:
My misfortunes don't stop there.
here and there
[B2] in several different places but without any pattern

Dictionary example:
Tall trees were growing here and there.

Learner example:
In the cinemas there were a few broken seats here and there.

thereafter /ˌðeəˈraːf.təˈr/ ADVERB FORMAL
[C2] after a particular amount, time, or event

Dictionary example:
Faxes cost £1.10p for the first page, and 70p for each page thereafter.

Learner example:
The unemployment rate thereafter started to rise yearly and reached its highest rate in March 1998 (approximately 5.5%).

thereby /ˌðeəˈbaɪ/ ADVERB FORMAL
[C1] as a result of a particular action or event

Dictionary example:
The new dam will improve the water supply and thereby reduce hunger and disease.

Learner example:
By interacting live with people from all over the world, you can use non-native languages on a daily basis and thereby help developing your foreign language skills.

thermometer /θərˈmɒm.ɪ.tər/ NOUN [C]
[B2] a piece of equipment that measures the temperature of air or of your body

Dictionary example:
Keep the thermometer under your tongue.
### the second person /ˌsek.əndˈpɜː.sən/

**NOUN [NO PLURAL]**

[B2] the form of a verb or pronoun that is used when referring to the person being spoken or written to

**Dictionary example:**
'You' is a second person pronoun.

### thesis /ˈθiː.sɪs/ (PLURAL theses)

**NOUN [C]**

**WRITING**

[B2] a long piece of writing that you do as part of an advanced university course

**Dictionary example:**
a doctoral thesis

**Learner example:**
For me, this is an advantage because I need to have a lot of information for my doctoral thesis.

**IDEA**

[C2] formal a theory that is suggested and can then be argued with or agreed with

**Dictionary example:**
That is the central thesis of the book.

**Learner example:**
This thesis applies not only to music but, in my opinion, also to many other walks of life.

### the third person /ˌθɜːdˈpɜː.sən/

**NOUN [NO PLURAL]**

[B2] the form of a verb or pronoun that is used when referring to the person or thing being spoken about or described

**Dictionary example:**
'She' is a third person pronoun.
the upper class ˌʌp.əˈklɑːs

NOUN (also the upper classes)
[C1] the social group consisting of the people of the highest social class, who are usually rich

Dictionary example:
The upper class usually send their children to expensive private schools.

Learner example:
I've just chosen to travel south and back in time to be a Roman lady, belonging to the upper class of course, living an easy life full of pleasure.

the working class ˌwɜː.kɪŋˈklɑːs

NOUN (also the working classes)
[C1] the social group consisting of people who do not get paid much money and who often do physical work

Dictionary example:
He sees the prime minister's comments as an attack on the working class.

Learner example:
A member of the working class, for example, was not expected to wear something smart, as he didn't represent the company.

they /ðeɪ/

PRONOUN

PEOPLE
[B2] people in general

Dictionary example:
They say that breaking a mirror brings you seven years' bad luck.

Learner example:
They say it is getting harder and harder to live without computers. But is it really true?
**thick** /θɪk/

**ADJECTIVE**

SMOKE, ETC.

[B2] difficult to see through

**Dictionary example:**
Thick, black smoke was pouring out of the chimney.

**Learner example:**
We tried to walk [down] the stairs but the smoke was just getting thicker and thicker so we had to climb up on the roof.

**NOUN**

through thick and thin

[C2] If you support or stay with someone through thick and thin, you always support or stay with them in easy and difficult situations.

**Dictionary example:**
She’d stuck by Neil through thick and thin.

**Learner example:**
Fortunately Carol was strong enough to stand by him through thick and thin and made her dearest husband give up drinking.

**ADVERB**

thick and fast

[C2] quickly and in large numbers

**Dictionary example:**
Calls were coming in thick and fast by the end of the programme.

**thigh** /θaɪ/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] the top part of your leg above your knee

**Dictionary example:**
My thighs were aching after the climb.

**Learner example:**
Cycling is – among other things – very healthy, the heart starts pumping blood, your lungs get exercised and of course, you get smashing, sexy thighs.
thin /θɪn/

**ADJECTIVE (thinner, thinnest)**

**wear thin**
[C2] If a feeling or explanation starts to wear thin, it becomes weaker or harder to accept.

**Dictionary example:**
I've warned you several times about being late and my **patience** is wearing thin.

**Learner example:**
Hardly could they fight against others, when their own convictions had started to wear thin.

**vanish into thin air**
[C2] to suddenly disappear in a mysterious way

**Dictionary example:**
He was walking ahead of me on the path and then he just vanished into thin air.

**Learner example:**
The fact is that vacations are not problem-solving, and whatever one wants to leave behind does not vanish into thin air, it just lurks in the corner of your mind until the returning date.

**NOUN**

**through thick and thin**
[C2] If you support or stay with someone through thick and thin, you always support or stay with them in easy and difficult situations.

**Dictionary example:**
She'd stuck by Neil through thick and thin.

**Learner example:**
Fortunately Carol was strong enough to stand by him through thick and thin and made her dearest husband give up drinking.

thing /θɪŋ/

**NOUN**

**IDEA**

[B2] [c] used to refer to an idea or comment

**Dictionary example:**
I can't believe he would say such a thing!

**Learner example:**
I got mad and said "How dare you say such a thing."
the whole thing
[B2] everything about a situation

Dictionary examples:
I just want to forget the whole thing.
The whole thing is ridiculous!

Learner example:
And, less than five minutes later, our mother knew the whole thing.

among other things
[B2] used to say that there are other details or examples in addition to the ones you are mentioning

Dictionary example:
It's worth visiting the museum while you’re here. There's an exhibition about Darwin and a good collection of paintings, among other things.

Learner example:
To go by tram or bus is a waste of time and travelling by car is – among other things – a waste of money.

no such thing
[B2] used to emphasize that something does not exist

Dictionary example:
There's no such thing as ghosts!

Learner example:
But when I asked for these, I was told that no such thing existed and so the advertisement was once again proved wrong.

the thing is...
[B2] INFORMAL used to introduce an answer, comment or explanation

Dictionary examples:
I'd love to go out tonight, but the thing is, I've got to finish my report.
The funny/strange thing is that we'd actually met before.

Learner example:
The thing is that on July 23rd I had not found any outfit that suited me yet, which made me feel desperate.

it's a good thing
[B2] If it's a good thing that something happened, it is lucky or fortunate that it happened.

Dictionary example:
It’s a good thing (that) we booked our tickets early.
Learner example:
I think it's a good thing that your parents [are going to] come, because [...] maybe it would make it easier for you to convince them to let you spend a week here during Xmas.

**not a single thing**

[B2] not anything

**Dictionary example:**
After the guests had gone, there wasn't a single thing left to eat.

**Learner example:**
I'm terribly sorry, but I hit it with my hand while trying to turn on the light: I wasn’t able to see a single thing because it was pitch-dark all around.

**the main thing**

[B2] the most important fact in a situation

**Dictionary example:**
You’re happy and that’s the main thing.

**Learner example:**
The main thing is to be happy and to love yourself.

**PERSON/ANIMAL**

[B2] [c] used to refer to a person or animal when you are expressing your feelings towards them

**Dictionary examples:**
You look tired, you poor thing.
He’s spending three months in Barbados, lucky thing!

**Learner example:**
When I go to the zoo I like to see them close by me, [and] look at them carefully; but at the same time I say: "Poor thing, I wouldn't like to be one of them."

**all things considered**

[C1] used for saying that something is true in general if you think about all its aspects

**Dictionary example:**
The show was a great success, all things considered.

**Learner example:**
All things considered, it seems like "Kavanagh Catering Services” would be most suitable for the students.

**the next best thing**

[C1] the thing that is best, if you cannot have or do the thing you really want

**Dictionary example:**
Coaching football is the next best thing to playing.
Learner example:
For many working people, there is hardly time to cook and prepare your dinner, so the next best thing is to rush into a Macdonalds' or Burger King.

**a sure thing**
[C1] something that is certain to happen

**Dictionary example:**
Death is the one sure thing about life.

**Learner example:**
There is only one sure thing, we are not able to even imagine what we will be able to do in the future to get communicated.

**do your own thing**
[C2] to live, act or behave in the way you want to, without depending on other people

**Dictionary example:**
While he was away travelling, he pretty much did his own thing.

**Learner example:**
Their attitude only stimulated me to do “my own thing”.

**for one thing**
[C2] used to give a reason for something

**Dictionary example:**
You can’t give Amy that shirt – for one thing it’s too small for her.

**Learner example:**
Well, for one thing, you cannot spy on your subjects 24 hours a day – they would not allow it, and it would be prohibitively expensive.

**the next thing I knew**
[C2] used to talk about part of a story that happens in a sudden and surprising way

**Dictionary example:**
A car came speeding round the corner, and the next thing I knew I was lying on the ground.

**Learner example:**
And the next thing I knew was that I was playing cards with 3 men.

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**think** /θɪŋk/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** thinker
**Verbs:** think, rethink
**Adjectives:** unthinkable
VERB (thought, thought)

CONSIDER PEOPLE

[B2] [i] to consider a person's needs or wishes

Dictionary example:
She's always thinking of others.

Learner example:
If you don't think of your family and private life, at least think of your health.

not think straight

[C1] If you cannot think straight, you are not thinking clearly about something.

Dictionary example:
I was so tired, I couldn't think straight.

Learner example:
My stress wouldn't let me think straight.

think of sb/sth as sth

[C1] to have a particular opinion about someone or something

Dictionary example:
They were thought of as slightly eccentric.

Learner example:
Today's youth is thought of as lazy "couch potatoes" and unhealthy "computer-freaks", but this is only true for the minority of young people.

think twice

[C1] to carefully consider whether what you are planning is a good idea

Dictionary example:
I'd think twice about spending so much money on one thing, if I were you.

Learner example:
Now I will think twice before I buy your paper again.

not think twice

[C1] to do something immediately, without considering whether it is a good idea

Dictionary example:
When he asked me out, I didn't think twice!

Learner example:
Your advertisement seemed very convincing and as I intended to travel to exotic locations I did not think twice.

not think much of sb/sth

[C2] to not like someone, or to believe that something is not good quality
Dictionary example:
I don’t think much of the food here.

Learner example:
When they met for the first time, they did not think much of each other.

Who would have thought...?

[C2] used to express how surprising something is

Dictionary example:
Who would have thought that buying a house could take so long!

Learner example:
Who would have thought that instead of getting square-eyed from watching too much TV, Malcolm was getting sore-eyed from spending too much time scribbling in his leat[h]er-bound diary late at night?

think highly/a lot of sb/sth

[C2] to admire someone, or to believe that something is good quality

Dictionary example:
Simon thinks a lot of you, you know.

Learner example:
He was well known all over the world and even critics thought highly of him.

come to think of it

[C2] used to say that you have just thought of something

Dictionary example:
Come to think of it, I’ve got two batteries that you can have upstairs.

Learner example:
Come to think of it, it really is quite difficult to say.

I dread to think

[C2] used to say that you do not want to think about something because it is too worrying

Dictionary example:
I dread to think what could have happened if we hadn’t been wearing seat belts.

Learner example:
I dread to think what has happened to it since the day my younger brother left it in a park.

thinker /ˈθɪŋ.kər/

Word family:
Nouns: thinker
Verbs: think, rethink
Adjectives: unthinkable
NOUN [C]
[C2] someone who considers important subjects or produces new ideas

**Dictionary example:**
a political/religious thinker

**Learner example:**
Isaiah Berlin is one of the most important political thinkers of the last century, whose influence on students, politicians and even the greater public is often underestimated.

third /θɜːd/  

NOUN [C]
[B2] one of three equal parts of something

**Dictionary example:**
He cut the cake into thirds.

**Learner example:**
Two thirds said we should film [the students] playing football.

thirst /θɜːst/  

Word family:
Nouns: thirst  
Adjectives: thirsty

NOUN [U NO PLURAL]

WANTING DRINK
[B2] the feeling that you want or need to drink something

**Dictionary example:**
We were all suffering from thirst.

**Learner example:**
Many animals died of hunger and thirst.

a thirst for *sth*  
[C2] a strong wish for something

**Dictionary example:**
a thirst for adventure

**Learner example:**
At that time we were not old enough yet to appreciate this, but today I am very thankful because due to my parents, I've developed a thirst for knowledge that will never be satisfied.
**thirty** /ˈθɜː.ti/  

**NUMBER**  

**(be) in your thirties**  
[**B2**] to be aged between 30 and 39  

**Dictionary example:**  
More women are having their first child in their thirties.  

**Learner example:**  
He was in his thirties and really handsome.  

**the thirties**  
[**B2**] the years from 1930–1939  

**Dictionary example:**  
They moved to Paris in the thirties.  

**Learner example:**  
In the beginning of the thirties in [the] USA the film industry [grew].

**this** /ðɪs/  

**PRONOUN**  

**this and that**  
[**C2**] different things which are not very important  

**Dictionary example:**  
“What are you doing today?” “Oh, just this and that.”  

**Learner example:**  
He used to call his friends daily, chat about this and that, release the tension through silly jokes, even go out with them once in a while.  

**ADVERB**  

[C1] used when describing the size, amount, or state of something or someone  

**Dictionary examples:**  
It was only about this high off the ground.  
She has never been this late for school before.
thorough  /ˈθʌr.ə/ 

Word family:
Adjectives: thorough
Adverbs: thoroughly

ADJECTIVE
[B2] careful and including every detail

Dictionary examples:
a thorough revision of the manuscript
They did a thorough search of the area but found nothing.

Learner example:
People believe that school aims to give pupils a thorough education in each subject, in order to enable them to deal with various kinds of situations.

thoroughly  /ˈθʌr.ə.li/ 

Word family:
Adjectives: thorough
Adverbs: thoroughly

ADVERB

VERY MUCH
[B2] completely, very much

Dictionary example:
I thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Learner example:
I thoroughly enjoyed reading "Animal Farm" because it is a satire based on the Russian Revolution.

CAREFULLY
[B2] very carefully

Dictionary example:
Wash the spinach thoroughly before cooking.

Learner example:
The murder had been thoroughly planned.
**those /ðəʊz/**

DETERMINER; PRONOUN

**those who/which/that**

[B2] the people or things that

**Dictionary examples:**
Those who wish to leave may do so now.
Most of the plates are clean. Those that aren’t should be put in the dishwasher.

**Learner example:**
Lately, it has been discussed whether students must study all the subjects or only those which they prefer.

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**though /ðəʊ/**

CONJUNCTION

**even though**

[B2] although

**Dictionary examples:**
Even though it was getting dark, we decided to walk on to the next village.
He still smokes even though he’s got asthma.

**Learner example:**
They didn’t give up hope even though they were tired and wet to the bone.

**as though**

[B2] used to describe how a situation seems to be

**Dictionary example:**
It looks as though they’re not going.

**Learner example:**
Sometimes it almost looks as though they are crying.

**BUT**

[B2] but

**Dictionary example:**
They’re coming next week, though I don’t know which day.

**Learner example:**
I can read and understand French, though I don’t speak [it] very well.
ADVERB

[B2] used especially at the end of a sentence, to add a fact or opinion to what you have just said

Dictionary example:
Okay, I’ll come to the party. I’m not staying late though.

Learner example:
It would be fun to work with you. There are a few things we should think about though.

thought /θɔːt/

Word family:
Nouns: thought
Adjectives: thoughtful, thoughtless
Adverbs: thoughtfully

NOUN

THINKING

[B2] [u] the activity of thinking, or when you think about something carefully

Dictionary examples:
She sat staring at the picture, deep in thought.
You’ll need to give the matter some thought.

Learner example:
I am concerned so please give it some thought.

CARE

[C2] [NO PLURAL] when you do something that shows you care about someone

Dictionary example:
Thanks for the card – it was a really kind thought.

Learner example:
She could go to the theatre and to the cinema every weekend, she went for marvellous holidays in the most exotic places, and the greeting cards she sent made our woman more and more angry, rather than thankful for the kind thought.

spare a thought for sb

[C2] to think about someone who is in a bad situation

Dictionary example:
Spare a thought for all the people who have lost their homes.

Learner example:
At this point, we should spare a thought for those who are not involved in the sport world.
**train of thought**

[C2] a series of connected thoughts or ideas which come or happen one after the other

*Dictionary example:*
I was interrupted and lost my train of thought.

*Learner example:*
Stevens's ideas on dignity become very clear if we follow his train of thought through the book and if we examine closely the events which encourage him into further discussion of this issue.

**thoughtful /ˈθɔːt.fəl/**

*Word family:*
*Nouns:* thought  
*Adjectives:* thoughtful, thoughtless  
*Adverbs:* thoughtfully

**ADJECTIVE**

**KIND**

[B2] kind and always thinking about how you can help other people

*Dictionary examples:*
Thank you for phoning when I was ill – it was very thoughtful of you.  
She's a very thoughtful person.

*Learner example:*
It was so thoughtful to think of me and send this letter.

**CAREFULLY CONSIDERING**

[C1] carefully considering things

*Dictionary example:*
He has a thoughtful approach to his work.

*Learner example:*
So we have less time to prepare breakfast, lunch or dinner in a more "thoughtful" manner.

**QUIET**

[C2] quiet because you are thinking about something

*Dictionary example:*
You look thoughtful.
thoughtfully /ˈθɔːt.fə.li/

Word family:
Nouns: thought
Adjectives: thoughtful, thoughtless
Adverbs: thoughtfully

ADVERB

[C2] in a thoughtful way

Dictionary examples:
He gazed thoughtfully into the distance.
There were sandwiches, thoughtfully provided by his wife.

Learner example:
She set it beside her husband’s picture and looked at it thoughtfully.

thoughtless /ˈθɔːt.ləs/

Word family:
Nouns: thought
Adjectives: thoughtful, thoughtless
Adverbs: thoughtfully

ADJECTIVE

[C2] not considering how your actions and words might upset someone else

Dictionary example:
I should have called her to say we'd be late – it was a bit thoughtless of me.

Learner example:
My impulsive nature causes me to act hastily quite often, so I frequently repeat myself because of some bitchy, thoughtless remark I have made.

thousand /ˈθaʊ.zənd/ (plural thousand or thousands)

NUMBER

thousands

[B2] informal a lot

Dictionary example:
She tried on thousands of dresses but didn't like any of them
thread /θred/

NOUN

MATERIAL
[C2] [c or u] a long, thin piece of cotton, wool, etc. that is used for sewing

Dictionary example:
a needle and thread

CONNECTION
[C2] [c] the connection between different events or different parts of a story or discussion

Dictionary example:
By that point I'd lost the thread of the conversation.

Learner example:
The antagonism between Jack and Ralph, who can be regarded as the novel's main characters, forms – in my view – the real thread of the narrative.

INTERNET
[C2] a group of pieces of writing on the Internet in which people discuss one subject

Dictionary example:
I read the thread about older mothers.

VERB [r]

thread a needle
[C2] to push thread through the hole in a needle

Dictionary example:
Could you thread this needle for me, please?

thread your way through/between, etc.
[C2] to move carefully through a crowded place, changing direction in order to avoid people or things

Dictionary example:
She threaded her way through the crowd.

Learner example:
And if I thread my way through the crowd along the street, I can find almost all things I want to buy, from inexpensive souvenirs to internationally known brands of suits.
threat /θret/

Word family:
Nouns: threat
Verbs: threaten

NOUN

DAMAGE
[B2] [c] someone or something that could cause harm or damage

Dictionary examples:
a threat to the environment
Smoking poses a serious threat to your health.

Learner example:
That is the only way to protect human life from this serious threat.

THING SAID
[B2] [c] when someone says they will kill or hurt you, or cause problems for you if you do not do what they want

Dictionary examples:
a death threat
I was scared he would carry out his threat.

Learner example:
Since then we have been receiving threats.

POSSIBILITY
[C2] [NO PLURAL] the possibility that something bad will happen

Dictionary example:
the threat of invasion

Learner example:
The threat of nuclear weapons has since grown into a constant condition.

threaten /ˈθret.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: threat
Verbs: threaten

VERB

HARM
[B2] [n] to tell someone that you will kill or hurt them, or cause problems for them if they do not do what you want
Dictionary examples:
He threatened the staff with a gun and demanded money.
He threatened to report her to the police.

Learner example:
The others joined us, and they began to threaten us with their knives.

**DAMAGE**
[C1] [ɪ] to be likely to cause harm or damage to something or someone

**Dictionary example:**
His knee problem is threatening his cycling career.

**Learner example:**
In addition to air pollution, more noise will take place and as a result, our city residents' health will be threatened.

**HAPPEN**
[C2] [ɪ] If something bad threatens to happen, it is likely to happen.

**Dictionary example:**
The conflict threatened to spread to neighbouring countries.

**Learner example:**
However, this ongoing technological progress became questionable when the atomic bomb threatened to wipe humanity off the face of the earth.

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**threshold** /ˈθreʃ.həʊld/

**NOUN**

**LEVEL**
[C2] [ɛ] the level at which something starts to happen

**Dictionary example:**
He had a low boredom threshold.

**Learner example:**
That night... that night – yet another one spent together online turned [out] to be the final threshold.

**on the threshold of sth**
[C2] at the start of a new and important time or development

**Dictionary example:**
We're on the threshold of a new era in European relations.

**Learner example:**
On the threshold of the third millenium, there is no stopping progress.
thrill /θrɪl/

Word family:
Nouns: thriller, thrill
Verbs: thrill
Adjectives: thrilled, thrilling

NOUN [C]

[C1] a strong feeling of excitement and pleasure

Dictionary examples:
It was a big thrill meeting the stars of the show.
the thrill of winning a competition

Learner example:
SURFING Riding the waves can be the thrill of a lifetime.

VERB [T]

[C2] to make someone feel excited and happy

Dictionary example:
Ballesteros thrilled the golf world with his exceptional skill.

Learner example:
The creative process is what thrills me.

thrilled /θrɪld/

Word family:
Nouns: thriller, thrill
Verbs: thrill
Adjectives: thrilled, thrilling

ADJECTIVE

[B2] very excited and pleased

Dictionary example:
She was thrilled with your present.

Learner example:
I'm thrilled with the idea of working with you.

thrilling /ˈθrɪl.ɪŋ/
ADJECTIVE
[B2] very exciting

Dictionary example:
a thrilling game

Learner example:
What has made me hesitate to join a diving club is that deep water really scares me, [but] at the same time I feel excited by the thrilling feeling.

thrive /ˈθraɪv/

Word family:
Verbs: thrive
Adjectives: thriving

VERB [i]
[C1] to grow very well, or to become very healthy or successful

Dictionary examples:
The business is thriving.
He seems to thrive on hard work.

Learner example:
She seems to thrive on criticism and wants to get better at everything she does.

thriving /ˈθraɪ.vɪŋ/

Word family:
Verbs: thrive
Adjectives: thriving

ADJECTIVE
[C2] growing very well or becoming very healthy or successful

Dictionary example:
They have a thriving economy.

Learner example:
In a thriving city such as London, there were loads of things she could do.
throat  /θrəʊt/

NOUN [c]

bring a lump to your throat  
[C2] to make you feel such strong emotion that you want to cry

Dictionary example:
It was a very moving speech, and it brought a lump to my throat.

Learner example:
This devastating image brought a lump to John’s throat.

throne  /θraʊn/

NOUN [c]

FOR KING/QUEEN
[C2] the special chair used by a ruler, especially a king or queen

Dictionary example:
He sat on a throne made of gold.

Learner example:
Some of them were mummified and other[s] were sitting on their thrones in some ancient wall-drawings.

the throne
[C2] the position of being king or queen

Dictionary examples:
Elizabeth ll ascended/came to the throne when her father died.
Queen Victoria was on the throne at that time.
Charles is next in line to the throne.

Learner example:
King Henry at the time of the play is a young vigorous man who needs to have a male heir to the throne of England.

through  /θruː/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] A through train goes all the way from one place to another place without the passenger having to change trains.
Dictionary example:
We caught the through train to Manchester.

Learner example:
Then go to the information desk and ask about the time of departure of through trains to Lodz.

throughout /θruːˈaʊt/

PREPOSITION

WHOLE TIME
[B2] during the whole of a period of time

Dictionary example:
He yawned throughout the performance.

Learner example:
This teahouse is packed throughout [the] day with workers and retired people, who come to sip tea, talk, and watch the endless stream of passers-by in the old city of China.

EVERYWHERE
[C1] in every part of a place

Dictionary example:
The same laws apply throughout much of Europe.

Learner example:
Being the owner of [a] driving licence has become a dream [for the] majority of young, middle-aged or even elderly people throughout the world.

ADVERB
[C1] in every part of a place or during the whole of a period of time

Dictionary example:
The house was painted pink throughout.

Learner example:
Children’s stories, however, were one of the most successful parts of the Activity Day and all of the spectators were on the edge of their seats throughout.

throw /θrəʊ/

VERB [I or T] (threw, thrown)

throw sth in/on, etc.
[C1] to put something somewhere quickly and without thinking about it
Dictionary example:
He threw his clothes on the floor and got into bed.

Learner example:
Also we apologise [profuse]ly about the rubbish they throw on the streets.

**throw sth around/down/on, etc.**
[C2] to suddenly and quickly move your body or a part of your body

Dictionary examples:
She threw her arms around the child.
Gabriela threw herself onto the bed and started to cry.

Learner example:
Emily threw herself into the arms of Jack.

**throw caution to the wind**
[C2] to take a risk

Dictionary example:
I decided to throw caution to the wind and book a ticket to India.

Learner example:
They just threw caution to the wind, and did what they wanted.

**throw sb in at the deep end**
[C2] to make someone start a new and difficult job or activity without helping them or preparing them for it

Dictionary example:
My first job was to organise a huge conference – they really threw me in at the deep end!

Learner example:
Sometimes we can be thrown in at the deep end and have qualms about making a decision.

**a stone's throw**
[C2] a very short distance

Dictionary example:
The cottage is just a stone's throw from the sea.

Learner example:
I'm now living in Clapham, just a stone's throw away from the common, in an awesome bachelor's pad.

**throw in the towel**
[C2] to stop trying to do something because you do not think you can succeed

Dictionary example:
Their candidate should just throw in the towel and admit defeat.

Learner example:
You have to possess tenacity: never throw in the towel.
thumb /θʌm/  

NOUN [C]  
a rule of thumb  
[C1] a way of calculating something, which is not exact but which will help you to be correct enough

Dictionary example:
As a rule of thumb, you need one egg for every 125g flour.

Learner example:
As a rule of thumb, one third of the people working in central Copenhagen [go] by car, one third by public transport, and one third by bike.

thunder /ˈθʌn.ər/  

NOUN [U]  
a clap of thunder  
[C2] a sudden, loud sound that is made by thunder

Dictionary example:
We heard a clap of thunder.

Learner example:
Suddenly, I heard a loud clap of thunder.

thus /ðʌs/  FORMAL  

ADVERB  
[B2] used after saying a fact to introduce what then happened as a result

Dictionary example:
They planned to reduce staff and thus to cut costs.

Learner example:
As a result of the density, the atmosphere in the halls also became hot and humid, thus making the whole experience rather unpleasant.
**tick** /tɪk/

**VERB**

**CLOCK**

[C2] [i] If a clock or watch ticks, it makes a sound every second.

**Dictionary example:**
The clock ticked loudly.

**Learner example:**
In the silence he could hear that the heating system was on and the grandfather clock was ticking, punctuating the minutes that passed.

**tide** /taɪd/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] the regular rise and fall in the level of the sea

**Dictionary examples:**
high/low tide
The tide is out/in.

**Learner example:**
We visited a marvellous old fishermen’s village, that is isolated from the rest of the island during high tide.

**tie** /taɪ/

**Word family:**
Nouns: tie
Verbs: tie, untie

**VERB (tying, tied, tied)**

**COMPETITION/GAME**

[C2] [i] to have the same score as someone else at the end of a competition or game

**Dictionary example:**
Sweden tied with France in the winter sports competition.

**tie the knot**

[C2] INFORMAL to get married

**Dictionary example:**
We’re planning to tie the knot in April.
Learner example:
She was going to tie the knot in July.

NOUN [C]
ties
[C2] relationships that connect you with a place, person, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Family ties are weaker if you move a long way away.
I no longer feel any ties with my home town.
He urged governments worldwide to break diplomatic ties with the new regime.

Learner example:
I come from a Greek background, where bonds and ties with one's family are highly valued and respected.

tight /tæt/  

Word family:
Verbs: tighten
Adjectives: tight
Adverbs: tight, tightly

ADJECTIVE
FIRM
[B2] firm and difficult to move

Dictionary examples:
Make sure the knot is tight.
I kept a tight grip on his arm.

Learner example:
You should always wear a tight seatbelt because it could save your life.

CONTROLLED
[B2] controlled and obeying all rules completely

Dictionary examples:
tight security
The school kept tight control of its policy on school uniform.

Learner example:
The building is huge with high technology and construction and has tight security.

NOT MUCH
[B2] If money, time, or space is tight, there is only just enough of it.
Dictionary examples:
This holiday destination is good for people on a tight budget.
We should get six people into the car but it will be tight.

Learner example:
Finally, as I am a student on a very tight budget, I would prefer a cheap B and B, or a family.

STRAIGHT
[C2] If cloth, wire, skin, etc. is tight, it has been pulled so that it is straight or smooth.

Dictionary example:
Make sure the wire is tight.

a tight corner
[C2] a difficult situation

Dictionary example:
She had been in a tight corner before and had always managed to cope.

Learner example:
It is a great pressure, requiring a lot of effort and sense of humour but does work in most cases, helping to find the best way out of a tight corner.

ADVERB
[B2] very firmly or closely

Dictionary examples:
Hold on tight!
His eyes were shut tight.

Learner example:
He held her tight and kissed her.

STRAIGHT
[C2] so that something is pulled to be straight or smooth

Dictionary example:
The plastic cover was stretched tight across the tank.

tighten /ˈtaɪ.tən/

Word family:
Verbs: tighten
Adjectives: tight
Adverbs: tight, tightly

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to become tighter or to make something become tighter
Dictionary examples:
His hand tightened around her arm.
Tighten the straps so they don't rub.
As he struggled, the ropes tightened even more.
We tightened up all the screws.

Learner example:
They simply filled the bathtub with ice cold water and tightened the belts.

tighten your belt
[C2] to try to spend less money

Dictionary example:
Since I lost my job we've all had to tighten our belts.

Learner example:
All this costs money and where do we get this extra money from but from the tax payers, who once again have to tighten their belts.

tightly /ˈtaɪt.lɪ/

Word family:
Verbs: tighten
Adjectives: tight
Adverbs: tight, tightly

ADVERB
[B2] firmly or closely

Dictionary examples:
I gripped the telephone tightly.
She hugged me tightly.

Learner example:
She did not want to be eaten, and held her son tightly to her breast.

timber /ˈtɪm.bər/

NOUN

WOOD FOR BUILDING
[C2] [u] wood used for building or trees that are grown to provide this wood

Dictionary examples:
a timber merchant
These trees are being grown for timber.
Learner example:
At this point many reasons can be raised. [...] The unscrupulous timber exploitation which destroys animals' natural shelters; and last but not least the illegal hunting which has led to the extinction of many animals.

PIECE OF WOOD
[C2] [c] a long piece of wood used for building, especially houses and ships

Dictionary examples:
roof timbers
a timber-framed building

Learner example:
The old timber house looks almost like it is about to fall apart from the outside but that impression changes quickly once you get inside.

| time | /taɪm/ |

Word family:
Nouns: time, timing
Verbs: time

NOUN

HISTORICAL PERIOD
[B2] [c] a period in history

Dictionary examples:
Charles Dickens' novel "A Tale of Two Cities" is set at the time of the French Revolution.
In/During medieval times, women thought to be witches were burnt at the stake.
In times gone by, all crops were harvested by hand.
He is widely regarded as one of the best writers of modern/our times.
We sat and talked about old times.

Learner example:
It was so nice to see all members of the family and have [the] opportunity to talk about old times, as well [as] old friends.

from time to time
[B2] sometimes but not often

Dictionary example:
From time to time I still think of her.

Learner example:
I wash the dishes from time to time (I sometimes try to avoid this unpleasant duty) and clean our house.
for some time
[B2] for a long period of time

Dictionary example:
I've been doing yoga for some time.

Learner example:
I have been observing you for some time and it's now quite clear to me that you have been working too hard since you changed your job.

for the time being
[C1] for now but not permanently

Dictionary examples:
I'm living with my parents for the time being.
Leave the ironing for the time being – I'll do it later.

Learner example:
I think that is all for the time being.

about/high time [INFORMAL]
[C1] If it is about time that someone did something, it should have been done sooner or a long time ago.

Dictionary examples:
It's about time [that] the school improved its meals service.
It is high time for Europe to take responsibility for its own defence.

Learner example:
It's high time [we tried] to stop all the troubles which are around us.

IN A PLACE
[C1] [U] the time in a particular place

Dictionary example:
The plane arrives at 20.50, New York time.

Learner example:
My phon[e] number at work is 66291 and at home (after 16.30 local time), 84796.

at times
[C1] sometimes

Dictionary example:
At times, I wish I didn't have to go to school.

Learner example:
STUDYING METHODS All teachers at the college are high[ly]-skilled professionals and can be very demanding at times, but this is [in] your best interest[s].

make time
[C1] to leave enough time to do something although you are busy
**Dictionary examples:**
You have to make time to do your homework.
He never made enough time for family life.

**Learner example:**
I'm terribly sorry for not being able to make time to pick you up when you arrive.

**take your time**

[C1] to do something without hurrying

**Dictionary example:**
Take your time choosing – there’s no hurry.

**Learner example:**
If you're going to land at the 'Lugano–Agno' airport, as you told me in your last letter, the first thing I recommend to you is to be patient and take your time.

**behind the times**

[C1] not fashionable or modern

**Dictionary example:**
Dad's a bit behind the times.

**Learner example:**
We [should] improve our equipment. Otherwise we will be behind the times.

**in no time**

[C1] very soon

**Dictionary example:**
We'll be home in no time.

**Learner example:**
Team work is very important for us and you will make many friends in no time.

**it's only a matter of time**

[C1] If you say that it is only a matter of time before something happens, you are sure it will happen but you do not know when.

**Dictionary example:**
It's only a matter of time before someone gets killed on this road.

**Learner example:**
In my opinion it is only a matter of time before it is decided to [put] an end to this country being a kingdom.

**time after time**

[C2] again and again on repeated occasions

**Dictionary example:**
She goes back to him time after time.
Learner example:
Time after time he stopped and looked around, not sure if [he] was alone.

**have no time for sb/sth**
[C2] to have no respect for someone or something

Dictionary example:
I have no time for people who are racist.

Learner example:
First of all it's hard work, I have no time for la[z]y people.

give sb a hard time
[C2] to criticize someone and make them feel guilty about something they have done

Dictionary example:
Ever since I missed the goal, the other players have been giving me a hard time.

Learner example:
I'm not saying that I wasn't normal or anything, I just gave my family a hard time sometimes.

**at one time or another**
[C2] used to talk about an occasion in the past without saying exactly which occasion it was

Dictionary example:
Most of us have made a similar mistake at one time or another.

Learner example:
Haven't we all at one time or another come home from a holiday feeling healthy and strong with a smile on our face thinking, this is what life is about.

**at the best of times**
[C2] used to show that something is not good when it is the best it can be

Dictionary example:
He's not exactly patient at the best of times.

Learner example:
They knew that even at the best of times he looked unpleasant but now he was of [a] completely different [appearance].

**VERB [T]**

**MEASURE HOW LONG**
[B2] to measure how long it takes for something to happen or for someone to do something

Dictionary example:
It's a good idea to time yourself while you do the exercises.
**DECIDE WHEN**

[C2] to decide that something will happen at a particular time

**Dictionary example:**
We timed our trip to coincide with my cousin’s wedding.

**time-consuming /ˈtaɪm.kənˌsjuː.mɪŋ/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] needing a lot of time

**Dictionary example:**
The legal process was time-consuming and expensive.

**Learner example:**
SMSs are too short and inconvenient to threat[en] face-to-face communication. They can only transfer a small amount of information and typing them is time-consuming.

**times /taɪmz/**

**PREPOSITION**
[B2] multiplied by

**Dictionary example:**
What is eight times fourteen?

**timetable /ˈtaɪmˌteɪ.bl/**

**NOUN [C]**

**PLAN**
[B2] a list of dates and times that shows when things will happen

**Dictionary examples:**
The timetable for our trip to Paris includes visits to Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. Here is the timetable of events for the day.

**Learner example:**
Could you kindly send me some information about the activities and timetable of the club?
timid /ˈtɪm.ɪd/

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] shy and easily frightened

*Dictionary example:*
a timid little boy

*Learner example:*
Mr Garland asked Tom again in his quiet, timid voice.

**timing /ˈtaɪ.mɪŋ/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** time, timing

**Verbs:** time

**NOUN [u]**
[B2] the time when something happens

*Dictionary example:*
"Are we early?" "No, your timing is perfect – dinner is almost ready."

*Learner example:*
[The] timing was perfect, the car was waiting for us [and] it was really easy.

**tin /tɪn/**

**NOUN**

**FOR STORING**
[B2] [c] a metal container with a lid that you keep food or other substances in

*Dictionary examples:*
a biscuit tin
a tin of paint

*Learner example:*
Meanwhile it was 11.15 p.m. and I [had] just asked my husband to take away the tins [of] paint from the stairs when suddenly the lights went out.

**METAL**
[C2] [u] a silvery-coloured metal, often combined with other metals or used to cover and protect other metals
Dictionary example:
At one time, the country produced a third of the world's tin.

Learner example:
He kept it in an old tin box, hiding it under his bed in case his parents would discover it.

tip /tɪp/

NOUN [C]

[C1] the end of something long and narrow

Dictionary examples:
the tips of your fingers
the tip of a pencil

Learner example:
These days there are so many [functions] available [o]n your mobile phone that you won't have to do much, it's all there at the tip of your finger.

be the tip of the iceberg
[C2] to be a small part of a very big problem

Dictionary example:
We've corrected a few errors, but they're just the tip of the iceberg.

Learner example:
I'm not used to such behaviour but that was the tip of the iceberg.

UNTIDY PLACE
[C2] (also dump) a place that is dirty and untidy

Dictionary example:
His bedroom is an absolute tip.

VERB (−pp−)

FALL
[C2] (tip over) to fall or to make something fall

Dictionary examples:
Her chair tipped over and she fell onto the floor.
A rock under the wheel tipped the van onto its side.

Learner example:
Loud music, the drum playing all day long, the kids playing around the street tipping over trash cans and destroying the grass and gardens and a lot more.
ONE SIDE HIGHER
[C2] [I or T] to move so that one side is higher than the other side, or to make something move in this way

Dictionary example:
The table tipped and all the drinks fell on the floor.

tip *sth into/onto/out of, etc. *sth
[C2] to make the contents of a container fall out by holding the container in a position where this happens

Dictionary example:
She tipped the contents of her purse onto the table.

tire /taɪər/  

Word family:
Nouns: tiredness
Verbs: tire
Adjectives: tired, tiring

VERB [I or T]

BECOME TIRED
[C2] to become tired or to make someone become tired

Dictionary examples:
She's been leading throughout the race, but it now looks as if she's tiring.
Even doing the garden tires me these days.

Learner example:
I suggest you have a different subject every day in order not to tire your listeners.

tiredness /ˈtaɪəd.nəs/  

Word family:
Nouns: tiredness
Verbs: tire
Adjectives: tired, tiring

NOUN [U]
[B2] the state of being tired

Dictionary examples:
He said that it was tiredness that led him to make the mistake.
I was overtaken by a sudden wave of tiredness.
Learner example:
I felt so relaxed and my tiredness disappeared almost entirely.

**tiresome /ˈtaɪə.səm/**

**ADJECTIVE**
**FORMAL**
[C2] making you feel annoyed or bored

**Dictionary example:**
a tiresome little boy

**Learner example:**
For me it is the best way to relax after a tiresome day full of anxiety and responsibilities.

**title /ˈtaɪ.təl/**

**NOUN** [C]
**SPORTS**
[C2] what you get if you win an important sports competition

**Dictionary example:**
He won the 1999 world motor racing title.

**Learner example:**
He won the national championship and, later, was sold to Barcelona, where he also won many titles.

**to /tuː/**

**INFINITIVE**
**MARKER**

**to say the least**
[C1] used to emphasize that you could have said something in a much stronger way

**Dictionary example:**
We were surprised, to say the least.

**Learner example:**
You get slightly bored, to say the least.

**to do so**
[C1] if you do this, or if this is done
**Dictionary examples:**
They want to build a completely new school, but to do so would cost far too much.
I would strongly advise you against taking out a loan of this size. To do so would be a great risk to your business.

**Learner example:**
It is generally believed that if [a] better education is provided, children are better prepared for adult life. To do so, money is essential.

**to spare**
[C1] If you have time, money, etc. to spare, you have more than you need.

**Dictionary example:**
I arrived at the station with more than an hour to spare.

**Learner example:**
I even started to do the shopping on the Net, and I think this is the perfect solution for the business[es] woman with family and little time to spare.

**to go**
[C2] If there is a particular amount of time to go, that time remains.

**Dictionary example:**
There are only two weeks of term to go.

**Learner example:**
Right now this example is very realistic, and as I have just been told there is only 15 min to go, my stress level, I have to admit, is too high.

**PREPOSITION**

**RANGE**
[B2] used in phrases which show a range

**Dictionary example:**
There must have been thirty to thirty-five people there.

**to date**
[B2] formal up to the present time

**Dictionary example:**
This is her best work to date.

**Learner example:**
I enclose a copy of my curriculum vitae, which will give you further details about my career to date.

**to my mind**
[B2] used to emphasize that you are giving your own opinion

**Dictionary example:**
To my mind, the play was rather disappointing.
Learner example:
To my mind, The Picture of Dorian Gray is probably his best novel.

to the contrary
[C1] saying or showing the opposite

Dictionary example:
She claimed she hadn't been involved, despite evidence to the contrary.

Learner example:
Despite claims to the contrary, young people [are] get[ting] more involved in sport[s] activities.

to sb's disappointment/relief/surprise, etc.
[C2] used to say that someone feels disappointed/relieved/surprised, etc. by something

Dictionary example:
To Pierre's disappointment, Monique wasn't at the party.

Learner example:
However, much to my relief, in the end they reached the main square again and all went to the surrounding bars to celebrate the feast in a more relaxed way.

to death
[C2] until you die

Dictionary example:
He was beaten to death by a gang of youths.

Learner example:
She would have been trampled to death as the stampede of furious fans came over her.

to all intents and purposes
[C2] in all the most important ways

Dictionary example:
To all intents and purposes, the project was a disaster.

Learner example:
To all intents and purposes, the qualities needed to achieve success are based on the same ideas.

to the point
[C2] If something someone says or writes is to the point, it expresses the most important things without extra details.

Dictionary example:
His report was short and to the point.

to sb's satisfaction
[C2] as well as someone wants

Dictionary example:
He won't get paid until he completes the job to my satisfaction.
**Learner example:**
Should this matter not be solved to my satisfaction, I will have no choice but to place it in the hands of my solicitor.

**toast** /təʊst/

**NOUN**
**DRINK**
[C1] [c] a time when people lift their glasses and drink because they want someone to be successful, happy, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
At the wedding, there was a toast to the happy couple.

**Learner example:**
During the wedding meal, it is good manner[s] to propose a toast to the bride and the bridegroom when they come to your table.

**tobacco** /təˈbæk.əʊ/

**NOUN [u]**
[C1] dried leaves that are inside cigarettes

**Dictionary example:**
Twenty-eight per cent of people asked thought that the advertising of tobacco and alcohol should be banned.

**Learner example:**
People are becoming more aware also due to the Ministry of Health's propaganda, marketing [a] healthy diet and exercise plus limiting adverts on alcoholic drinks and tobacco.

**today** /təˈdeɪ/

**ADVERB**
**PRESENT TIME**
[B2] in the period of time that is happening now

**Dictionary example:**
Today, people are much more concerned about their health than they were in the past.

**Learner example:**
Today we cannot go to a place without se[eing] a computer.
PRESENT TIME

[B2] the period of time that is happening now

Dictionary example:
With today’s technology almost anything seems possible.

Learner example:
However, technology has made immense steps forward and the cars of today come close to perfection.

toddler /ˈtɒd.lə/

[C2] a child who has just learned to walk

Dictionary example:
I was looking after three toddlers.

Learner example:
These meetings for mothers with toddlers should take place more often than once a month.

toe /təʊ/

keep sb on their toes

[C2] to make sure that someone gives all their attention to what they are doing and is ready for anything that might happen

Dictionary example:
We have random inspections to keep everyone on their toes.

toenail /ˈtəʊ.nɛl/

[B2] one of the hard, flat parts on top of the end of your toes

Dictionary example:
I need to cut my toenails.
**together** /təˈgeðər/

**ADVERB**

**CONNECTED**
[B2] used to say that two or more things are joined to each other, mixed with each other, etc.

**Dictionary examples:**
She tied the two pieces of rope together.
Could you add these figures together for me?
You mix all the dry ingredients together before you add the milk.
You could stick that back together with a bit of glue.
I like both flavours separately but I don’t like them together.

**COMBINED**
[B2] combined

**Dictionary examples:**
Together they must earn over ninety thousand dollars a year.
The money that I owe you for the telephone together with the rent equals £300.

**Learner example:**
When you ride a bike on the main road, it’s very dangerous to breath[e] the dirty air – together with the gases from the cars.

**IN ONE PLACE**
[C2] in one place

**Dictionary example:**
I’ll just gather my things together and then we can go.

**token** /ˈtəʊ.kən/

**NOUN [C]**

**LOVE/THANKS**
[C1] something that you give to someone in order to show them love, to thank them, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
I gave Helen some chocolates as a token of thanks for all her help.

**Learner example:**
Nevertheless, you can also prepare a small present as a token of your friendship or affection.
by the same token
[C2] in a similar way

**Dictionary example:**
You have to let people know your plans in good time and, by the same token, they should give you some advance warning.

**Learner example:**
Our college will only benefit from this event as long as it give[s] a nice and memorable impression. By the same token, we should all be well prepared and visualise beforehand possible manoeuvres that could appear, so that we can control the situation.

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**tolerance** /ˈtələrəns/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** intolerance, tolerance
**Verbs:** tolerate
**Adjectives:** intolerable, intolerant, tolerant

**NOUN [u]**
[C2] willingness to accept behaviour and beliefs which are different from your own, although you might not agree with or approve of them

**Dictionary examples:**
This period in history is not noted for its religious tolerance. Some members of the party would like to see it develop a greater tolerance of/towards contrary points of view.

**Learner example:**
One needs to develop a spirit of tolerance, respect and even appreciation towards world views and practices that might differ from one's own.

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**tolerant** /ˈtələrənt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** intolerance, tolerance
**Verbs:** tolerate
**Adjectives:** intolerable, intolerant, tolerant

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] allowing people to do what they want especially when you do not agree with it

**Dictionary examples:**
a tolerant attitude
I think we're becoming more tolerant of children in public places.
Learner example:
During my stay, I was living with a family that was very generous and tolerant.

tolerate /ˈtɒl.ər.eɪt/
Word family:
Nouns: intolerance, tolerance
Verbs: tolerate
Adjectives: intolerable, intolerant, tolerant

VERB [T]
ACCEPT
[B2] to accept or allow something although you do not like it

Dictionary examples:
I will not tolerate that sort of behaviour in my class.
We will not tolerate racism of any sort.

Learner example:
He couldn't tolerate anybody disturbing childrens' lives for the sake of money, because he was a very moral man.

DEAL WITH
[C2] to be able to deal with something unpleasant and not be harmed by it

Dictionary example:
It seems these ants can tolerate temperatures which would kill other species.

Learner example:
In comparison with wealthy children, they can tolerate the enormous weather changes like both extremes of hot and cold weather as they are not much exposed to air conditioners and heaters.

toll /təʊl/
NOUN [NO PLURAL]

MONEY
[C1] money that you pay to use a bridge, road, etc.

Dictionary example:
You have to cross a toll bridge.

Learner example:
The government can introduce road toll fees on some highly used roads, so that some traffic will be encouraged to use a different route.
NUMBER

[C2] the number of people who are killed or injured

Dictionary example:
Independent sources say that the death toll from the earthquake runs into thousands.

Learner example:
There would be no surprise at all if the death toll rises.

take its toll

[C2] to have a bad effect on someone or something, especially over a long period of time

Dictionary example:
The stress was starting to take its toll on him.

Learner example:
The famine has obviously taken its toll on him.

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tomb /tuːm/

NOUN [C]

[B2] a place where a dead person is buried, usually with a stone structure

Dictionary example:
He is buried in a marble tomb.

Learner example:
My father opened it slowly and we saw a huge marble tomb behind it.

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tomorrow /təˈmɑːr.əʊ/

NOUN [U]

FUTURE

[C2] the future

Dictionary example:
the children of tomorrow

Learner example:
In fact, young children are our future and what tomorrow's world will be depends a lot on what kind of adults our children will be.
ton /tʌn/

NOUN [C] (plural tons or ton)

WEIGHT
[B2] a unit for measuring weight, equal to 1016 kilograms in the UK and 907 kilograms in the US

Dictionary example:
They generated nearly 6 tons of rubbish.

Learner example:
It was at this point I saw a twenty ton lorry speeding towards them.

tons of sth
[B2] informal a lot of something

Dictionary example:
We've got tons of things to do before they arrive.

Learner example:
There were tons of handmade items!

tone /təʊn/

NOUN

VOICE
[B2] [C or U] the quality of a sound, especially of someone's voice

Dictionary examples:
I tried to use a sympathetic tone of voice.
It wasn't so much what she said that annoyed me – it was her tone.

Learner example:
Paul, the leader of the group, shouted: "Keep quiet" and he went on [in] a quiet tone: "They want this kind of reaction, they want to frighten us..."

TELEPHONE
[B2] [C] an electronic sound made by a telephone

Dictionary example:
a dialling tone

Learner example:
Quickly, a man got the phone [and was] trying [to] call the police but there was no tone.
MOOD
[C2] [NO PLURAL] the general mood or style of something

Dictionary examples:
I didn't like the jokey tone of the article – I thought it inappropriate.
He was in a very bad mood when he arrived, and that set the tone for the whole meeting.

Learner example:
This would be in order for them to act more like a group of friends rather than simple presenters, and, therefore, set the tone of the programme.

tongue /tʌŋ/

NOUN

mother tongue
[B2] the first language that you learn when you are a child

Dictionary example:
Italian is my mother tongue but I started to learn English when I was six.

Learner example:
I can speak English and French fluently, added to my mother tongue, Japanese.

tool /tuːl/

NOUN [C]

MAKE/REPAIR
[B2] a piece of equipment that you use with your hands in order to make or repair something

Dictionary examples:
power tools
The only tools you need for this job are a hammer and a screwdriver.

Learner example:
And, of course, she got a set of excellent tools and I won only one thing: a tube of modelling glue.

EQUIPMENT
[B2] a thing that helps you to do a particular activity

Dictionary example:
Computers are an essential tool for modern scientists.
Learner example:
From my personal experience, I can also say that a personal computer is also an amazing tool.

SOMETHING HELPFUL
[C1] something that helps you to do what needs to be done or you want to do

Dictionary example:
We believe the new law will be an effective tool in fighting poverty.

Learner example:
If you look at fame as a tool for helping others you will soon understand it is worth it.

tooth /tuːθ/ (plural teeth)

NOUN [C]
grit your teeth
[C2] to accept a difficult situation and deal with it in a determined way

Dictionary example:
I don’t particularly enjoy running, but I grit my teeth and do it in order to keep fit.

top /tɒp/

NOUN

on top of sth
[B2] in addition to something else that is bad

Dictionary examples:
On top of all this bad luck, he lost his mobile phone.
And then, on top of everything else, her car was stolen!

Learner example:
On top of everything, the weather was bad and the sea was so cold that I couldn't swim.

the top
[C2] the most important position in a company, team, etc.

Dictionary example:
At forty he was already at the top of his profession.

Learner example:
Besides she climbed to the top of her profession, when no one expected her to.

over the top INFORMAL
[C2] too extreme and not suitable
Dictionary example:
I thought her performance was way over the top.

Learner example:
In addition to that, many so-called "stars" have that certain over the top attitude, which would not be welcome in normal life.

be/fell on top of the world INFORMAL
[C2] to be very happy

Dictionary example:
I had just won a major tournament and I was feeling on top of the world.

Learner example:
I felt like I was on top of the world and nothing could take that happiness from me.

from top to bottom
[C2] completely

Dictionary example:
I've searched the house from top to bottom and still can't find it.

Learner example:
Very often we can see someone in black, from top to bottom, or in white.

ADVERB
[B2] in the position of being most important or successful

Dictionary example:
She came top in the maths test.

VERB [T] (-pp-)

MOST IMPORTANT
[C2] to be the most important, most successful, etc

Dictionary examples:
The record topped the charts for five weeks.
She topped the bill at the festival.

Learner example:
It was in summer 1993 when Paul McCartney proved once again that he still is topping the bill.

be topped with sth
[C2] to be covered with something

Dictionary example:
lemon tart topped with cream

Learner example:
Again leave some room for the sweets, displayed on a tray: cream caramel topped with hazelnut ice cream or a slice of chocolate tart.
### torch /tɔːtʃ/  

**NOUN [c]**  
[B2] a small electric light that you hold in your hand  

**Dictionary example:**  
She shone the torch into the dark room.  

**Learner example:**  
After fifteen minutes of walking, we got into a cave. It was dark, so we [turned on] our torches.

### tornado /tɔːˈneɪd.əʊ/ (plural torados, tornadoes)  

**NOUN [c]**  
[B2] an extremely strong and dangerous wind that blows in a circle and destroys buildings as it moves along  

**Dictionary example:**  
A tornado had swept through the north of the state, causing terrible destruction.  

**Learner example:**  
The storm was getting very wild outside, she wasn't sure if it [was] a real tornado, she had never seen one, but somehow she could sense the danger.

### torrential /təˈren.ʃəl/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] Torrential rain is very heavy rain.  

**Dictionary example:**  
The rain was absolutely torrential.  

**Learner example:**  
All he could hear was the sound of torrential rain hitting the windows and the roof of the hotel.

### torture /ˈtɔː.tʃər/  

**NOUN [u]**  

**BORING/UNPLEASANT**  
[C1] a very unpleasant experience
Dictionary example:
I had to sit there listening to her for two whole hours – it was torture!

Learner example:
I would be grateful if I could get some of my money back, because the days in Scotland were a torture to me.

CAUSING PAIN

[C2] I the act of causing someone great physical or mental pain, often in order to make them tell you something

Dictionary example:
He revealed the secret under torture.

Learner example:
Tyranny and torture are installed with Roger as the executioner.

VERB [T]

[C2] I to cause someone severe pain, often in order to make them tell you something

Dictionary example:
It is claimed that the officers tortured a man to death in 1983 in a city police station.

Learner example:
And they would torture him and kill him like an animal, as soon as they were convinced that he had no chance of finding the money.

**toss** /tɒs/

VERB

toss (a coin)

[C1] to throw a coin in the air and guess which side will land facing upwards as a way of deciding something

Dictionary example:
She tossed a coin to decide who would get the prize.

Learner example:
The question was who would be the person to do this action so we tossed a coin, and the result was me.

toss *sth* away/into/on, etc.

[C2] to throw something somewhere carelessly

Dictionary example:
He read the letter quickly, then tossed it into the bin.
Learner example:
When she woke up, she saw his stupid face smiling at her and she quickly tossed it in the drawer, noticing her tears trickle and fall.

toss and turn
[C2] be unable to sleep properly

Dictionary example:
I was tossing and turning for most of the night.

Learner example:
As she tossed and turned, unable to sleep, she started [going over] the events that had taken place before that evening.

total /ˈtəʊ.təl/

Word family:
Nouns: total
Adjectives: total
Adverbs: totally

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

VERY GREAT
[B2] extreme or complete

Dictionary examples:
total silence
The whole evening was a total disaster.
That's total rubbish.

Learner example:
The room was in total darkness and I couldn't hear anything.

VERB [t] (–ll–)
[C1] to add up to a particular amount

Dictionary example:
This is the eighth volume in the series, which totals 21 volumes in all.

Learner example:
And there has been a significant increase in insurance, up by 5%, totalling 8% of the total expenses.
totalitarian /ˈtəʊ.tæl.iˈteə.ri.ən/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] belonging to a political system in which the people in power have complete control and do not allow anyone to oppose them

Dictionary example:
The people overthrew the totalitarian regime.

Learner example:
Its descriptions are sometimes shocking since his work is about totalitarian regimes and people living on the fringes of society.

touch /tʌtʃ/

Word family:
Nouns: touch
Verbs: touch
Adjectives: untouched

VERB

GET CLOSE
[B2] [ɪ or ɪ] If two things touch, they are so close to each other that there is no space between them.

Dictionary example:
These two wires must not touch.

Learner example:
Out of the blue, I felt the wheels touching the ground.

EMOTION
[B2] [ɪ OFTEN PASSIVE] to affect your emotions, especially so that you feel pleased or a little sad

Dictionary example:
I was deeply touched by her letter.

Learner example:
Her stories are based on real life, so they're not only easy to read but also touch our hearts.

not touch sb/sth
[C2] to not harm someone or not damage something

Dictionary example:
Don't worry about them – they can't touch you.
Learner example:
She goes to a place that is clean, where the heat and dust can’t touch her any more.

**NOUN**

**lose touch**

[B2] to stop communicating with someone, usually because they do not live near you now

**Dictionary example:**
We lost touch over the years.

**Learner example:**
When he went into the information centre, he saw Mary, who he used to go out with – for some reason, they had lost touch with each other.

**HAND**

[B2] [C usually no plural] when you put your hand or finger on something

**Dictionary examples:**
I felt the touch of his hand on my face.
At the touch of a button, the door opened.

**Learner example:**
In a shopping centre you may search for something for hours, but on the internet you can find everything with the touch of a button.

**ABILITY**

[B2] [U] the ability to feel things by putting your hand on them

**Dictionary examples:**
the sense of touch
The material was soft to the touch.

**a touch**

[C2] a small amount

**Dictionary examples:**
Add a little olive oil and a touch of vinegar.
There was a touch of irony/humour in her voice.

**Learner example:**
It gives a touch of colour in our dull, black and white area.

**SMALL DETAIL**

[C2] [C] a small detail that makes something better

**Dictionary examples:**
The speech had several comic touches.
Using a sailing ship as the company badge was a touch of genius.
The flowers on the table provided the finishing touch.
Learner example:
For most of us, music is the essential spice that make[s] our feelings stronger, the perfect finishing touch to a scene that we have created ourselves.

touch and go
[C2] used to describe a situation that is uncertain

Dictionary example:
The doctor says it is touch and go whether Mary will recover.

Learner example:
The idea of earning a lot certainly appeals to me but it’s touch and go whether the job may bring a lot of money right from the start.

be/get out of touch
[C2] to know little about what has recently happened

Dictionary example:
I've been abroad for the last two years, so I'm very out of touch.

Learner example:
In much worse cases, some individuals may even be trapped in the virtual world and get out of touch with the real one.

tough /tʌf/

Word family:
Nouns: toughness
Adjectives: tough

ADJECTIVE

DIFFICULT
[B2] difficult

Dictionary examples:
He’s had a tough time at work recently.
We've had to make some tough decisions.
Homeless people are facing a tough winter.

Learner example:
You know it was really a very tough decision for me.

STRONG PERSON
[B2] Tough people are mentally strong and not afraid of difficult situations.

Dictionary example:
You have to be tough to be successful in politics.

Learner example:
It is about a tough old fisherman from Cuba who sails out alone in a small boat to fish.
FOOD
[B2] describes food that is difficult to cut or eat

Dictionary example:
This steak is very tough.

Learner example:
Your pork chop was as tough as old boots and the salad dressing was sour!

SEVERE
[C2] Tough rules are severe.

Dictionary examples:
Tough new safety standards have been introduced for cars.
There have been calls for tougher controls/restrictions on what newspapers are allowed to print.
After some tough bargaining, we finally agreed on a deal.
I think it's time the police got tougher on/with people who drink and drive.
The government is continuing to take a tough line on terrorism.

STRONG
[C2] not easy to break or damage

Dictionary examples:
The play equipment needs to be very tough.
I need a tough pair of boots.

UNFAIR
[C2] unfair or unlucky

Dictionary example:
It can be tough on kids when parents get divorced.

Learner example:
It was tough on the worn out employees.

**toughness /ˈtʌf.nəs/**

Word family:
Nouns: toughness
Adjectives: tough

NOUN [u]
[C2] the quality or state of being tough

Dictionary examples:
She has a reputation for toughness.
They can’t face the toughness of the competition.
Learner example:
I would be [less] lax than my daddy was [so] as to accustom them to the toughness and brutality of life, so that they could face many difficulties in their lives.

towards /teˈwɔːdz/

PREPOSITION

IN RELATION TO

[B2] in relation to something or someone

Dictionary examples:
They've always been very friendly towards me.
He feels a lot of anger towards his father.
She always has a positive attitude towards life.

Learner example:
His parents were very cold towards me.

POSITION

[C1] near to a time or place

Dictionary examples:
Our seats were towards the back of the theatre.
I often get hungry towards the middle of the morning.
We're getting towards winter and it's getting dark earlier.

Learner example:
If I [had] told somebody fifty years ago that women w[ould] have leading political positions towards the end of the century, he or she would have most probably considered [me] as being mad.

PURPOSE

[C1] for the purpose of buying or achieving something

Dictionary examples:
I'm saving up to buy a car, and Dad has given me some money towards it.
Would you like to make a contribution towards a present for Linda?
The work that students do during the term counts towards their final grade.

Learner example:
I hope that these recommendations will go a long way towards improving your museum and having satisfied visitors.
towel  /ˈtaʊəl/

NOUN [C]

throw in the towel
[C2] to stop trying to do something because you do not think you can succeed

Dictionary example:
Their candidate should just throw in the towel and admit defeat.

Learner example:
You have to possess tenacity: never throw in the towel.

toxic  /ˈtɒksɪk/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] poisonous

Dictionary example:
toxic chemicals/fumes/waste

Learner example:
Paris throws out billions of tons of toxic gases into the atmosphere, and in the summer months, [it]'s wrapped in a veil of toxic haze, from power station[s], factory chimneys, and from the exhausts of cars and lorries on the streets.

trace  /ˈtreɪs/

VERB [T]

FIND
[C1] to find someone or something that was lost

Dictionary examples:
The police are trying to trace the mother of a newborn baby found abandoned outside a hospital. Attempts to trace the whereabouts of a man seen leaving the scene of the crime have so far been unsuccessful. Their missing daughter was finally traced to Manchester.

Learner example:
So you can hire the best people you can find to trace the bad guy and get rid of him.

ORIGIN
[C1] to discover the cause or origin of something
Dictionary examples:
The outbreak of food poisoning was traced to some contaminated shellfish.
The practice of giving eggs at Easter can be traced back to festivals in ancient China.
Rivalries between the gangs can be traced back to the 1950s in some black and Hispanic
neighbourhoods.
No one has yet been able to trace the source of the rumour.

Learner example:
It is my firm belief that what is usually referred to as "lacking motivation" can always be traced
back to this question of meaning and comradeship.

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] proof that someone or something was in a place

Dictionary examples:
There was no trace of her anywhere.
When she moved out, she left no trace of having been there.
He seems to have disappeared without trace.

Learner example:
There were no traces of anything alive nearby.

track /træk/

NOUN

MUSIC
[B2] [c] one song or piece of music on a CD, record, etc.

Dictionary example:
The album includes four previously unreleased tracks.

Learner example:
It is a really good idea to give every CD a book containing information about every track on [the]
disc and about [the] performance.

TYPE OF SPORT
[B2] [u] a sport in which people compete with each other by running a race on a
specially prepared circular path

Dictionary example:
a track event

Learner example:
Since that time I have been reading every article about track and field.
MARKS

[B2] [C USUALLY PLURAL] a mark or line of marks left on the ground or on another surface by an animal, person or vehicle which has moved over it

**Dictionary examples:**
Police found tyre tracks in the mud.
The hunters followed the tracks of the deer for hours.
The burglars were careful not to leave any tracks behind them.

**Learner example:**
I [saw] some tracks on the floor. I went to the bedroom and near the bed I [saw] a big cat with its kittens.

lose track

[B2] to not know what is happening to someone or something any more

**Dictionary example:**
I've lost track of how much we've spent.

**Learner example:**
Time passed like an arrow and they lost track of time until they realised it [was] getting dark.

TRAINS

[C1] [C or U] the long metal lines which a train travels along

**Dictionary examples:**
a 10-mile stretch of track
Passengers are requested not to walk across the tracks.

**Learner example:**
When the train enters a small town in Northern Switzerland, the visitor will be surprised by hundreds of fan posters and flags along the rail track.

on track

[C1] making progress and likely to succeed

**Dictionary examples:**
A fighter from Edinburgh is on track to become world heavyweight boxing champion.
We've got a lot of work to do but we're on the right track.

**Learner example:**
The sales teams are well on track and bringing [in] new customers every day.

keep track

[C1] to continue to know about someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
He changes jobs so often I can’t keep track any more.
Be sure to keep track of the time so you won't be late.

**Learner example:**
Trying to keep track of these changes by translating them would be an inappropriate task.
off the beaten track
[C2] in a place where few people go

Dictionary example:
I prefer to take my holiday somewhere off the beaten track.

Learner example:
Furthermore, in areas off the beaten track, there [are] not even police sometimes.

a fast track (to sth)
[C2] a very quick way of achieving or dealing with something

Dictionary example:
These intensive courses claim to offer a fast track to wealth and success.

Learner example:
If I ever found a job which lives up to these expectations, I would consider myself on [a] fast track already.

DEVELOPMENT
[C2] [c or u] the direction in which someone's job or education develops

Dictionary example:
She was a lawyer, but then she changed track completely and became a doctor.

VERB [T]

FOLLOW
[C2] to follow a person or animal by looking for proof that they have been somewhere, or by using electronic equipment

Dictionary examples:
It's difficult to track an animal over stony ground.
The military use radar satellites to track targets through clouds and at night.
The terrorists were tracked to Amsterdam.

Learner example:
It is her eventually who may be considered as the [i]nvoluntary cause of Chen's death, by keeping on sending money [to] China and then allowing the Mafia to track him.

RECORD
[C2] to record the progress or development of something over a period

Dictionary example:
The project tracks the effects of population growth on the area.

Learner example:
However, it would be useless to track the [outbreak] of wars and to judge humanity for not learning.
tractor /ˈtræk.tə/

NOUN [c]
[C2] a strong vehicle with large back wheels used on farms for pulling things

Dictionary example:
He started up the tractor.

Learner example:
Farmers who used to prac[t]s[e] traditional farming are now introduc[ing] machinery such as tractors.

trade /treɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: trade, trader
Verbs: trade

NOUN

JOB
[B2] [c or u] someone's job, especially one which needs skill in using their hands

Dictionary examples:
He's a builder by trade.
He left school at 15 to learn a trade.

Learner example:
At the age of 15 he [left] school and started to learn a trade.

AREA OF BUSINESS
[C1] [c] a particular area of business or industry

Dictionary example:
the building/catering/tourist trade

Learner example:
Having considered the previous factors, I am further convinced that the host country can develop itself rapidly by enhancing the tourism trade.

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to buy and sell goods or services, especially between countries

Dictionary examples:
For centuries, Native Americans traded with European settlers.
The company has been trading in oil for many years.
The two countries have become close trading partners.
Our books are traded right across Asia.
Learner example:
His story is interesting: he first worked in a little shop in Bourges and started trading in France, then in Europe, and in Asia.

trader /ˈtreɪ.dər/

Word family:
Nouns: trade, trader
Verbs: trade

NOUN [c]
[C2] a person who buys and sells things

Dictionary examples:
His ancestors were fur traders.
She's a trader on Wall Street, working for a big financial company.

Learner example:
After spending a few months over there he got back to Switzerland, where he worked in a private bank as a trader in the bond market.

tradition /trəˈdɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: tradition
Adjectives: traditional
Adverbs: traditionally

NOUN [c or u]
[B2] a custom or way of behaving that has continued for a long time in a group of people or a society

Dictionary examples:
Fireworks have long been an American tradition on the Fourth of July.
There's a long/strong tradition of dance in St Petersburg.
We decided to break with tradition this year and go away for Christmas.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, Leipzig has always been an attractive town for tourists, because of its well-known fair and its cultural traditions.
traditionally /ˈtrədɪʃ.ən.l.i/

Word family:
Nouns: tradition
Adjectives: traditional
Adverbs: traditionally

ADVERB
[B2] according to tradition or in a traditional way

Dictionary examples:
Chestnuts are traditionally eaten at Christmas. Traditionally, the company's main markets have been Britain and the US.

Learner example:
You will be able to try our special sau[sages], produced traditionally in our city!

traffic /ˈtræf.ɪk/

NOUN [U]

PLANES AND SHIPS
[C2] the planes or ships moving around an area

Dictionary example:
air traffic control

Learner example:
We are not asking you to close down the airport but we suggest that you check w[h]ether all the charter and freight traffic has to be directed to this airport – there might be an airport in a less densely populated area to use for these purposes.

tragedy /ˈtrædʒ.ə.dɪ/

Word family:
Nouns: tragedy
Adjectives: tragic
Adverbs: tragically

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] an event or situation which is very sad, often involving death

Dictionary examples:
His life was touched by hardship and personal tragedy. They had only recently arrived in London when tragedy struck – their son was killed in a traffic accident.
Learner example:
The people who cause those tragedies are irresponsible drivers.

**tragic** /ˈtrædʒ.ɪk/

| Word family: |
| Nouns: tragedy |
| Adjectives: tragic |
| Adverbs: tragically |

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] very sad, often involving death and suffering

**Dictionary examples:**
- Her tragic death at the age of 36 shocked the world.
- He was killed in a tragic accident.
- Hospital authorities admitted that a tragic error had taken place.

**Learner example:**
- For instance, the tragic death of Princess Diana is an example of what a journalist must not do.

**tragically** /ˈtrædʒ.ɪ.kli/

| Word family: |
| Nouns: tragedy |
| Adjectives: tragic |
| Adverbs: tragically |

**ADVERB**

[C2] in a way that is very sad

**Dictionary examples:**
- She died tragically young.
- Tragically, the side-effects of the drug were not discovered until many people had been seriously damaged by it.

**Learner example:**
- She improved his eyesight and tragically disappeared.

**trail** /treɪl/

**NOUN** [C]

**PATH**

[B2] a path through the countryside, often made or used for a particular purpose
Dictionary example:
a forest/mountain trail

Learner example:
After 6 miles of the trail we decided to stop and put our blanket on the ground.

MARKS
[C2] the smell or series of marks left by a person, animal or thing as it moves along

Dictionary examples:
The dogs are specially trained to follow the trail left by the fox.
He left a trail of muddy footprints behind him.

Learner example:
Azman and I were looking at a trail of fresh blood leading into the woods.

VERB
trail after/behind/along, etc.
[C2] [I] to walk slowly and without enthusiasm or energy

Dictionary example:
Her small daughter was trailing along behind her.

LOWER SCORE
[C2] [I] or [r] to have a lower score than someone else, especially in a sports event

Dictionary example:
City were trailing United 1–2 at half time.

Learner example:
They were trailing by four points, but still, they had possession of the ball.

train /treɪn/

Word family:
Nouns: trainer, training, trainee
Verbs: train

NOUN [c]

train of thought
[C2] a series of connected thoughts or ideas which come or happen one after the other

Dictionary example:
I was interrupted and lost my train of thought.

Learner example:
Stevens’s ideas on dignity become very clear if we follow his train of thought through the book and if we examine closely the events which encourage him into further discussion of this issue.
TEACH
[B2] to teach someone how to do something, usually a skill that is needed for a job

Dictionary examples:
We are training all our staff in how to use the new computer system.
The aid workers trained local people to give the injections.

Learner example:
I think I could be suitable for the job because I have some experience of training people.

LEARN
[B2] to learn the skills you need to do a job

Dictionary example:
He trained as a lawyer in Vienna.

Learner example:
For example, one of my father's friends who was trained as a computer engineer received the only job vacancy for economy-related work in a very good company just because he graduated from the best university in Taiwan.

trainee /treɪˈniː/

Word family:
Nouns: trainer, training, trainee
Verbs: train

NOUN [C]
[C1] someone who is learning how to do something, especially a job

Dictionary example:
a trainee accountant/teacher

Learner example:
I work as a trainee at a big international trader company at Brazil, and there we had some problems of motivation in [the] workplace, and to resolve the problem we made a lot of changes and arrangements in our company.

trait /treɪt/

NOUN [C]
[C2] a quality, good or bad, in someone's character
Dictionary example:
a family trait

Learner example:
The latter makes her more sympathetic if anything to a modern reader, but her naivet[y] and weakness for the attention and luxury given by the Nawab are not very likeable traits.

**tranquil** /ˈtræŋwɪl/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** tranquility  
**Adjectives:** tranquil

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] calm and quiet  

**Dictionary example:**  
a tranquil garden  

**Learner example:**  
Unfortunately, though, this tranquil paradise has been destroyed year by year, by the uncontrolled tourism.

**tranquility** /træŋˈkwɪl.ə.ti/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** tranquility  
**Adjectives:** tranquil

**NOUN [u]**  
[C2] the quality of being tranquil  

**Dictionary example:**  
I love the tranquility of the lake.  

**Learner example:**  
Suddenly shattering the tranquility was a high pitched alarm bell being rung energetically.

**transaction** /trænˈzækʃən/  

**NOUN [C or U]**  
[C1] when someone buys or sells something, or when money is exchanged
Dictionary examples:
a **business** transaction
Each transaction at the foreign exchange counter seems to take forever.
We need to monitor the transaction of smaller deals.

**Learner example:**
This new service guarantees you a quick transaction direct from your home.

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**transfer**

**VERB** /trənsˈfɜːr/ (rr-)

**CHANGE JOB/TEAM**

[B2] [I or T] to change to a different job, team, place of work, etc., or to make someone do this

**Dictionary examples:**
After a year he transferred to University College, Dublin.
Some very high-profile British players have transferred to clubs abroad.
He threatened to give up football if his club didn't transfer him.

**Learner example:**
I'm talking about Michael Ballack, who was transferred to the Chelsea soccer team at the beginning of this season.

**NOUN** [C or U] /ˈtræns.fɜːr/

[B2] when something or someone moves or is moved from one place, position, etc. to another

**Dictionary examples:**
the transfer of information
Black's transfer to an Italian football club came as a shock to Coventry supporters.

**Learner example:**
Most of the transfers are controlled by computers.

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**transform** /trənsˈfɔːrm/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** form, formation, transformation

**Verbs:** form, transform

**VERB [T]**

[B2] to change something completely, usually to improve it
Dictionary examples:
Within weeks they had transformed the area into a beautiful garden.
The reorganization will transform the British entertainment industry.

Learner example:
Well these are some ideas that could help transform the cinema with the extra money that is available.

transformation  /ˌtræns.fəˈmeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: form, formation, transformation
Verbs: form, transform

NOUN [C or U]
[C1] a complete change in the appearance or character of something or someone, especially so that they are improved

Dictionary examples:
Local people have mixed feelings about the planned transformation of their town into a regional capital.
I'd never seen Carlo in smart evening clothes before – it was quite a transformation.

Learner example:
Big shops are also opening and this transformation of the economy is forcing small family businesses and shops to close.

transition  /trænˈzɪʃ.ən/

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] when something changes from one system or method to another, often gradually

Dictionary examples:
The health-care system is in transition at the moment.
There will be an interim government to oversee the transition to democracy.

Learner example:
The transition from this period into a more independent one is challenging and exciting, both for us and our parents.
transitive /ˈtrænz.ə.trɪv/ SPECIALIZED

ADJECTIVE

[B2] A transitive verb always has an object.

Dictionary example:
Transitive verbs, such as 'put', are marked [T].

translate /trænzˈlɛrt/

Word family:
Nouns: translation
Verbs: translate

VERB [I or T]

CAUSE

[C2] FORMAL If an idea or plan translates into an action, it makes it happen.

Dictionary example:
So how does this theory translate into practical policy?

Learner example:
This translates into more disposable income.

transmission /trænzˈmɪʃ.ən/

Word family:
Nouns: transmission
Verbs: transmit

NOUN

BROADCAST

[C2] the process of broadcasting something by radio, television, etc., or something which is broadcast

Dictionary example:
radio/satellite transmission

Learner example:
Television channels, for example, can make [a] profit broadcasting the games and this is usually appreciated by the public, provided that the transmission doesn't last the whole day.

SPREADING

[C2] the process of passing something from one person or place to another
Dictionary example:
There is still a risk of transmission of the virus through infected water.

Learner example:
Moreover she teaches philosophy, [...] and at the same time she works for the society as a whole and contributes to the transmission of knowledge.

transmit  /trænzˈmɪt/ (–tt–)

Word family:
Nouns: transmission
Verbs: transmit

VERB

RADIO/TELEVISION
[C1] [ɪ or ɪ] to broadcast something, or to send out or carry signals using radio, television, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Radio 6 transmits on DAB digital.
The information is transmitted electronically to the central computer.

Learner example:
I hope that my explanation is thorough enough for you to be reassured, but if you want to know more about this strike and the problems it has caused, I'd suggest that you see the special programme about it, which will be transmitted on T.V. next Saturday night.

SPREAD
[C2] [ɪ] to pass something from one person or place to another

Dictionary examples:
Cholera is transmitted through contaminated water.
Some diseases are transmitted from one generation to the next.
Somehow your panic and fear transmits itself to the horse that you’re riding.

Learner example:
I think that all parents are bound to transmit values to their children; they do so by their own life, their behaviour – what they really are – more than by what they say.

transparent  /trænˈspær.ənt/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] If a substance or object is transparent, you can see through it very clearly.

Dictionary example:
Grow the bulbs in a transparent plastic box, so the children can see the roots developing.
Learner example:
We loved [it] there, because the sky was [a] clear blue and the sea was transparent.

**transplant**  /ˈtræns.plæ:nt/

NOUN [C]
[C2] an operation in which a new organ is put into someone's body

Dictionary example:
a heart/kidney transplant

Learner example:
I was to do a bone-marrow transplant.

**transport**

Word family:
Nouns: transport, transportation
Verbs: transport

NOUN [U]  /ˈtræn.spɔːt/

GOODS/PEOPLE
[B2] when people or goods are moved from one place to another

Dictionary examples:
the transport of live animals
The company will arrange transport from the airport.

Learner example:
In addition to that, a car is more suitable for the transport of goods.

VERB [T]  /trænˈspɔːt/

[B2] to move people or goods from one place to another

Dictionary examples:
The goods are packed in boxes and transported overseas.
The pipeline was constructed to transport oil to ports on the coast.
Such heavy items are expensive to transport by plane.

Learner example:
At first we chase them in the forests and then put them in small and narrow boxes to be transported to a zoo.
transportation  /ˌtræn.spɔːˈteɪ.ʃən/  

Word family:  
**Nouns:** transport, transportation  
**Verbs:** transport

**NOUN [u]**  
[C1] when people or goods are moved from one place to another  

**Dictionary example:**  
transportation costs

**Learner example:**  
There are also a lot of improvements in transportation.

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trap  /træp/  

**NOUN [c]**  
**CATCHING ANIMALS**  
[B2] a piece of equipment for catching animals  

**Dictionary examples:**  
a mouse trap  
The fox got its foot caught in a trap.

**Learner example:**  
Angel's horse hurt its leg in a trap for foxes.

**DANGEROUS SITUATION**  
[B2] [usually no plural] a dangerous or unpleasant situation which is difficult to escape from  

**Dictionary examples:**  
The undercover agents went to the house knowing that it might be a trap.  
She's too clever to fall into the trap of doing any unpaid work.

**Learner example:**  
With this trap Miss Marple reveals Dr. Quimper's real motive and has him arrested by the police.

**VERB [r] (−pp−)**  
**be trapped**  
[B2] If someone or something is trapped, they are unable to move or escape from a place or situation.

**Dictionary examples:**  
The two men died when they were trapped in a burning building.  
Fire officers used cutting equipment to free his legs, which were trapped under a steel beam.
Learner example:
We had been trapped in the snowy, almost vertical slopes of the "Mont-Blanc de Cheilou" for more than ten hours by then.

trash /træʃ/

NOUN [u]
[C2] INFORMAL something that is of low quality

Dictionary examples:
I can't believe that someone of his intelligence can read such trash!
There's only trash on the television tonight.

Learner example:
But this trend is changing due to the high competition between the various channels, with the bad consequence that more and more program[me]s are real trash.

trauma /ˈtrɔː.mə/

Word family:
Nouns: trauma
Adjectives: traumatic

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] severe shock caused by an unpleasant experience, or the experience which causes this feeling

Dictionary example:
the trauma of marriage breakdown

Learner example:
A child who has never experienced security in his family will certainly become an insecure adult, and from a psychological point of view, many of the adults' problems and inhibitions go back to some negative experience or even trauma in infancy and childhood.

traumatic /trɔːˈmæt.ɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: trauma
Adjectives: traumatic

ADJECTIVE
[C2] If an experience is traumatic, it makes you feel very shocked and upset.
Dictionary example:
His parents split up when he was eight, which he found very traumatic.

Learner example:
Secondly, I have an innate fear of things moving simultaneously at a fast pace, probably enhanced by the traumatic childhood experience.

---

**travel** /ˈtræv.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: traveller
Verbs: travel

**NOUN [U]**

sb's travels
[C1] someone's journey

Dictionary example:
I meet all kinds of interesting people on my travels.

Learner example:
In these travels I learnt a lot because we had to deal with very different people.

---

**tray** /treɪ/

**NOUN [C]**

[B2] a flat object, usually with raised edges, used for carrying food and drinks

Dictionary example:
She was carrying a tray of drinks.

Learner example:
Our table had to be cleaned up, so I took a couple of trays, crossed the room and put the trays onto a shelf.

---

**tread** /tred/

**VERB [I or T] (trod or US also treaded, trod or trodden)**

[C2] to put your foot on something or to press something down with your foot

Dictionary examples:
I kept treading on his toes when we were dancing.
Yuck! Look what I've just trodden in!
A load of food had been trodden into the carpet.
Learner example:
When my neighbour Victor popped into my flat he saw the toy, a Crimson "Jaguar" produced by Corgitoys, and was impressed as well as I was, so we started playing and then I can vaguely remember what happened but [the] next thing was that "Jaguar" smashed to smithereens as if someone had trodden on it.

treasure /ˈtreʒ.ə/

NOUN

GOLD/JEWELS, ETC.
[B2] [u] very valuable things, usually in the form of a store of precious metals, precious stones or money

Dictionary examples:
Stories about pirates often include a search for buried treasure.
When they opened up the tomb they found treasure beyond their wildest dreams.

Learner example:
It was said that King Arthur had hid[d]en his treasure in a cave near his castle and he was the only [one] who knew where [it] was located.

VALUABLE OBJECT
[C2] [c] a very valuable object

Dictionary example:
art treasures

Learner example:
For all these reasons I believe that certain objects become valuable treasures to us.

VERB
[C2] If you treasure something, it is very important to you and gives you a lot of pleasure.

Dictionary example:
I shall treasure those memories of her.

Learner example:
Restlessness and creativity, physical and spiritual health, falling in love and receiving love can offer such moments, [which] a person could treasure for the rest of his or her life.

treat /triːt/

Word family:
Nouns: treatment
Verbs: treat
VERB [T]

DEAL WITH
[B2] to behave towards or deal with someone in a particular way

Dictionary examples:
My parents treated us all the same when we were kids.
He treated his wife very badly.
They treat her like one of their own children.
She felt she'd been unfairly treated by her employer.

Learner example:
I'll treat them like my own son and daughter.

MEDICAL
[B2] to give medical care to someone for an illness or injury

Dictionary examples:
He is being treated for a rare skin disease.
Western medicine tends to treat the symptoms and not the cause.

Learner example:
I have also worked for the "Red Cross" so I know how to treat injuries, if someone gets hurt.

CONSIDER
[B2] to consider something in a particular way

Dictionary example:
He treated my suggestion as a joke.

Learner example:
It was [a] horrible experience, believe me, but now we treat it as an adventure.

SPECIAL
[B2] to do or buy something special for someone

Dictionary example:
I'm going to treat them to dinner at that new restaurant.

Learner example:
There is one nice pub, of course I'll treat you!

NOUN
[C2] something special which you buy or do for someone else or for yourself

Dictionary examples:
a birthday treat
As a special treat I'm taking him out for dinner.
Annie, put your money away, this is my treat.

Learner example:
An orange or a banana was a wonderful treat.
treatment /ˈtriːt.mənt/

Word family:
Nouns: treatment
Verbs: treat

NOUN [C or U]

MEDICAL
[B2] the use of drugs, exercises, etc. to cure a person of an illness or injury

Dictionary examples:
free dental treatment
Perhaps it's time to try a new course of treatment.
This disease doesn't generally respond to treatment.
There are various treatments for this complaint.

Learner example:
For instance, if I had a child who needed special medical treatment and I was rich then it would make me very happy to be able to pay for an expensive operation and to see my child growing up.

DEALING WITH
[B2] the way you deal with or behave towards someone or something

Dictionary examples:
There have been complaints about the treatment of prisoners.
Peter gets special treatment because he knows the boss.

Learner example:
My pet doesn't need special treatment. All it needs is care and love.

treaty /ˈtriː.ti/

NOUN [C]
[C2] a written agreement between two or more countries

Dictionary examples:
a peace treaty
the treaty on European union
We've signed a treaty with neighbouring states to limit emissions of harmful gases.

Learner example:
When it is defeated, an extremely hard, humiliating treaty (the treaty of Versailles) leads to begetting the Nazi Monster, who humiliates a "new" scapegoat: the Jews.
**Trek** /ˈtrek/  

Word family:  
Nouns: trekking, trek

NOUN [C]  
[C1] a long, difficult journey that you make by walking

Dictionary example:  
They started out on the long trek across the mountains.

Learner example:  
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES include a trek through a dense forest and then climbing a hill which is a unique experience for everyone. For the bolder there is something more extreme.

**Trekking** /ˈtrek.ɪŋ/  

Word family:  
Nouns: trekking, trek

NOUN [U]  
[B2] when you go on a long, difficult journey on foot

Dictionary example:  
We want to go trekking in the Himalayas.

Learner example:  
I hear she's going to Africa for some trekking.

**Tremble** /ˈtrem.bl/  

VERB [I]  
[B2] to shake slightly, usually because you are cold, frightened, or very emotional

Dictionary examples:
When he came out of the water, he was trembling with cold.
Her bottom lip trembled and tears welled up in her eyes.
His voice started to tremble and I thought he was going to cry.

Learner example:
It was Tuesday the 13th and the fact that I was very superstitious made me tremble with fear.
tremendous /trɪˈmen.dəs/

Word family:
**Adjectives**: tremendous
**Adverbs**: tremendously

ADJECTIVE

GOOD
[B2] extremely good

**Dictionary examples**:
I think she's doing a tremendous job.
He's been a tremendous help.

**Learner example**:
I think it would be a tremendous idea to work with you.

LARGE
[B2] very large, great, strong, etc.

**Dictionary example**:
a tremendous amount of money

**Learner example**:
I think I certainly could live without watching television for a week, but it would put a tremendous strain on my everyday life.

tremendously /trɪˈmen.də.sli/

Word family:
**Adjectives**: tremendous
**Adverbs**: tremendously

ADVERB

[B2] very or very much

**Dictionary examples**:
They've worked tremendously hard.
We all enjoyed ourselves tremendously.

**Learner example**:
I enjoyed it tremendously.
trial /trəɪl/  

NOUN [C or U]

IN COURT
[B2] a legal process to decide if someone is guilty of a crime

Dictionary examples:
The two men are now on trial for attempted murder.
He will be taken to the US to stand trial.
Trial by jury is a fundamental right.
It was a very complicated trial that went on for months.
the trial proceedings

Learner example:
The trial was long and had wide coverage [in the] media.

TEST
[C1] a test of something new to find out if it is safe, works correctly, etc.

Dictionary examples:
They're doing clinical trials on a new drug.
They've employed her for a six-month trial period.

Learner example:
At the moment we have [a] special offer which is a free three-month trial period, so you can have an idea of how the Club works.

trial and error
[C2] a way of learning the best way to do something by trying different methods

Dictionary example:
There aren't any instructions with it – it's just a matter of trial and error.

Learner example:
If you don't know the past, you're liable to live through it again as instead of deriving the lessons from someone else's experiences, you'll have to learn them the hard way, by trial and error.

stand trial
[C2] If someone stands trial, they appear in a law court where people decide if they are guilty of a crime.

Dictionary example:
to stand trial for murder

Learner example:
He was going there in order to arrest Christians and bring them to Jerusalem to stand trial for their treason.
**triangle** /ˈtraɪ.æŋ.gl/

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] a flat shape with three straight sides

**Dictionary examples:**
an equilateral triangle
There's a small triangle of land to one side of the house.

**Learner example:**
On the right, two cherry trees and an apple tree are placed [in the] shape [of] a triangle.

---

**tribal** /ˈtraɪ.bəl/

**Word family:**
Nouns: tribe
Adjectives: tribal

**ADJECTIVE**
[C2] relating to a tribe

**Dictionary examples:**
tribal dress/leaders
The fierce tribal loyalty among soccer supporters leads to violence between opposing fans.

**Learner example:**
It magnificently establishes a parallel between the tragic demise of an outstanding Ibo man named Okonkwo and the cultural as well as religious downfall of his entire clan and generally the disintegration of African tribal life.

---

**tribe** /traɪb/

**Word family:**
Nouns: tribe
Adjectives: tribal

**NOUN [C + SINGULAR OR PLURAL VERB]**
[B2] a group of people who live together, usually in areas far away from cities, and who share the same culture and language and still have a traditional way of life

**Dictionary examples:**
a tribe of Amazonian Indians
the Masai tribe

**Learner example:**
Then I went South to Mali and visited the Dagan tribe whose mythology and rituals interest me a great deal.
tribute /ˈtrɪb.juːt/

NOUN
[C2] [c or u] something which you do or say to show that you respect and admire someone, especially in a formal situation

Dictionary examples:
Tributes have been pouring in from all over the world for Michael Jackson, who died yesterday. For wedding bouquets, floral tributes and all your flower needs, call Mandy's Florists.

Learner example:
The only thing she insisted on, over the telephone, was th[at] Newton’s "Amazing Gra[c]e" should be sung as her last personal tribute to her mother.

pay tribute to sb/sth
[C2] to thank someone or say that you admire someone or something, especially in public

Dictionary example:
He paid tribute to his former teacher.

Learner example:
Although it may not seem [so], this is just a way of paying tribute to Mahatma Gand[h]i, since he always encouraged people to return to their traditions and c[ustom]s.

trick /trɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: trick
Verbs: trick
Adjectives: tricky

NOUN [C]

METHOD
[B2] an effective or quick way of doing something

Dictionary examples:
What's the trick to getting this chair to fold up?
On page 21, twenty tricks to speed up your beauty routine.

Learner example:
I like all kinds of sports: swimming, volleyball, football, bowling, golf, and so on. I hope that [by] joining your club I will learn all the rules and tricks of these sports.

do the trick
[C2] If something does the trick, it solves a problem or has the result you want.
Dictionary example:
If I've got a headache, a couple of aspirins usually do the trick.

Learner example:
Using aromatherapy oil and scented candles always did the trick when she wanted to relax.

VERB [T]
[B2] to deceive someone

Dictionary example:
They tricked him into signing the papers.

Learner example:
After they explained everything to him, he then knew he was being tricked by them.

tricky /ˈtrɪk.i/

Word family:
Nouns: trick
Verbs: trick
Adjectives: tricky

ADJECTIVE
[B2] difficult to deal with or do

Dictionary examples:
Those bird models are quite tricky to make, aren't they?
I'm in a tricky situation really – whatever I do I'll offend someone.

Learner example:
I think Chris is more sensitive than you and she has taken into account how tricky that route could turn out to be.

trigger /ˈtrɪɡ.ər/

VERB [T]
[C1] to make something begin to happen

Dictionary examples:
Some people find that certain foods trigger their headaches.
The racial killings at the weekend have triggered off a wave of protests.

Learner example:
Motivation is triggered and influenced by many factors.
trilogy /ˈtrɪl.ə.dʒi/

NOUN [c]
[C2] a series of three books, plays, films, etc. with the same characters or subject

Dictionary example:
This is the first in his trilogy about India.

Learner example:
The Terminator trilogy might be one of the most obvious examples, where machines evolve beyond our control and nearly exterminate all human beings.

trio /ˈtriː.əʊ/

NOUN (plural trios)
[C2] [c + singular or plural verb] a group of three things or people, especially three musicians who play together

Dictionary examples:
Many jazz trios consist of a piano, guitar and double bass.
There was disappointment for our trio of 200 metre runners, all of whom failed to reach the final.

Learner example:
The rest of the evening saw a few other music students showing off their potential and it ended with an unplugged title sung by a trio composed of female singers.

trip /trɪp/

VERB [i] (−pp−)
[B2] to fall or almost fall because you hit your foot on something when you are walking or running

Dictionary examples:
Careful you don't trip over the cat!
He tripped on a stone and hurt his ankle.

Learner example:
We got in the house and it was so dark in there that I couldn't see anything. Then I tripped over a box, I believe.
triumph /ˈtraɪ.ʌmp/  

NOUN  

SUCCESS  
[C1] [c] an important success, achievement, or victory  

Dictionary examples:  
Barcelona's 3–1 triumph over Manchester United  
The book celebrates the hostages' remarkable triumph over appalling adversity.  
The signing of the agreement was a personal triumph for the Prime Minister.  
It was the Republican Party's third election triumph in a row.  
The eradication of smallpox by vaccination was one of medicine's greatest triumphs.  

Learner example:  
In addition to this the dinner we had on Monday afternoon was a triumph.  

FEELING  
[C2] [u] the feeling of happiness that you have when you win something or succeed  

Dictionary example:  
They couldn't conceal their triumph at the result.  

Learner example:  
He said to himself "Yes, it was me, it was because of me' and a spurt of triumph went through him".  

trivial /ˈtrɪv.i.əl/  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] small and not important  

Dictionary examples:  
It's a fairly trivial offence.  
It may seem trivial to you but it matters to me.  
Sexual harassment in the workplace is not a trivial matter.  

Learner example:  
All this may seem trivial [and] unimportant to an ordinary man addicted to [his] TV set.  

trolley /ˈtrɒl.i/  

NOUN [c]  
[B2] a metal object with two or four wheels that you push or pull to transport large or heavy objects on
Dictionary examples:

a shopping/supermarket trolley
The hospital is so overcrowded that some patients are being treated on trolleys in the corridors.

Learner example:
Sometimes customers' trolleys run into each other and they have to wait ages to go through check-[out].

troops /ˈtruːps/

NOUN [PLURAL]
[C2] soldiers on duty in a large group

Dictionary examples:
The major powers have said they will not send in ground troops.
All troops will be withdrawn by the end of the year.

Learner example:
They died almost [at] the end of the war, when the Russian troops were already in Berlin.

trophy /ˈtrəʊ.fɪ/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a prize, such as a silver cup, that you get for winning a race or competition

Dictionary examples:
He's an excellent snooker player, but he's never won a major trophy.
The Duchess of Kent will be presenting the trophies.

Learner example:
How about organising some competitions with pri[z]es, like a trophy??

tropical /ˈtrɒp.ɪ.əl/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] from or in the hottest parts of the world

Dictionary examples:
a tropical island/region/climate
a tropical storm
She specialises in tropical medicine.
The Amazon river basin contains the world's largest tropical rainforest.
Learner example:
There were special tropical flowers from Brazil and East Asia.

trouble  /ˈtrʌb.l/  

Word family:
Nouns: trouble
Adjectives: troubled

EXTRA WORK
[B2] [u] when you use extra time or energy to do something

Dictionary examples:
He took the trouble to write to each of them personally.
"Would you like to have a meal with us?" "Only if it's not too much trouble."
I could give you a lift - it's no trouble.

Learner example:
I hope it's not too much trouble and I swear I will not break anything again.

DIFFICULT SITUATION
[B2] [u] a difficult, unpleasant or dangerous situation

Dictionary examples:
The company was in serious trouble with massive debts.
He got into financial trouble after his divorce.
The marriage ran into trouble because of her husband's heavy drinking.

Learner example:
She opened her eyes and saw that she was in serious trouble because it was much too late.

the trouble with sb/sth
[B2] used to say what is wrong with someone or something

Dictionary examples:
The trouble with a white floor is that it gets dirty so quickly.
The trouble with John is that he doesn't think before he speaks.

Learner example:
In fact he thought that the trouble with going by bicycle is that you are always late if you live far from school.

FIGHTING
[B2] [u] a situation in which people are fighting or arguing

Dictionary examples:
The trouble started after a group of drunken football fans started to throw bottles.
Listen, I don't want any trouble in here, so please just finish your drink and leave.
Learner example:
When we arrived, there had been two men eating on the table just next to us, but they had
disappear when the trouble started.

NOT WORKING

[C2] [u] a problem that you have with a machine or part of your body

Dictionary examples:
The plane developed engine trouble shortly after takeoff.
They have a good reputation for building reliable trouble-free cars.
Her knee trouble is expected to keep her out of the game for the rest of the season.

Learner example:
This was clearly demonstrated by the incident a few weeks ago when one aircraft had engine
trouble just over our area and barely managed to get to the airport in time for landing.

troubled /ˈtrʌb.ld/  

Word family:
Nouns: trouble
Adjectives: troubled

ADJECTIVE
[C1] having problems or difficulties

Dictionary examples:
a troubled expression
The survival package involves selling off the unprofitable parts of the troubled company.
This troubled region has had more than its fair share of wars over the centuries.
In these troubled times, it makes a change to hear some good news.

Learner example:
But you realize how much you can cope with if only you help each other and stick together in
troubled times.

troublesome /ˈtrʌb.ləm/  

ADJECTIVE
[C2] causing a lot of problems, especially over a long period of time

Dictionary example:
a troublesome knee injury

Learner example:
This is normal for people who tend to work abroad – they are aware of the dangers and they can
protect themselves from troublesome situations.
trudge /trʌdʒ/

VERB

trudge along/through/up, etc.
[C2] to walk slowly with heavy steps, especially because you are tired

Dictionary example:
We trudged back up the hill.

Learner example:
We've been trudging through that snow for ages and I can't see an end coming!

true /truː/

Word family:
Nouns: truth
Adjectives: true
Adverbs: truly

ADJECTIVE

SINCERE
[C2] sincere or loyal, and likely to continue to be so even in a difficult situation

Dictionary examples:
There are few true believers in communism left in the party.
She has vowed to remain true to the president whatever happens.

Learner example:
There are those who remain true to every sport's true goals, the pursuit of excellent in whatever sports one competes in.

truly /ˈtruː.li/

Word family:
Nouns: truth
Adjectives: true
Adverbs: truly

ADVERB

VERY
[B2] used to emphasize a description of something
Dictionary examples:
This is a truly remarkable achievement.
It was a truly terrifying experience.

Learner example:
Those concerts are truly eye-opening.

SINCERELY
[C1] used to emphasize that something is sincere or honest

Dictionary examples:
Truly I could not have done this without you.
He truly believes he can cure himself by willpower alone.

Learner example:
It would probably take years to achieve it but in the long run I truly believe it would work, as long as everyone is willing to [make] an effort.

trunk /trʌŋk/

NOUN [C]
[B2] the thick stem of a tree that the branches grow from

Dictionary example:
The trunks of these trees can be more than two metres wide.

Learner example:
Paula found a small hole in the trunk, just near Laura's feet.

trust /trʌst/

VERB [ʃ]
I trust (that) FORMAL
[C1] used to say that you hope something is true

Dictionary example:
I trust that you had an enjoyable stay.

Learner example:
I trust that the suggestions outlined in this report will receive your serious consideration and meet with your approval.

NOUN [u]
[B2] the belief that you can trust someone or something
**Dictionary examples:**
a relationship based on trust and understanding
We were obviously wrong to put our trust in her.
He’s in a position of trust.

**Learner example:**
Now the trial is starting and, as a result, I have lost trust in my friends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>trustworthy /ˈtrʌstˌwɜː.ði/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] Someone who is trustworthy can be trusted.

**Dictionary example:**
Bob assured me she was completely trustworthy.

**Learner example:**
In addition to aforementioned character traits, John could be best described as a conscientious, imaginative, creative, sensible and trustworthy man.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>truth /truːθ/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Word family:**
Nouns: truth
Adjectives: true
Adverbs: truly

**NOUN**

**BEING TRUE**
[B2] [u] the quality of being true

**Dictionary examples:**
There may be some truth in what she says.
There is no truth in the reports of his resignation.
And yet what he says contains at least a grain of truth.

**Learner example:**
My humble opinion is that this statement is absolute, even though there is a great deal of truth behind it.

**TRUE FACT**
[C2] [c] a fact or idea that people accept is true

**Dictionary example:**
moral/religious truths
Learner example:
It was about those universal truths that one seeks all [one's] life and perhaps dies without truly understanding how happy one was.

try /traɪ/

VERB

LAW
[C2] [r] to examine facts in a court of law to decide if someone is guilty of a crime

Dictionary example:
He was tried for attempted murder.

Learner example:
I switched on the TV: unemployment had risen again [and] a politician was being tried for corruption. I switched it off.

NOUN [C USUALLY NO PLURAL]
[B2] an attempt to do something

Dictionary examples:
They might just have a place left on the course - why don't you give it a try?
Give it here – I'll have a try.
You could ask him if he's willing – it's worth a try.
This will be her third try at jumping the bar.

Learner example:
I can assure that you will like it, so give it a try.

tube /tjuːb/

NOUN

PIPE
[B2] [c] a pipe made of glass, plastic, metal, etc., especially for liquids or gases to flow through

Dictionary example:
Gases produced in the reaction pass through this tube and can then be collected.

Learner example:
I threw the tube into the river.
tuition  /tjuˈɪ.ʃən/

NOUN [u]
[C1] the teaching of one person or of a small group of people

Dictionary example:
French tuition

Learner example:
The high level of the tuition received from a professional trainer definitely pays off.

tune  /tjuːn/

NOUN [c]

MUSICAL NOTES
[C1] a series of musical notes that are pleasant to listen to

Dictionary examples:
That’s a very catchy tune.
He was humming a tune as he dried the dishes.

Learner example:
The music to the 2nd video is more light-hearted, and it has a catchy tune that makes you want to tap your foot to its rhythm.

out of tune
[C1] singing or playing the wrong notes

Dictionary example:
The piano is out of tune.

Learner example:
Even if you sing out of tune please call us.

in tune
[C1] singing or playing the right notes

Dictionary example:
Try to stay in tune.

Learner example:
The public was singing in tune with Jag, hands were raised and bodies were slowly swaying.

be in tune with sb/sth
[C2] to understand what someone wants or needs or to understand a situation and act in a way that is suitable for it
Dictionary example:
The government is not in tune with the voters.

Learner example:
I am not exactly in tune with all the latest trends but I know which styles give me the most satisfaction.

turbulent /ˈtɜː.bjə.lənt/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] A turbulent situation, time, etc. is one in which there are a lot of sudden changes, arguments, or violence.

Dictionary example:
a turbulent relationship

Learner example:
We live in a turbulent time and people do not always have enough peace in their minds to question things.

turmoil /ˈtɜː.mɔɪl/

NOUN [U NO PLURAL]
[C2] a situation in which there is a lot of trouble, confusion, or noise

Dictionary example:
The whole region is in turmoil.

Learner example:
Therefore, she finds herself in a state [of confusion], as her feelings are in turmoil.

turn /tɜː:n/

Word family:
Nouns: turn, turning
Verbs: turn

VERB
GO ROUND
[B2] [i or T] to move around a central point in a circle, or to make something do this
Dictionary examples:
Turn the steering wheel as quickly as you can.
The Earth turns on its axis once every 24 hours.
The wheels started to turn (round).
She turned the door knob and quietly opened the door.

Learner example:
It’s not like sitting on a bike and just turning the pedals, in this case you work only your legs.

turn blue/cold/nasty, etc.
[B2] to become blue, cold, nasty, etc.

Dictionary examples:
The sky turned black and it started to rain.
The weather has suddenly turned cold.
When I refused to pay, he turned nasty.
She turned pale and started to shiver.

Learner example:
His friends began to laugh and my face turned red.

turn 16/21, etc.
[C1] to become a particular age

Dictionary example:
He turned 18 last May.

Learner example:
One of the best thing[s] when you turn 17 in Britain is that you can start to take driving lessons.

turn a blind eye (to sth)
[C1] to choose to ignore something that you know is wrong or illegal

Dictionary example:
Restaurant staff often took food home, and their boss turned a blind eye.

Learner example:
Nevertheless, we can't turn a blind eye to this reality.

in turn
[C1] as a result of something that is part of a series of events

Dictionary example:
This could result in the loss of certain species of fish and this in turn poses a serious threat to the fishing communities along the river banks.

Learner example:
This, in turn, enabled them to find jobs and become financially independent from their husbands.

turn your back on sb/sth
[C2] to decide to stop having contact with someone or something, or to refuse to help someone
Dictionary example:
She turned her back on Hollywood and went to live in Florida.

Learner example:
She gets to learn that Olivia turned her back on her past and merged totally with India through her attraction to and sympathy for the Nawab.

turn your nose up at *sth* INFORMAL
[C2] to not accept something because you do not think it is good enough for you

Dictionary example:
He turned his nose up at my offer of soup, saying he wanted a proper meal.

Learner example:
Moreover, she will not turn her nose up at anybody who might be considered less worthy than her.

turn over a new leaf
[C2] to start to behave in a better way

Dictionary example:
I'm not drinking any more – I've turned over a new leaf.

Learner example:
She promised to turn over a new leaf.

toss and turn
[C2] be unable to sleep properly

Dictionary example:
I was tossing and turning for most of the night.

Learner example:
As she tossed and turned, unable to sleep, she started [going over] the events that had taken place before that evening.

NOUN

take turns or take it in turns
[B2] When a number of people take turns, they do the same thing one after the other.

Dictionary examples:
We take turns to answer the phone.
They all took turns carrying the suitcase.

Learner example:
I suggest that each family takes turns to cut the grass once a week.

CHANGE IN DIRECTION
[B2] [c] a change in the direction in which you are moving or facing
Dictionary examples:
a **left/right** turn
We got as far as the school, and there we had to **make** a right turn.

**in turn**
[C1] one after the other

**Dictionary examples:**
Each of us collects the mail in turn.
He spoke to the three boys in turn.

**Learner example:**
We had two different teachers in the mornings and in the afternoons in turn.

**in turn**
[C1] as a result of something

**Dictionary example:**
He took out more loans, which, in turn, led to more debt.

**Learner example:**
People will study for a range of degrees, which may imply that a lot of new jobs, mainly related to computers, will gain importance, which, in turn, could result in a better organization of the jobs and, as a consequence, a reduction in the unemployment rate.

**take a turn for the better/worse**
[C2] to become better or worse suddenly

**Dictionary example:**
The weather took a turn for the better.

**Learner example:**
Despite all the environmental problems it is up to us to prevent things from taking a turn for the worse.

**the turn of the century**
[C2] the start of a new century

**Dictionary example:**
He was born at the turn of the century.

**turn of events**
[C2] the way in which a situation develops, especially a sudden or unexpected change

**Dictionary example:**
We were all shocked by this tragic turn of events.

**Learner example:**
She was not prepared for such an unexpected turn of events!
**turnover /ˈtɜːnˌəʊ.vər/**

**NOUN**

**BUSINESS**

[C1] [c or u] the amount of business that a company does in a period of time

**Dictionary example:**
Large supermarkets have a high turnover of inventory.

**Learner example:**
For instance, clothes shops in Barcelona expect a big turnover in August because of the amount of tourists that will visit the city.

**EMPLOYEES**

[C2] [u no plural] the rate at which workers leave an organization and new workers join it

**Dictionary example:**
The high turnover among daycare workers is an ongoing problem.

**Learner example:**
What used to amaze me was the very low staff turnover and I wondered what the secret was.

**tutor /ˈtjuː.tər/**

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] someone who teaches one person or a very small group of people

**Dictionary example:**
a private tutor

**Learner example:**
We could afford trips abroad, modern labour-saving devices and private tutors.

**twenty /ˈtwen.ti/**

**NUMBER**

**(be) in your twenties**

[B2] to be aged between 20 and 29

**Dictionary example:**
Most of the staff are in their twenties.
**Learner example:**
Teenagers and people in their twenties will enjoy themselves in the atmosphere of the rock-café.

**the twenties**
[B2] the years from 1920–1929

**Dictionary example:**
I love the fashions of the twenties.

**Learner example:**
You can find the car [that] won the first car race in the world, [and] lost movies from the twenties.

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**twice** /twʌɪs/

**ADVERB**

**think twice**
[C1] to carefully consider whether what you are planning is a good idea

**Dictionary example:**
I’d think twice about spending so much money on one thing, if I were you.

**Learner example:**
Now I will think twice before I buy your paper again.

**not think twice**
[C1] to do something immediately, without considering whether it is a good idea

**Dictionary example:**
When he asked me out, I didn’t think twice!

**Learner example:**
Your advertisement seemed very convincing and as I intended to travel to exotic locations I did not think twice.

---

**twist** /twɪst/

**Word family:**

**Verbs:** twist

**Adjectives:** twisted

**VERB**

**INJURE**
[C1] [ɪ] If you twist a part of your body, such as your knee, you injure it by turning it suddenly.
Dictionary example:
I tripped and twisted my ankle.

Learner example:
The worst part is, that we had an older lady within our group who had twisted her an[k]le so she was somewhat disabled at the time.

TURN

[C2] [r] to turn something in a circle using your hand

Dictionary example:
She sat there nervously twisting the ring around on her finger.

TURN YOUR BODY

[C2] [l or r] to turn part of your body to face a different direction

Dictionary example:
She twisted her head so she could see what was happening.

Learner example:
Through the right wing of the car I could [see] his eyes glitter like two flawless diamonds as he twisted his neck slightly from time to time to beam at me.

CHANGE MEANING

[C2] [r] to change the meaning of something so that it fits what you want it to mean

Dictionary example:
You keep twisting my words – that's not what I meant at all!

Learner example:
Some members of the board twisted her words.

NOUN [c]

[C1] an unexpected change in a situation or in a story

Dictionary example:
His arrest was just the latest twist in the story of his life.

Learner example:
The plot takes several twists and turns till the conclusion which sums up the contents of the film.

twisted /ˈtwɪstɪd/

Word family:
Verbs: twist
Adjectives: twisted
ADJECTIVE

BENT

[B2] bent so that the original shape is changed or destroyed

Dictionary examples:
a twisted tree trunk
a twisted ankle
twisted metal

Learner example:
When I got there, a very nice nurse told me that I've got a twisted ankle and I can't walk for one week!

STRANGE

[C2] strange and slightly unpleasant or cruel

Dictionary example:
He'd become bitter and twisted.

Learner example:
Sometimes her morality seems a little twisted.

two /tuː/

NUMBER

or two

[C1] used to talk about a small number of something

Dictionary example:
I may bring a friend or two.

Learner example:
I also refused to eat any meal a day or two before the test but my mother made me, she said I needed the energy to be happy and celebrate afterwards.

be in two minds

[C1] to have difficulty making a decision

Dictionary example:
I'm in two minds about accepting his offer.

Learner example:
If you are in two minds about having to share your room with someone else, there you can easily rent a studio apartment close to the college, which is situated in the centre of the city.
type /taɪp/

Word family:
Nouns: type
Adjectives: typical
Adverbs: typically

NOUN [C]

PERSON
[C1] someone who has particular qualities or interests

Dictionary example:
He's the outdoor type.

Learner example:
Usually these adults are the hardworking type and save money for the future.

not be sb’s type INFORMAL
[C2] to not be the type of person that someone thinks is attractive

Dictionary example:
I like Bertrand but he's not really my type.

Learner example:
It's true that he wasn't handsome, not at all the type she had used to prefer, but when he smiled, that wonderful smile that made his eyes sparkle, she realised, quite dazzled, that he was beautiful.

typically /ˈtɪp.i.kl/
ugly /ˈʌg.li/

ADJECTIVE

SITUATION
[C2] An ugly situation is very unpleasant, usually because it involves violence.

Dictionary example:
There were ugly scenes outside the stadium.

Learner example:
Just think about the ugly situation of being in a fully-booked hotel and then the staff goes on strike.

ultimate /ˈʌl.tɪ.mət/

Word family:
Adjectives: ultimate
Adverbs: ultimately

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

MOST
[B2] better, greater or worse than all similar things

Dictionary examples:
Climbing Mount Everest is the ultimate challenge.
the ultimate luxury cruise
For me, rats are the ultimate horror.

Learner example:
Being on the road is always better than the arrival, so this journey would be the ultimate journey for me as well.

FINAL
[C1] final or most important

Dictionary example:
the ultimate aim/solution

Learner example:
The ultimate aim [when] I joined your tour was to meet one of my friends in St Andrews.
ultimately /ˈʌl.tɪ.mət.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: ultimate
Adverbs: ultimately

ADVERB

FINALLY

[C1] finally, after a series of things have happened

Dictionary examples:
Everything will ultimately depend on what is said at the meeting with the directors next week. Ultimately, of course, he'd like to have his own business but that won't be for some time.

Learner example:
Ultimately, it leads to a lot of diseases and early death.

EMPHASIS

[C2] used to emphasize the most important fact in a situation

Dictionary example:
Ultimately, he'll have to decide.

Learner example:
Ultimately, that is why we are influenced by other people's personalities.

unacceptable /ˌʌn.ækˈsep.tə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: acceptance
Verbs: accept
Adjectives: acceptable, unacceptable, accepted

ADJECTIVE

[B2] too bad to be allowed to continue

Dictionary examples:
The water contains unacceptable levels of pollution.
I find that sort of behaviour completely unacceptable.
The unions have described the latest pay offer as unacceptable.

Learner example:
So I waited for 45 minutes until the show started. [T]hat is an unacceptable delay.
unaffected /ˌʌn.əˈfekt.id/

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** affect  
**Adjectives:** unaffected

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] not changed by something

**Dictionary example:**  
Smaller colleges will be unaffected by the new regulations.

**Learner example:**  
Only a genius could stay unaffected by such idolatry.

unaffordable /ʌn.əˈfɔː.də.bl/  

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** afford  
**Adjectives:** unaffordable

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] too expensive for people to be able to buy

**Dictionary example:**  
Such clothes are unaffordable for most people.

**Learner example:**  
£5 per session is obviously unaffordable for students.

unanimous /juːˈnæn.ɪ.məs/  

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** unanimous  
**Adverbs:** unanimously

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] agreed by everyone

**Dictionary example:**  
The jury was unanimous in finding him guilty.

**Learner example:**  
Having spoken to neighbours, we reached a unanimous decision that the route of the aircraft should be changed immediately so that they no longer disrupt our lives.
**unanimously**  /juːˈnæn.ɪ.məs.li/

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** unanimous

**Adverbs:** unanimously

**ADVERB**

[C2] with agreement from everyone

**Dictionary example:**
We agreed unanimously that he was the best candidate.

**Learner example:**
While it is true that there are quite a few opposing theories about losing weight, doctors unanimously agree that a hedonistic approach to eating can lead to unpleasant health issues like obesity.

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**unattainable**  /ˌʌn.əˈteɪ.nə.bl/

**Word family:**

**Verbs:** attain

**Adjectives:** attainable, unattainable

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] not able to be achieved

**Dictionary examples:**
an unattainable ideal
Some economists think that full employment in Europe is an unattainable goal.

**Learner example:**
The ability to permanently record thought opened new dimensions to fields like philosophy, poetry and literature, enabling them to reach a degree of complexity, creativity and longevity unattainable by previous technologies.

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**unattractive**  /ˌʌn.əˈtræk.tɪv/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** attraction

**Verbs:** attract

**Adjectives:** attractive, unattractive

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT BEAUTIFUL**

[B2] not beautiful or nice to look at
Dictionary examples:
I felt old and unattractive.
Their new building is very unattractive.

Learner example:
This information is useful for [a person] who thinks his/her body is unattractive.

NOT INTERESTING
[C1] not interesting or useful

Dictionary example:
an unattractive proposition

Learner example:
In our opinion, despite the friendly atmosphere of our club's meetings we find them very unattractive and rather "dull".

** unavailable  /ən.əˈver.lə.bəl/

Word family:
Nouns: availability
Adjectives: available, unavailable

** ADJECTIVE **

IMPOSSIBLE TO GET
[B2] impossible to buy or get

Dictionary example:
The book is unavailable in Britain.

Learner example:
The third point was that the discount[ed] tickets were unavailable.

CANNOT DO SOMETHING
[C1] not able to talk to someone or meet them, especially because you are doing other things

Dictionary example:
The manager was unavailable for comment.

Learner example:
Furthermore, a role-figure for the younger generation could be the famous tennis player Joe Hill, who unfortunately is unavailable to give an interview.
unavoidable /ˌʌn.əˈvɔɪ.də.bəl/  

Word family:
Verbs: avoid  
Adjectives: unavoidable  
Adverbs: unavoidably

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] impossible to avoid or prevent  

Dictionary example:  
an unavoidable delay

Learner example:  
Being aware of the two proposals our local government is considering in order to solve the apparently unavoidable matter of traffic in our beloved city, I feel compelled to offer my views on such a delicate subject.

unavoidably /ˌʌn.əˈvɔɪ.də.bli/  

Word family:
Verbs: avoid  
Adjectives: unavoidable  
Adverbs: unavoidably

ADVERB  
[C2] in a way that could not be avoided or prevented  

Dictionary example:  
She was unavoidably delayed.

Learner example:  
Even if you go abroad on your own, you unavoidably meet people [from] your country or speaking your native language.

unaware /ˌʌn.əˈweər/  

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]  
[B2] not knowing about something  

Dictionary examples:  
He was unaware that the police were watching him.  
I was quite unaware of the problem.

Learner example:  
Although you may be an expert in one subject you can be unaware of some basics in others.
unbalanced /ʌnˈbæl.ənst/

Word family:

Nouns: balance
Verbs: balance
Adjectives: balanced, unbalanced

ADJECTIVE

MENTALLY ILL

[C2] slightly mentally ill

Dictionary example:
After his death, she became slightly unbalanced.

Learner example:
Many homeless people are mentally unbalanced, some are addicted to chemical substances.

NOT FAIR

[C2] false and not fair

Dictionary example:
He gave an unbalanced view of the situation.

Learner example:
I think that if a school measures a child solely by his or her academic success, it will be an unbalanced and narrow-minded method to measure a child and his or her ability as a whole person.

unbearable /ʌnˈbeərə.bl/

Word family:

Verbs: bear
Adjectives: unbearable

ADJECTIVE

[B2] too painful or unpleasant for you to continue to experience

Dictionary example:
The heat was almost unbearable.

Learner example:
Life can be very difficult, almost unbearable sometimes.
unbelievable /ˌʌn.bəˈliː.və.bl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: belief  
Verbs: believe  
Adjectives: unbelievable

ADJECTIVE

UNLIKELY

[B2] not probable and difficult to believe

Dictionary example:  
I found most of the characters in the play totally unbelievable.

Learner example:  
They made up unbelievable stories which almost made them cry in the end.

unbiased /ʌnˈbaɪəst/  

Word family:  
Nouns: bias  
Adjectives: biased, unbiased

ADJECTIVE

[C2] able to judge fairly because you are not influenced by your own opinions

Dictionary example:  
He was able to give me some unbiased advice.

Learner example:  
If you take into consideration only certain subjects, you are likely to end up despising other fields of knowledge, whereas the main point of education is to give an unbiased view of our own and foreign cultures.

uncertain /ˈʌn.sɜː.tən/  

Word family:  
Nouns: certainty, uncertainty  
Adjectives: certain, uncertain  
Adverbs: certainly

ADJECTIVE

NOT SURE

[B2] not sure or not able to decide about something
Dictionary examples:
She’s uncertain **whether** to go to New Zealand or not.
Bridie was uncertain **about** meeting him.

Learner example:
[There are] things that I am uncertain about, and [that I would] be grateful if you [could] explain.

**NOT KNOWN**

[B2] not known or fixed, or not completely certain

Dictionary examples:
New arrivals face an uncertain **future**.
The political outlook is **still** uncertain.

Learner example:
Please do not bother posting them since we do not have a zip code where I live, and they might get lost with our uncertain Post Service.

**in no uncertain terms**

[C2] in a direct and often angry way

Dictionary example:
I told him to go away in no uncertain terms.

Learner example:
Intellectuals are used to saying in no uncertain terms that money represents the bad side of the sport.

**uncertainty** /ˈʌnˈsɜː.tən.ti/

Word family:
**Nouns:** certainty, uncertainty
**Adjectives:** certain, uncertain
**Adverbs:** certainly

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] the state of being uncertain

Dictionary example:
There was a lot of uncertainty about whether or not he would attend the event.

Learner example:
The shortages of almost everything we have to face and cope with have made our lives full of uncertainty and helplessness, but on the other hand they released in some Poles enormous energy, in the effort to support their families and provide them with food, clothing and fuel.
unchanged  /ʌnˈtʃeɪnd/  

Word family:
Nouns: change
Verbs: change
Adjectives: unchanged, changeable

ADJECTIVE
[B2] staying the same

Dictionary example:
The area has remained virtually unchanged in fifty years.

Learner example:
All the big and small things which defin[e] people's personal environment will be left nearly unchanged – the furniture, the pictures on the wall.... I suppose our future homes will be a mix of new technologies and good old tradition.

unclear  /ʌnˈklɪə/  

Word family:
Verbs: clear
Adjectives: clear, unclear
Adverbs: clearly

ADJECTIVE
DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND
[B2] not easy to understand

Dictionary examples:
The situation at the moment is unclear.
It's unclear what actually happened that night.
It's unclear whether he arrived before or after the shot was fired.

Learner example:
If something is unclear please give me a call.

be unclear about sth
[B2] If you are unclear about something, you are not certain about it.

Dictionary example:
I'm unclear about a couple of points in your proposal – could you go over them again?
uncomfortable /ʌnˈkʌmp.tə.bl/  
Word family:  
Nouns: comfort, discomfort  
Verbs: comfort  
Adjectives: comfortable, uncomfortable, comforting  
Adverbs: comfortably, uncomfortably

ADJECTIVE
  EMBARRASSED  
  [C1] slightly embarrassed, or making you feel slightly embarrassed
  Dictionary example:  
an uncomfortable silence  
  Learner example:  
It is interesting how people get embar[r]assed and uncomfortable when they have to face an English speech.

uncomfortably /ʌnˈkʌmp.tə.bli/  
Word family:  
Nouns: comfort, discomfort  
Verbs: comfort  
Adjectives: comfortable, uncomfortable, comforting  
Adverbs: comfortably, uncomfortably

ADVERB
  [C1] in a way that is not comfortable or pleasant
  Dictionary example:  
I was warm but not uncomfortably so.  
  Learner example:  
I saw faces I see every day, but in uncomfortably long dresses and with starched white collars, I saw their effort to look nice, attractive and not to disturb the rules set by the society of their time.

uncommon /ʌnˈkɒm.ən/  
Word family:  
Nouns: common  
Adjectives: common, uncommon  
Adverbs: commonly

ADJECTIVE
  [C1] unusual
Dictionary example:
It’s not uncommon for people to become ill when they travel.

Learner example:
NEW TRENDS: Vegetarian food is not uncommon nowadays.

unconditional  /ˌʌn.kənˈdɪʃ.ənl/  

Word family:
Nouns: condition
Verbs: condition
Adjectives: unconditional

ADJECTIVE
[C2] done or given without any limits and without asking for anything for yourself

Dictionary example:
unconditional love

Learner example:
But I am of [the] firm conviction that you cannot love [a child] too much, and this unconditional love does not include any rod, in both [the] literal and figurative sense of the word.

unconscious  /ˈʌn.kənʃəs/  

Word family:
Nouns: consciousness
Adjectives: conscious, unconscious, self-conscious
Adverbs: subconsciously, unconsciously

ADJECTIVE

AS THOUGH SLEEPING
[B2] in a state as though you are sleeping, for example because you have been hit on the head

Dictionary example:
She was hit on the head by a stone and knocked unconscious.

Learner example:
In the morning, Mrs Crozier went to visit Miss Appleford in number 42 only to find her lying on the floor unconscious.

NOT AWARE
[C2] An unconscious thought or feeling is one that you do not know you have.

Dictionary example:
an unconscious fear
Learner example:
Maybe it was her strict upbringing that had left her with an unconscious need to rebel, and that in turn caused her to be drawn to this rowdy young man.

unconsciously /ʌnˈkɒn.ʃəs.li/

Word family:
Nouns: consciousness
Adjectives: conscious, unconscious, self-conscious
Adverbs: subconsciously, unconsciously

ADVERB
[C2] If you do something unconsciously, you do it without knowing that you are doing it.

Dictionary example:
She was nodding her head, unconsciously urging him on.

Learner example:
We do this, for instance, when we buy a larger – and more expensive – car than we need for commuting to work, because we unconsciously want to be like the actors that drive them in films.

unconventional /ˌʌn.kənˈvɛn.ʃən.l/]

Word family:
Nouns: convention
Adjectives: conventional, unconventional

ADJECTIVE
[C1] doing things in a way that is different from most people

Dictionary example:
an unconventional lifestyle

Learner example:
CHILDREN’S STORIES This event was successful and satisfied the kids since the heroes were exhilarating, with amazingly unconventional behaviour.

uncover /ʌnˈkʌv.ər/

Word family:
Nouns: cover, coverage
Verbs: cover, uncover

VERB [T]
[C1] to discover something that had been secret or hidden

2547
Dictionary example:
The inspectors uncovered evidence of corruption.

Learner example:
Sitting in a restaurant and discussing provisions of the contract you will find much easier and feel happier than [just sitting] and look[ing] at [an] enormous number of clauses, trying unsuccessfully to uncover what your client really thought when he wrote this or that.

 undeniable /ˌʌn.dɪˈnaɪ.ə.bl/  

Word family:
Nouns: denial
Verbs: deny
Adjectives: undeniable
Adverbs: undeniably

ADJECTIVE
[C1] certainly true

Dictionary example:
an undeniable fact

Learner example:
It is undeniable that he has made a positive contribution to [the] history of my country.

 undeniably /ˌʌn.dɪˈnaɪ.ə.bli/  

Word family:
Nouns: denial
Verbs: deny
Adjectives: undeniable
Adverbs: undeniably

ADVERB
[C2] in a way that is almost certainly true

Dictionary example:
He is undeniably the best student we have ever had.

Learner example:
Sport has undeniably become part of contemporary popular culture.
under /ˈʌn.dər/

PREPOSITION

IN A PARTICULAR STATE
[B2] in a particular state or condition

Dictionary examples:
The President is under pressure to resign.
Under no circumstances should the festival become too specialized.

Learner example:
I am used to working under pressure.

under attack/control/investigation, etc.
[B2] being affected by something at the present time

Dictionary examples:
The town is once again under attack.
The cause of the fire is still under investigation.
A new 16-screen cinema is under construction.
Several different plans are under discussion.
We are working hard to get the situation under control.

Learner example:
Everything was under control, the remote detonator had worked perfectly well.

be under the impression
[B2] to think or understand a particular stated thing

Dictionary examples:
I was under the impression (that) you didn't get on too well.
He was under the mistaken impression (that) you were married.

Learner example:
I am under the impression that people generally exercise a little, but if they eat the wrong food every day, it won't help.

under your breath
[C2] If you say something under your breath, you say it very quietly so that other people cannot hear it.

Dictionary example:
He was muttering curses under his breath.

Learner example:
"We must have taken a wrong turn somewhere..." he kept muttering under his breath.

down under
[C2] Australia, or in Australia
Dictionary example:
She was born in Scotland, but she's been living down under for 22 years.

Learner example:
Last year a good friend of mine and I went to Australia. After a couple of days of doing some sightseeing and sunbathing on beautiful sandy beaches, we decided that we needed to get something more out of our stay down under.

under your nose
[C2] If something bad happens under your nose, it happens close to you but you do not notice it.

Dictionary example:
They were stealing money from under my nose.

Learner example:
You will be surprised that there was something right under your nose that you could not live without.

be under way
[C2] to be already happening

Dictionary example:
Building work is already under way.

Learner example:
Sociologists are well-aware of the fact and experiments are under way to counterbalance these disadvantages.

be/feel under the weather
[C2] to feel ill

Dictionary example:
I’m feeling a bit under the weather this morning.

Learner example:
Ann was a bit under the weather, [and] she felt quite lonely in her big flat.

underdeveloped /ˌʌndəˈdevəpt/

Word family:
Nouns: development, developer, redevelopment
Verbs: develop, redevelop
Adjectives: developed, developing, underdeveloped, undeveloped

ADJECTIVE
[C2] not developed enough

Dictionary example:
They are working in underdeveloped parts of the city.
Learner example:
A shift of focus in underdeveloped and developing states' economic and social policies is vital to overcoming the problems which cause homelessness.

underestimate /ˌʌn.dəˈres.tɪ.meɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: estimate
Verbs: estimate, underestimate, overestimate
Adjectives: estimated

VERB [T]

NOT KNOW SIZE
[B2] to fail to understand how large, strong, or important something is

Dictionary examples:
Many people underestimate the cost of owning a car.
We shouldn't underestimate the part that exercise plays in good health.

Learner example:
The report also seemed to underestimate the number of people that had attended.

PERSON
[C1] to not understand how powerful or clever someone is

Dictionary example:
I thought it would be an easy game but I had underestimated my opponent.

Learner example:
At the beginning she will ask you many questions about yourself. But don't underestimate Ms Bates (that's her name).

undergo /ˌʌn.dəˈgoʊ/

VERB [T] (undergoing, underwent, undergone)
[C1] to experience something, especially a change or medical treatment

Dictionary examples:
The country is currently undergoing major political change.
He is undergoing surgery for a heart problem.

Learner example:
Nowadays, my country is undergoing a very difficult financial and social situation.
underground¹

ADJECTIVE; ADVERB /ˌʌn.dəˈgraʊnd/

[B2] below the surface of the ground

Dictionary examples:
an underground cave/passage
Some animals, such as moles, live underground.

Learner example:
As it was expected, Harry was seen, and then he went underground through a tunnel which crossed from the inner city to the Russian zone.

underground² /ˌʌn.dəˈgraʊnd/

ADJECTIVE; ADVERB

[B2] below the surface of the ground

Dictionary examples:
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Learner example:
As it was expected, Harry was seen, and then he went underground through a tunnel which crossed from the inner city to the Russian zone.

underline /ˌʌn.dəˈlaɪn/ (also underscore)

VERB [T]

EMPHASIZE

[B2] to emphasize the truth or importance of something

Dictionary example:
The report underlines the need for more teachers in schools.

Learner example:
It is true that museums do not show the past as well as they could, but we must underline that they are always good enough if we are really interested in knowing about our past.
underlying  /ˈʌn.dəˈlaɪ.ɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] An underlying reason or problem is the real reason or problem, although it is not obvious.

Dictionary example:
We need to look at the underlying reasons for ill health.

Learner example:
The underlying reason is of course a lurking threat of death and decay, which keeps sc[i]entists investigating new methods to postpone the age of death.

undermine  /ˌʌn.dəˈmaɪn/

VERB [T]
[C2] to make someone less confident or make something weaker

Dictionary example:
A series of scandals have undermined people's confidence in the government.

Learner example:
All this doesn't undermine the importance of charity workers and entertainers in our work for the greater good.

underneath  /ˈʌn.dəˈniːθ/

ADVERB
[B2] under or below

Dictionary example:
Florian was wearing a dark jacket with a red shirt underneath.

Learner example:
The rock was about 70m high and there was water underneath.

underpaid  /ˈʌn.dəˈpeɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: pay, payment
Verbs: pay, repay
Adjectives: payable, underpaid, unpaid
**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] not earning enough for your work

**Dictionary example:**
Her staff felt they were underpaid.

**Learner example:**
They claim that they are overworked and underpaid (it’s [the] usual reason for striking, isn’t it?)

**understand /ˌʌn.deˈstænd/ (understood, understood)**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** misunderstanding, understanding
**Verbs:** misunderstand, understand
**Adjectives:** understandable, understanding
**Adverbs:** understandably

**VERB [I or T]**

I/we understand (that)... **FORMAL**

[C1] used to say that you believe something is true because someone has told you it is

**Dictionary example:**
I understand that the school is due to close next year.

**Learner example:**
I understand that the job entails entertaining people.

**make yourself understood**

[C1] to say something to someone in a way that they understand

**Dictionary example:**
I had a little difficulty making myself understood.

**Learner example:**
(Find enclosed a paper slip on which I have written a destination, number of tickets, etc., in the German language – use it just in case you can’t make yourselves understood.)

**understandable /ˌʌn.deˈstæn.da.bl/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** misunderstanding, understanding
**Verbs:** misunderstand, understand
**Adjectives:** understandable, understanding
**Adverbs:** understandably
**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] An understandable feeling or action is one that you would expect in that particular situation.

**Dictionary examples:**
“I still feel really angry about it.” “That’s understandable.”
Their refusal to help is **perfectly/completely** understandable, considering the circumstances.

**Learner example:**
I guess they wouldn’t give me permission [to stay] at a female friend’s home, but that’s understandable.

---

**understandably /ˌʌn.dəˈstæn.də.bli/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** misunderstanding, understanding  
**Verbs:** misunderstand, understand  
**Adjectives:** understandable, understanding  
**Adverbs:** understandably

---

**ADVERB**

[C1] in a way that is expected in a particular situation

**Dictionary example:**
She’s understandably upset.

**Learner example:**
Furthermore, the use of the computer system caused long waiting times because everyone wanted – understandably – to find out more about suitable working opportunities.

---

**understanding /ˌʌn.dəˈstæn.dɪŋ/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** misunderstanding, understanding  
**Verbs:** misunderstand, understand  
**Adjectives:** understandable, understanding  
**Adverbs:** understandably

---

**NOUN**

**KNOWLEDGE**

[B2] [U no plural] knowledge about a subject, situation, etc. or about how something works
Dictionary examples:
She doesn't have any understanding of politics.
My understanding of the agreement is that they will pay £50,000 over two years.
It was my understanding that she would come alone.

Learner example:
It was my understanding that discounts were available on the tickets, as the advertisement showed, but there were no discounts.

SYMPATHY
[B2] [u] sympathy

Dictionary example:
Thank you for your understanding – I do appreciate it.

Learner example:
Thank you for your understanding.

AGREEMENT
[C2] [c] an informal agreement between two people

Dictionary example:
We have an understanding that we don't discuss the subject in front of his mother.

ADJECTIVE
[B2] showing sympathy for someone's problems

Dictionary example:
Fortunately, my boss is very understanding.

Learner example:
They are famous, but they need to be alone sometimes. I think [the] media must be more understanding.

undertake /ˌʌn.dəˈteɪk/ (undertook, undertaken)

Word family:
Nouns: undertaking
Verbs: take, undertake

VERB [T]

DO
[C1] formal to do or begin to do something, especially something that will take a long time or be difficult

Dictionary example:
Students are required to undertake simple experiments.
Learner example:
To achieve it the above mentioned steps should be undertaken.

**undertake to do sth**
[C2] to promise to do something

Dictionary example:
She undertook to organize the meeting.

---

**undertaking** /ˌʌndərˈteɪ.kɪŋ/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word family:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nouns:</strong> undertaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Verbs:</strong> take, undertake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOUN [c]**
[C2] a difficult or important piece of work, especially one that takes a long time

Dictionary example:
Building your own house is a major undertaking.

Learner example:
While such an undertaking is most advisable, I should like to point out that there may be drawbacks.

---

**underwater** /ˌʌn.dəˈwɔː.tər/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE; ADVERB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[B2] under the surface of water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dictionary examples:
an underwater camera
Seals can hear very well underwater.

Learner example:
If you have diving equipment, you will spend a very good time underwater.

---

**underway** /ˌʌn.əˈweɪ/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAPPENING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C2] If something is underway, it is happening.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dictionary example:
Economic recovery is already underway.

Learner example:
The weather was beautiful and the sun shone but as soon as I was underway, the weather turned on us and grew worse with every step.

get underway
[C2] to begin

Dictionary example:
The film festival gets underway on 11th July.

undesirable /ˌʌn.dɪˈzaɪə.rə.bl/ [C2]

Word family:
Nouns: desire
Verbs: desire
Adjectives: desirable, desired, undesirable

ADJECTIVE FORMAL
[C2] Something that is undesirable is not wanted because it is bad or unpleasant.

Dictionary example:
an undesirable influence

Learner example:
In this day and age, man is inextricably interwoven with the undesirable environmental damage, and the problems as far as the environment is concerned have generated a great deal of heated debate.

undeveloped /ˌʌn.ˈhev.əlt/ [C2]

Word family:
Nouns: development, developer, redevelopment
Verbs: develop, redevelop
Adjectives: developed, developing, underdeveloped, undeveloped

ADJECTIVE
[C2] Undeveloped land has no buildings on it and is not used for anything.

Dictionary example:
The site is still undeveloped.

Learner example:
The Town Council decided to take measures in order to benefit our area, which has remained undeveloped for the last five years.
undo /ʌnˈduː/ (undoing, undid, undone)

VERB [T]

OPEN

[B2] to open something that is tied or fastened

Dictionary examples:
I took off my hat and undid my coat.
Can you undo this knot for me?
Can someone help me to undo my seat belt?

CHANGE BACK

[B2] to make a computer get rid of the last change you made to a document and make it the way it was before

Dictionary example:
You need to undo that change.

undoubted /ʌnˈdaut.id/

Word family:
Nouns: doubt
Verbs: doubt
Adjectives: doubtful, undoubted
Adverbs: undoubtedly

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

[C2] used to emphasize that something is true

Dictionary examples:
The project was an undoubted success.
her undoubted ability/talent

Learner example:
Yet, in spite of the undoubted improvements to life progress has brought about, there are still those who condemn it.

undoubtedly /ʌnˈdaут.id.li/

Word family:
Nouns: doubt
Verbs: doubt
Adjectives: doubtful, undoubted
Adverbs: undoubtedly
ADVERB

[B2] used to emphasize that something is true

Dictionary example:
Stress has undoubtedly contributed to her illness.

Learner example:
This trip will undoubtedly be a wonderful experience.

undressed  /ʌnˈdrest/

Word family:
Nouns: dress
Verbs: dress, undress
Adjectives: dressed, undressed

ADJECTIVE

[B2] not wearing any clothes

Dictionary example:
I got undressed and went to bed.

Learner example:
We got undressed quicker than ever and ran into the waterfall.

undue  /ʌnˈdjuː/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] FORMAL

[C2] more than is necessary

Dictionary example:
I don't want to cause undue alarm.

Learner example:
On the other hand a badly [organised] holiday can put undue stress on the traveller.

uneasy  /ʌnˈiː.zi/

Word family:
Nouns: ease
Adjectives: easy, uneasy
Adverbs: easily, easy

ADJECTIVE

[B2] worried because you think something bad might happen
Dictionary example:
I feel a bit uneasy about her travelling alone.

Learner example:
Anyway I was getting uneasy because of all that silence, so I began to sing.

unemployed /ˌʌn.ɪmˈplɔɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: employee, employer, employment, unemployment, unemployed
Verbs: employ
Adjectives: unemployed

NOUN

the unemployed
[C1] people who are unemployed

Dictionary example:
We want to get the unemployed back into work.

Learner example:
I am a lawyer and not so long ago I worked in Poznan Unemployment Office where I happened to use English - not talking to the unemployed of course.

unethical /ʌnˈeθ.ɪ.kəl/

Word family:
Nouns: ethic
Adjectives: ethical, unethical

ADJECTIVE

[C2] morally bad

Dictionary example:
unethical business methods

Learner example:
Then, if you would like to perform an experiment, you cannot, because that would be unethical.

uneven /ʌnˈiː.vən/

ADJECTIVE

[C2] not level, smooth, or in equal amounts
Dictionary example:
an uneven floor

Learner example:
At the same time we must solve the financial problems incurred by the uneven age distribution.

uneventful /ˌʌn.ɪˈvent.fəl/

Word family:
Nouns: event
Adjectives: eventful, uneventful

ADJECTIVE
[C2] without problems and without anything exciting happening

Dictionary example:
The journey itself was fairly uneventful.

Learner example:
This rather quiet and uneventful life changed when we moved to the city.

unexpectedly /ˌʌn.ɪkˈspek.tɪd.li/

Word family:
Nouns: expectation
Verbs: expect
Adjectives: expected, unexpected
Adverbs: unexpectedly

ADVERB
[B2] in a way or at a time that is not expected

Dictionary examples:
Retail sales unexpectedly fell last month.
He called in quite unexpectedly last week.

Learner example:
He called me really unexpectedly at work, and told me to go [to] his office at once.

unfair /ʌnˈfeər/
ADJECTIVE

NOT TRUE
[B2] not true and morally wrong

Dictionary example:
It's unfair to blame Roger for everything.

Learner example:
Furthermore, it's unfair [to] say that there is nothing to do in the evenings, because there is lots to do.

unfairly /ʌnˈfeə.li/

Word family:
Nouns: fairness
Adjectives: fair, unfair
Adverbs: fairly, unfairly

ADVERB
[B2] in an unfair way

Dictionary example:
His employers treated him very unfairly.

Learner example:
Your report not only gave wrong information to your readers but also critic[i]zed a music festival unfairly.

unfamiliar /ʌn.ˈfæməliər/

Word family:
Verbs: familiarize
Adjectives: familiar, unfamiliar

ADJECTIVE

NOT KNOWN
[B2] not known to you

Dictionary examples:
I noticed several unfamiliar faces in the meeting room.
His name was unfamiliar to me.

Learner example:
On the other hand, you may not like some dishes, because they may be unfamiliar to you.
be unfamiliar with *sth*
[B2] to not have any knowledge or experience of something

**Dictionary example:**
A lot of people are unfamiliar with the system.

unfashionable  /ˌʌnˈfæʃ.ən.ə.bl/

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] not fashionable or popular at a particular time

**Dictionary example:**
This kind of cooking is very unfashionable now.

**Learner example:**
I think that museums became a little bit unfashionable [as a] way of knowing or showing something.

unfavourable  /ˌʌnˈfeɪ.vər.ə.bl/

**Word family:**
Nouns: favour, favourite
Verbs: favour
Adjectives: favourable, favourite, unfavourable

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] negative and showing that you do not like something

**Dictionary example:**
unfavourable publicity

**Learner example:**
[The] majority of people react positively and are able to change their previous opinions, if these were very unfavourable.

**NOT GOOD**
[C2] not good and likely to cause problems

**Dictionary example:**
unfavourable weather conditions

**Learner example:**
Despite these unfavourable conditions I managed to get through the concert without any major problems.
**unfit /ʌnˈfɪt/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT GOOD ENOUGH**

[B2] not suitable or good enough

**Dictionary example:**
The building was declared unfit for human habitation.

**Learner example:**
Cars also emit carbon monoxide and make the air unfit to breath[e].

---

**unfold /ʌnˈfəʊld/**

**VERB**

**OPEN**

[C1] [I or T] to become open and flat, or to make something become open and flat

**Dictionary example:**
I unfolded the map.

**Learner example:**
Well, you will be if you saw our slide show and talk – members can hardly forget that relaxing afternoon when we unfolded the sails on the lake and enjoyed the tranquility of the area.

**DEVELOP**

[C2] [I] If a situation or story unfolds, it develops or becomes known.

**Dictionary example:**
The nation watched on TV as the tragic events unfolded.

**Learner example:**
The plot unfolds in an exciting way and the film is fraught with lies, surprises and insinuations.

---

**unforeseen /ˌʌnfɔːˈsiːn/**

**Word family:**

**Verbs:** foresee

**Adjectives:** foreseeable, unforeseen

**ADJECTIVE**

[C1] not expected

**Dictionary example:**
The concert was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.
Learner example:
Finally, owing to unforeseen circumstances, the half-day visit to St Andrews was canceled and I was told about it only in the late morning, which prevented me from doing what I had planned.

unfortunate /ʌnˈfɔː.tʃən.ət/

Word family:
Nouns: fortune, misfortune
Adjectives: fortunate, unfortunate
Adverbs: fortunately, unfortunately

ADJECTIVE
BAD SITUATION
[B2] used to show that you wish something was not true or had not happened

Dictionary examples:
an unfortunate mistake
It was so unfortunate that she lost her job just as her husband became ill.

Learner example:
It is unfortunate that he couldn’t inform you about the conference.

UNLUCKY
[B2] unlucky

Dictionary example:
One unfortunate person failed to see the hole and fell straight into it.

Learner example:
He was always an unfortunate person, because bad things happened to him all the time.

unhappiness /ʌnˈhæp.ɪ.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: happiness, unhappiness
Adjectives: happy, unhappy
Adverbs: happily

NOUN [u]
[B2] the state of being unhappy

Dictionary example:
Her unhappiness was obvious to everyone.

Learner example:
They feel very unhappy living in a zoo, since for them it is like a prison, and their unhappiness can bring about their death.
unhelpful \( /\text{'help}\text{.fəl}/ \)

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** helper

**Verbs:** help

**Adjectives:** helpful, unhelpful, helpless

**ADJECTIVE**

**NO HELP**

[B2] not wanting to help someone, in a way that seems unfriendly

**Dictionary example:**
The taxi driver was rude and unhelpful.

**Learner example:**
However, The Taverna has no uniform and the waiters there are sometimes pushy and unhelpful.

**NOT IMPROVE**

[C1] not improving a situation

**Dictionary example:**
an unhelpful remark

**Learner example:**
Because of the unhelpful and useless solution from [this] company, called Energy Plus, I am looking for advice.

unimaginable \( /\text{'ʌn.ɪˈmædʒ.ɪ.nə.bl}/ \)

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] Something that is unimaginable is difficult to imagine because it is so bad, good, big, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
unimaginable pain/wealth

**Learner example:**
Later, at the age of 60, after he had suffered from a stroke that was a side effect of the open heart surgery he underwent, he was left speech-impaired, which can be considered an unimaginable handicap for an actor.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>uninhabited</td>
<td>/ˈʌn.ɪnˈhæb.ɪtɪd/</td>
<td>If a place is uninhabited, no one lives there.</td>
<td>dictionary example: an uninhabited island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>union</td>
<td>/ˈjuː.ni.ən/</td>
<td>when two or more countries, groups, etc. join together to make one country, group, etc.</td>
<td>dictionary examples: the European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unique</td>
<td>/juˈniːk/</td>
<td>different from everyone and everything else</td>
<td>dictionary example: Everyone's fingerprints are unique.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Learner example:
Me and my best mate, Kelly, had read in an ancient history book we found in our school library about the legendary Golden Caves which are made of gold, found on the tropical uninhabited island of Tropai.

Every book is unique because every writer is unique, with his own style and his own character.
SPECIAL

[B2] unusual and special

Dictionary example:
Do not miss this unique opportunity to buy all six pans at half the recommended price.

Learner example:
First of all, I would like to tell you that I really enjoyed my stay and it was a unique experience for me.

be unique to sb/sth

[C1] to exist in only one place, or be connected with only one person or thing

Dictionary example:
It’s a method of education that is unique to this school.

Learner example:
I strongly believe that every country needs its local shops with products that are unique to the particular country, not only because it is very good for local development but also because this way the world will stay colorful and interesting.

unit /ˈjuː.nɪt/

NOUN [C]

PEOPLE

[C1] a group of people living or working together, especially for a particular purpose

Dictionary examples:
the traditional family unit
an anti–terrorist unit
Dr Nussbaum is director of the Civil Liberties Research Unit at King’s College, London. Both soldiers spent two weeks in training before being allowed to rejoin their unit.

Learner example:
This is very important because once they [have] grown up, they have to be together in the family unit with their [own] kids.

unite /juːˈnaɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: unity
Verbs: unite
Adjectives: united
VERB [ɪ or ɪ]
[C1] to join together as a group, or to make people join together as a group

Dictionary example:
We need a leader who can unite the party.

Learner example:
A barbecue would unite all members in a rarely seen way, because we would all be together for a
day or an afternoon which would be enough to make some new friends and get to know the other
members better.

united /ˈjuː.naɪ.tɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: unity
Verbs: unite
Adjectives: united

ADJECTIVE

JOINED
[B2] joined together as a group, organization, etc.

Dictionary examples:
The whole village was united in their grief.
It was the first film festival to take place in a united Germany.

Learner example:
Despite all these advantages, I deeply miss the times [when] I had almost no technological
facilities, but a very happy and united family.

IN AGREEMENT
[B2] If people are united, they all agree about something.

Dictionary example:
On the issue of education the party is united.

Learner example:
We have the authority to make changes, that is if we stand united.

unity /ˈjuː.nə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: unity
Verbs: unite
Adjectives: united
NOUN [u]
[C1] when everyone agrees with each other or wants to stay together

Dictionary examples:
national/party unity
family unity

Learner example:
I would conclude by saying that [some] healthy competition is good, but your main goal has to be to work together as a group and work towards the achievement of goal[s] – as the saying goes, “united we stand, divided we fall” and unity is strength.

universal /ˌjuː.nɪˈvɜːsəl/

Word family:
Nouns: universe
Adjectives: universal
Adverbs: universally

ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to everyone in the world, or to everyone in a particular group

Dictionary examples:
a universal truth
Food is a subject of almost universal interest.
The new reforms have not met with universal approval within the government.
Kittens and puppies have an almost universal appeal.

Learner example:
I think [the film] Yasujino Ozo has something universal in [relation to] our daily life, a kind of feeling or emotion.

universally /ˌjuː.nɪˈvɜːsəli/

Word family:
Nouns: universe
Adjectives: universal
Adverbs: universally

ADVERB
[C1] in a way that involves everyone in the world, or everyone in a particular group

Dictionary examples:
She is universally adored.
Water is one of the most common and universally known substances.
Learner example:
Furthermore fame can [give] people the feeling that they are universally loved.

unjustified /ʌnˈdʒʌs.tɪ.fai.d/

Word family:
Nouns: justification
Verbs: justify
Adjectives: justifiable, justified, unjustified

ADJECTIVE
[C1] done without a reason and not deserved

Dictionary example:
unjustified criticism

Learner example:
The location turned out to be far too small and the costs unjustified.

unknown /ʌnˈnəʊn/

Word family:
Nouns: knowledge, unknown
Verbs: know
Adjectives: known, unknown, knowledgeable
Adverbs: knowingly

ADJECTIVE
an unknown quantity
[C2] someone or something that you do not know and so you cannot be certain about

Dictionary example:
The road conditions in that area are a bit of an unknown quantity.

Learner example:
As mentioned above, [the] laser [beam] was an unknown quantity even to its inventor and those who contributed to its enhancement.

NOUN
the unknown
[C1] things that you have not experienced and know nothing about

Dictionary example:
It's normal to fear the unknown.
**Learner example:**
The most important factor when learning English is the hunger for knowledge, the hunger for the unknown.

**unlike /ʌnˈlaɪk/**

**PREPOSITION**

**DIFFERENT**

[B2] different from someone or something

**Dictionary examples:**
The furniture was unlike anything she had ever seen.
Dan's actually quite nice, unlike his father.
Unlike you, I'm not a great dancer.

**Learner example:**
In fact the Hotel Astrid is now closed so I had to stay at the Riverside Hotel, which offers great savings for students, unlike the Hotel Royal which is quite expensive.

**NOT TYPICAL**

[C2] not typical of someone or something

**Dictionary example:**
It's unlike her to be quiet – was there something wrong?

**Learner example:**
Over the weeks he was getting more and more exhausted and started reducing his hours of work. That was so unlike him.

**unlikely /ʌnˈlaɪ.kli/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** likelihood
**Adjectives:** likely, unlikely

**ADJECTIVE**

**NOT TRUE**

[C2] difficult to believe and probably not true

**Dictionary example:**
an unlikely explanation/story

**Learner example:**
Reflections on an unlikely tale – "It started with a kiss and ended with a twist", one would remark on Ann Patchett's 'Bel Canto'.
**unlimited** /ʌnˈlɪm.ɪ.tid/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** limit, limitation  
**Verbs:** limit  
**Adjectives:** limited, unlimited

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] without any limits  

**Dictionary example:**  
a service that offers unlimited Internet access  

**Learner example:**  
Moreover, who has the freedom to buy [whatever they need] with an unlimited budget?

---

**unload** /ʌnˈləʊd/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** load, overload  
**Verbs:** load, unload

**VERB**  

**SHIP/AIRCRAFT**  
[C1] [i] If a ship, aircraft, etc. unloads, goods are taken off it.  

**Dictionary example:**  
The ship unloaded in Marseilles.  

**Learner example:**  
Old fishing boats from everywhere unload their merchandise there.

**REMOVE**  
[C2] [I or T] to remove things from a vehicle  

**Dictionary example:**  
Can you help me unload the car?  

**Learner example:**  
We began to unload the car and showed the children around the house.

---

**unlock** /ʌnˈlɒk/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** lock  
**Verbs:** lock, unlock
VERB [T]
[B2] to open something which is locked using a key or an electronic device

Dictionary example:
They haven't unlocked the computer room yet.

Learner example:
She unlocked the door and went in.

unmarried /ʌnˈmær.id/  
Word family:
Nouns: marriage
Verbs: marry
Adjectives: married, unmarried

ADJECTIVE
[C1] not married

Dictionary example:
She lives with her unmarried son.

Learner example:
It has even been proved by research carried out by [a] sociologist that the woman of today prefers to stay unmarried to keep her own identity.

unnatural /ʌnˈnætʃ.ər.əl/  
Word family:
Nouns: nature
Adjectives: natural, unnatural
Adverbs: naturally

ADJECTIVE
[B2] not normal or right

Dictionary examples:
an unnatural silence
unnatural conditions

Learner example:
Animals live in unnatural conditions, and die early.
unnecessarily /ʌnˌnes.əˈser.əli/

Word family:
Nouns: necessity
Adjectives: necessary, unnecessary
Adverbs: necessarily, unnecessarily

ADVERB
[C1] in a way that is not necessary

Dictionary example:
Of course we don't want to alarm people unnecessarily, but they should be alerted to potential dangers.

Learner example:
[The] community should understand the reality of the effects [of] using private cars unnecessarily.

unnoticed /ʌnˈnəʊ.tɪst/

Word family:
Nouns: notice
Verbs: notice
Adjectives: noticeable, unnoticed

ADJECTIVE
[C1] without being seen or noticed

Dictionary example:
We managed to slip away unnoticed.

Learner example:
But by the time we stop and look around us, it is usually too late to say goodbye to things that were with us, watched us grow and then disappeared, alone and unnoticed.

unpaid /ʌnˈpeɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: pay, payment
Verbs: pay, repay
Adjectives: payable, underpaid, unpaid

ADJECTIVE

NOT PAID
[C1] An unpaid debt, tax, etc. has not been paid.

Dictionary example:
They had nearly £20,000 in unpaid debts.
Learner example:
This amount was unpaid by [the] previous owner.

**WORK FOR FREE**
[C1] working without getting any money

**Dictionary example:**
unpaid work

**Learner example:**
At the time he was mostly doing unpaid work, living on a low budget and going to painting night-classes.

**unpleasant** /ʌnˈplɛz.ʌnt/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** pleasure
**Verbs:** please
**Adjectives:** pleasant, pleased, unpleasant, pleasurable
**Adverbs:** pleasantly

**ADJECTIVE**

**RUDE**
[C1] rude and angry

**Dictionary example:**
The waiter got quite unpleasant with us.

**Learner example:**
The driver showed rather unpleasant behaviour and his uniform was untidy, while the stewardess on board was not helpful at all and did not care much about the appalling conditions we had to suffer [on] the coach.

**unpopular** /ʌnˈpɒp.ʃu.ələ/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** popularity
**Adjectives:** popular, unpopular

**ADJECTIVE**

**[B2]** disliked by most people

**Dictionary examples:**
Night flights from the airport are deeply unpopular.
The government is becoming increasingly unpopular.
Learner example:
In addition, the outdoor swimming pool, supposedly unpopular, happens to be constantly full of people, since waterpolo classes are given for free and there is a bar just next to it.

**unprecedented** /ənˈpres.tɪd/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** precedent  
**Verbs:** precede  
**Adjectives:** unprecedented

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] never having happened before  

**Dictionary example:**  
The Internet has given people unprecedented access to information.

**Learner example:**  
Last but not least, accidents in nuclear factories and nuclear waste are likely to cause unprecedented environmental damage.

**unpredictable** /ˌʌn.prɪˈdɪk.tə.bl/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** prediction  
**Verbs:** predict  
**Adjectives:** predictable, unpredictable

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] changing so much that you do not know what will happen next

**Dictionary examples:**  
The weather there can be a bit unpredictable – one minute it’s blue skies and the next minute it’s raining hard.  
The hours in this job are very unpredictable – you sometimes have to work late at very short notice.

**Learner example:**  
By that time I was nervous because there were too many unpredictable things [happening].

**unproductive** /ˌʌn.prəˈdʌk.tɪv/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** producer, product, production, productivity, reproduction  
**Verbs:** produce, reproduce  
**Adjectives:** productive, unproductive
ADJECTIVE

[C1] not producing anything of value

**Dictionary examples:**
There were months of unproductive bureaucracy.
The meeting was totally unproductive.

**Learner example:**
Especially if these graduates are unemployed and they can’t find a job easily, they would feel unproductive by staying home.

---

**unprofessional /ˌʌnˌprəˈfeʃən.əl/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** profession, professional  
**Adjectives:** professional, unprofessional

ADJECTIVE

[C1] not showing the standard of behaviour or skills that are expected of a person in a skilled job

**Dictionary examples:**
an unprofessional attitude  
Doctor Rivers was charged with unprofessional conduct and improper use of dangerous drugs.

**Learner example:**
Your reporter was so inattentive and unprofessional that he did not [bother] to check the figures and mixed up 35 and 45.

---

**unqualified /ʌnˈkwɑl.ə.fai.d/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** qualification  
**Verbs:** qualify, disqualify  
**Adjectives:** qualified, unqualified

ADJECTIVE

[C1] without the qualifications or knowledge to do something

**Dictionary example:**
She was totally unqualified to look after children.

**Learner example:**
Polish schools lag behind the European ones. Moreover, the teachers are sometimes unqualified or unprepared.
unquestionably /ˈʌnkwes.tʃən.ə.bli/

ADVERB

[C1] in a way that is obvious and causes no doubt

Dictionary example:
She is unquestionably the best person for the job.

Learner example:
Although the content of the Conference was unquestionably well prepared, some organisational problems appeared.

unreal /ˈʌnriəl/

Word family:
Nouns: reality
Adjectives: real, realistic, unrealistic, unreal
Adverbs: really, realistically

ADJECTIVE

[C1] Something that is unreal seems so strange that it is difficult to believe.

Dictionary example:
For a while I couldn’t believe she was dead – it all seemed unreal.

Learner example:
To sum up, the reality of reality shows is that they want to simulate reality and therefore appear to be credible, a plausible opportunity for the audience to become participant and master at the same time: the most unreal situation of all.

unrealistic /ˌʌnˈriəˌlɪstɪk/

Word family:
Nouns: reality
Adjectives: real, realistic, unrealistic, unreal
Adverbs: really, realistically

ADJECTIVE

[B2] not thinking about what is likely to happen or what you can really do

Dictionary examples:
I think these sales forecasts are unrealistic, considering how slow sales are at present.
It’s unrealistic to expect an answer before next week.

Learner example:
There must be an alternative to today’s zoo, some may suggest a release of all confined animals, but I realise that is unrealistic.
unreasonable /ˌʌnˈriː.zən.ə.bl/  

Word family:  
Nouns: reason, reasoning  
Adjectives: reasonable, unreasonable  
Adverbs: reasonably, unreasonably  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] not fair or acceptable  

Dictionary examples:  
unreasonable behaviour/demands  
It seems unreasonable to expect one person to do both jobs.  

Learner example:  
So it's unreasonable to think that a country can base its scholastic system only on the few things that students like.

unreasonably /ˌʌnˈriː.zən.ə.bli/  

Word family:  
Nouns: reason, reasoning  
Adjectives: reasonable, unreasonable  
Adverbs: reasonably, unreasonably  

ADVERB  
[C1] in a way that is not fair  

Dictionary examples:  
I thought the prices were unreasonably high.  
He acted unreasonably.  

Learner example:  
Informing students and residents about the means of transport and reducing the unreasonably high ticket price are the keys to incite more people use such means.

unrelated /ˌʌn.rɪˈleɪ.tɪd/  

Word family:  
Nouns: relation, relationship, relative  
Verbs: relate  
Adjectives: related, relative, unrelated  
Adverbs: relatively  

ADJECTIVE  
[C1] having no connection
Dictionary example:
Police said his death was unrelated to the attack.

Learner example:
On top of that, and completely unrelated to these strikes, the medical services in the community broke down when the doctors and nurses went on a strike on their own.

unreliable /ˌʌn.rɪˈlaɪə.bl/

Word family:
Nouns: reliability, reliance, self-reliance
Verbs: rely
Adjectives: reliable, unreliable, reliant, self-reliant

ADJECTIVE
[B2] not able to be trusted or depended on

Dictionary example:
The trains were noisy, dirty, and unreliable.

Learner example:
This article has 4 main errors which makes it unreliable and I am disappointed in it.

unrest /ˈʌn.rɛst/

NOUN [u]
[C2] when a lot of people are angry about something and are likely to become violent

Dictionary example:
political/social unrest

Learner example:
Unemployment is inherently a source of social unrest since it concerns the citizens of a given nation very directly.

unsafe /ˈʌn.ˈsɛrf/

Word family:
Nouns: safety
Adjectives: safe, unsafe
Adverbs: safely
ADJECTIVE

DANGEROUS

[C1] dangerous

Dictionary examples:
The building is unsafe.
The water was dirty and unsafe to drink.

Learner example:
It was extremely unsafe as the safety belts were broken.

IN DANGER

[C1] If you feel unsafe, you feel that you are in danger.

Dictionary example:
Many women feel unsafe on the streets at night.

Learner example:
It was then that I began to feel unsafe; I thought, if something happens, this mob will become something truly hard to control, and this idea frightened me for some time.

unsatisfactory /ˌʌn.sæt.iˈsæft.iər.i/  

Word family:
Nouns: dissatisfaction, satisfaction
Verbs: satisfy
Adjectives: dissatisfied, satisfactory, satisfied, unsatisfactory
Adverbs: satisfactorily

ADJECTIVE

[B2] not good enough

Dictionary example:
We had a rather unsatisfactory meal.

Learner example:
It was a great idea, but I think I need to make some points about the things that I found unsatisfactory.

unscrupulous /ˌʌnˈskruː.pjə.ləs/  

ADJECTIVE

[C2] behaving in a way that is dishonest or unfair in order to get what you want

Dictionary example:
an unscrupulous financial adviser
Learner example:
We are loyal readers of your newspaper and we ask you to raise your voice in defence of our community against the unscrupulous sharks of big business.

unsolved /ʌnˈsɒlvəd/

Word family:
Nouns: solution
Verbs: solve
Adjectives: unsolved

ADJECTIVE
[C1] having no answer or solution

Dictionary example:
an unsolved mystery/murder/crime

Learner example:
Consequently, a lot of problems remained unsolved.

unspoiled /ʌnˈspɔɪlt/

Word family:
Verbs: spoil
Adjectives: unspoiled

ADJECTIVE (also UK unspoilt)
[C1] An unspoiled place is beautiful because it has not been changed or damaged by people.

Dictionary example:
an island with clean, unspoiled beaches

Learner example:
I [hope] that one day this unfriendly place will become once more the peaceful, unspoiled and beautiful village that enchanted every passenger with its beauty.

unsuccessful /ˌʌnˌsəkˈses.ʃəl/
ADJECTIVE
[B2] not achieving what was wanted or intended

Dictionary examples:
They made several unsuccessful attempts to reach the men.
His application was unsuccessful.

Learner example:
We tried very hard to score a second goal but all our effo[rt]s were unsuccessful.

unsuccessfully /ˌʌn.səkˈses.fəl.i/

Word family:
Nouns: success
Verbs: succeed
Adjectives: successful, unsuccessful
Adverbs: successfully, unsuccessfully

ADVERB
[C1] in a way that is not successful

Dictionary example:
We tried unsuccessfully to climb the wall.

Learner example:
I tried to reach the company several times in the last two months, unsuccessfully.

unsuitable /ˈʌn.sjuː.tə.bl/
unsure /ʌnˈʃɔːr/

**Word family:**

- **Verbs:** ensure
- **Adjectives:** sure, unsure
- **Adverbs:** surely

**ADJECTIVE**

NOT CERTAIN

[B2] not certain or having doubts

**Dictionary examples:**
I'm a bit unsure about what to do.
I was unsure of the directions.
I was unsure what/how to tell them.

**Learner example:**
As I have not been there before, I am rather unsure of what to wear.

unsure of yourself

[C2] without confidence

**Dictionary example:**
She had only been in the job for a week and was still a bit unsure of herself.

**Learner example:**
On the other hand, Kingshaw, normally weaker than Cooper, very sensitive, unsure of himself, has his ups, too, and comes, though very seldom, to feel determined and superior; when he climbs the rocks he is definitely head and shoulders above Cooper who hasn't a head for heights.

unsustainable /ˌʌn.səˈsteɪ.nə.bl/

**Word family:**

- **Nouns:** sustainability
- **Verbs:** sustain
- **Adjectives:** sustainable, unsustainable

**ADJECTIVE**

HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT

[C2] causing damage to the environment by using more of something than can be replaced naturally

**Dictionary example:**
unsustainable fishing methods
Learner example:
Moreover, the unsustainable use of the earth’s resources will deprive future generations of the means of their survival.

NOT ABLE TO CONTINUE
[C2] Something that is unsustainable cannot continue at the same rate.

Dictionary example:
The level of spending on pensions is unsustainable.

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<th><strong>unthinkable</strong></th>
<th>/ʌnˈθɪŋkə.bl/</th>
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<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nouns:</strong></td>
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<td>think, rethink</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adjectives:</strong></td>
<td>unthinkable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] If something is unthinkable, it is so strange that you cannot imagine it will ever happen.

Dictionary example:
Thirty years ago a no-smoking restaurant would have been unthinkable.

Learner example:
Nowadays it is simply unthinkable to live without [a] computer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>untie</strong></th>
<th>/ʌnˈtaɪ/ (untying, untied, untied)</th>
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<td><strong>Word family:</strong></td>
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<td>tie</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Verbs:</strong></td>
<td>tie, untie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VERB [T]**
[B2] to open a knot or something that has been tied with a knot

Dictionary example:
I untied my shoelaces and kicked off my shoes.

Learner example:
She tried to untie the ropes but they were too strong.
**untouched** /ˌʌnˈtʌtʃt/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** touch  
**Verbs:** touch  
**Adjectives:** untouched  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] not changed or damaged in any way  

**Dictionary example:**  
Most of the island remains untouched by tourism.  

**Learner example:**  
The starting point is in Lokken, an idyllic fishing village beside the North Sea, still untouched by tourism.

---

**untrue** /ˈʌntruː/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] false  

**Dictionary example:**  
We knew the rumours were untrue.  

**Learner example:**  
They realized that almost everything mentioned in your advertisement appeared to be untrue.

---

**unusually** /ˈʌnjuːʒu.əli/  

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:** unusual, usual  
**Adverbs:** unusually, usually  

**ADVERB**  
unusually big/strong/good, etc.  
[B2] bigger, stronger, better, etc. than is normal  

**Dictionary example:**  
unusually warm weather  

**Learner example:**  
On your[r] free afternoon I suggest you visit our local museum, which is unusually large for such a small town.
unusually for sb
[C2] in a way that is not usual for someone

Dictionary examples:
Unusually for me, I actually couldn’t finish my meal.
Gareth seemed unusually quiet.

unwanted /ʌnˈwɒntɪd/

Word family:
Verbs: want
Adjectives: unwanted

ADJECTIVE
[C1] not wanted

Dictionary example:
an unwanted gift

Learner example:
Children feel alone, unwanted and become very often latch-key children who come back to a sad home where nobody is waiting for them.

unwilling /ʌnˈwɪl.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: willingness, unwillingness
Adjectives: unwilling, willing
Adverbs: willingly, unwillingly

ADJECTIVE
[B2] not wanting to do something

Dictionary example:
A lot of people are unwilling to accept change.

Learner example:
I was unwilling to face the truth and the reality that my best friend had already left me.

unwillingly /ʌnˈwɪl.ɪŋ.li/
**ADVERB**

[C1] in a way that shows that you do not want to do something

**Dictionary example:**  
He unwillingly agreed to take her home.

**Learner example:**  
What was worse, ours broke down on our way to the safari park, so we had to give it a miss unwillingly.

**unwillingness /ʌnˈwɪl.ɪŋ.nəs/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** willingness, unwillingness  
**Adjectives:** unwilling, willing  
**Adverbs:** willingly, unwillingly

**NOUN [u]**

[C1] a state of not being willing to do something

**Dictionary example:**  
Both sides have shown unwillingness to negotiate.

**Learner example:**  
In the 70s some women also beg[a]n to wear short skirts, which might be seen as a way to express their unwillingness to obey certain dress codes or as a symbol of their independence.

**unwind /ʌnˈwaɪnd/**

**Word family:**
**Verbs:** wind, unwind  
**Adjectives:** winding

**VERB (unwound)**

**RELAX**  
[C1] [i] informal to relax, especially after working

**Dictionary example:**  
Music helps me to unwind.

**Learner example:**  
The houses will be semi-detached to [allow] neighbours to chat and unwind.

**MAKE STRAIGHT**  
[C2] [i or t] If you unwind something, or if something unwinds, it stops being curled round or twisted round something else and is made straight.
Dictionary example:
He unwound the bandage.

Learner example:
Slowly, the doctor unwound the bandages revealing the two cotton patches covering her eyes.

**unwise /ʌnˈwaɪz/**

Word family:
Nouns: wisdom
Adjectives: wise, unwise
Adverbs: wisely

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] stupid and likely to cause problems

Dictionary example:
an unwise decision

Learner example:
But we don't want to put too much pressure on them because this is unwise and the worst thing parents could do to their children.

**up /ʌp/**

**ADVERB**

INCREASE

[B2] to a greater degree, amount, volume, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Please speak up, I can't hear you.
The fire heats the room up within minutes.
The cost of car insurance is up, but not very much.

Learner example:
Moreover the microphone suddenly wouldn't work anymore, and even though I desperately tried to speak up, people began to lose interest in both my speech and me and simply started to talk to each other instead.

**COMPLETE**

[B2] used to emphasize that an action or process is complete

Dictionary examples:
Come on, Maria, drink up your lemonade.
By the time we left, she had bought up half of the shop.
Learner example:
Anna, I broke one of your beautiful vase[s] accidentally when I was trying to clean up the house one evening.

up and down
[B2] rising and falling

Dictionary example:
They were jumping up and down with impatience.

Learner example:
Well, you should be bouncing up and down with joy (just kidding)!

not be up to much
[C2] to be of bad quality

Dictionary example:
Her latest novel isn't up to much.

Learner example:
But above all, she had this extraordinary dining table, which didn't look up to much when you first walked in the room, but as you lifted the three layers of tablecloths protecting a huge piece of glass, you discovered an amazing display of objects from Alabama.

PREPOSITION

up and down
[B2] from one end to the other and back again

Dictionary example:
They were running up and down the corridors.

Learner example:
Almost a thousand people [were] running up and down the ballroom shouting in panic: "Who's got matches?" "Turn the lights on!"

up to speed
[C1] having all the most recent information about a subject or activity

Dictionary example:
The course should bring you up to speed with the latest techniques.

Learner example:
Apart [from] this you can keep yourself up to speed with what's happening around the world on various fronts.
upbringing /ˈʌpˌbrɪŋ.ɪŋ/

NOUN [NO PLURAL]
[B2] the way that your parents look after you and the things that they teach you when you are growing up

Dictionary examples:
a middle-class/religious upbringing
She had a very strict upbringing.

Learner example:
Now, as a grown-up person, I am trying to evaluate [my] upbringing objectively.

upcoming /ˈʌpˌkʌm.ɪŋ/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C1] An upcoming event will happen soon.

Dictionary example:
the upcoming elections

Learner example:
This is a good way to keep our members informed about upcoming events.

update

VERB [T] /ʌpˈdeɪt/

MAKE MORE MODERN
[B2] to make something more modern

Dictionary example:
They need to update their image.

Learner example:
On the other hand, the movies shown are updated regularly, I guess that part is under control.

NOUN [C] /ˈʌp.dɛrt/

NEW INFORMATION
[B2] new information

Dictionary example:
I'll need regular updates on your progress.
Learner example:
Television offers different program[me]s, such as documentaries, program[mes] on culture and updates on [the] news.

NEW FORM
[B2] a new form of something which existed at an earlier time

Dictionary examples:
a software update
It's an update of an old 60's movie.

upgrade

VERB [T] /apˈgreid/
[B2] to improve something so that it is of a higher quality or is a newer model

Dictionary examples:
to upgrade a computer
The system has been upgraded.

Learner example:
The computer [has] upgraded most existing inventions, and made them more efficient, faster and [more] user friendly.

NOUN [C] /ˈʌp.greɪd/
[B2] a piece of software or equipment that improves the quality, power or usefulness of a computer or machine

Dictionary examples:
a hardware upgrade
The upgrade to version 5.0 costs £395.

uphill /əˈpʰɪl/

ADJECTIVE

an uphill battle/struggle/task
[C2] something that is difficult to do and needs a lot of effort

Dictionary example:
I can lose weight but it's a real uphill struggle.

Learner example:
When this is the case, the families caring for them are faced with an uphill struggle, as it is difficult to reconcile the need for earning a living with the care of their relatives.
ADVERB

TOP OF HILL

[C2] towards the top of a hill

Dictionary example:
We'd walked half a mile uphill.

Learner example:
She had not seen the lorry that made [its] way uphill and when she realized that she would crash right into it, it had been too late to do something.

uphold /ʌpˈhɔuld/

VERB [T] (upheld)

AGREE

[C2] to agree with a decision, especially a legal one, and say it was correct

Dictionary example:
The court upheld the ruling.

Learner example:
Last but not least, governments around the world should pass and uphold stricter laws concerning environmental issues.

SUPPORT

[C2] to support a decision, principle, or law

Dictionary example:
Police officers are expected to uphold the law.

Learner example:
Additionally, some uphold the view that people living in [the] countryside face greater problems than those in towns.

upkeep /ˈʌp.kiːp/

NOUN [U]

[C2] the process of keeping something in good condition, or of keeping a person or animal healthy

Dictionary example:
The upkeep of a building like that must be so expensive.

Learner example:
This causes a big problem for pensioners, as they can not afford the daily upkeep of the houses.
upon /əˈpɒn/

PREPOSITION

ON

[B2] FORMAL ON

Dictionary examples:
Upon her head she wore a black velvet hat.
Please report to the reception desk upon arrival.

Learner example:
He answered with a smile upon his face, 'As I just told everybody else, you will have the results by the end of June.'

upper /ˈʌp.ər/

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

the upper limit
[C2] the highest amount or level, or the longest time that something is allowed

Dictionary example:
£45,000 is the upper limit for salaries in this job.

Learner example:
I understand that it will be more expensive than the accommodation I currently have, and I am willing to stretch the upper limit of the rent I can afford to pay.

get/gain the upper hand
[C2] to get into a stronger position than someone else so that you are controlling a situation

Dictionary example:
Government troops are gradually gaining the upper hand over the rebels.

Learner example:
He knew that Hooper had got the upper hand and that there was no escape.

upper-class /ˌʌp.əˈklɑːs/

ADJECTIVE

[C1] belonging to or relating to the upper class

Dictionary example:
He spoke with a distinctly upper-class accent.
**Learner example:**
Talking about fashion, one always tends to think of glamorous designer dresses, catwalks in Paris, Rome or New York, and upper-class societies, able to spend huge amounts of money on luxurious clothing.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>upright</strong> /ˈʌp.rait/</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE; ADVERB</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] straight up or vertical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please return your seats to an upright position and fasten your seat belts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediately the pilot informed the passengers that the weather conditions were not good and [told us] to fasten our seatbelt, put the seat upright and [ado]pt the emergency position.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>upset</strong> /ʌpˈset/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>upset stomach</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] an illness in the stomach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had an upset stomach after I ate that fish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wasn’t feeling well at all with an upset stomach and headache.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VERB [T] (upsetting, upset, upset)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] to make someone feel unhappy or worried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary examples:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The phone call had clearly upset her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It still upsets him when he thinks about the accident.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t upset yourself by thinking about what might have happened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This really upset me as no notice w[as] given before the show.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**upside down** /ˌʌp.sɑɪdˈdaʊn/

**ADVERB; ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] having the part which is usually at the top turned to be at the bottom

**Dictionary examples:**  
**Turn** the jar upside down and shake it.  
The plane was flying upside down at high speed.  
One car landed on its side and the other was upside down.

**Learner example:**  
The furniture was upside down and neither money nor cash were left.

---

**upward** /ˈʌp.wəd/

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**  
[C1] moving towards a higher place or level  

**Dictionary examples:**  
an upward glance  
an upward trend in sales

**Learner example:**  
The third age group, 35–49 year olds, has also been experiencing an upward trend regarding [the] percentage of the group attending [the] cinema at least once a year.

---

**upwards** /ˈʌp.wədz/

**ADVERB**  
HIGHER LEVEL  
[C1] towards a higher position, level or value

**Dictionary example:**  
The cost of completion has been revised upwards again due to inflation.

**Learner example:**  
In evaporation the water drops from seas are carried upwards and form clouds.

**upwards of sth**  
[C2] more than a particular amount

**Dictionary example:**  
Double rooms cost upwards of £70 a night.
Learner example:
Once home to upwards of 50,000 people, Gaza was occupied by anti-govern[ment forces for over two years.

urban  /ˈɜːbən/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] belonging or relating to a town or city

Dictionary examples:
urban areas
urban development

Learner example:
We are generally more interested in [an] urban lifestyle than [living in] the countryside.

urge  /ə:dʒ/

VERB [T]

urge sb to do sth
[C1] to try to persuade someone to do something

Dictionary example:
His parents urged him to go to university.

Learner example:
Finally, on behalf of the charity organisation, I urge you to print a new article, apologising and correcting the inaccuracies already published.

ADVISE
[C2] to strongly advise an action

Dictionary example:
Financial experts are urging caution.

NOUN [C]
[C2] a strong wish or need

Dictionary example:
I resisted the urge to slap him.

Learner example:
He suddenly felt the urge to go home.
usage  /ˈjuː.sɪdʒ/

NOUN

WORDS
[C1] [c or u] the way that words are used

Dictionary example:
a guide to English grammar and usage

Learner example:
That is why I couldn't solve all my problems with English usage.

AMOUNT
[C1] [u] the amount of something that is used, or the way that something is used

Dictionary example:
restrictions on water usage

Learner example:
We have therefore decided that, at our company, we will try to keep our energy usage as low as possible.

use

Word family:
Nouns: use, user, misuse, usefulness
Verbs: use, misuse
Adjectives: useful, useless

VERB [T]  /juːz/

WORD
[B2] to say or write a particular word or phrase

Dictionary example:
'Autumn' is used in British English and 'fall' in American English.

PERSON
[C2] to treat someone badly in order to get what you want

Dictionary example:
He was just using me to make his girlfriend jealous.

Learner example:
What a horrible thing to do, just using people – especially him!
NOUN /juːs/

WORD
[B2] [c] one of the meanings of a word, or the way that a particular word is used

Dictionary example:
Can you list all the uses of the word 'point'?

be (of) any/some use
[B2] to be useful

Dictionary example:
Is this bag of any use to you?

Learner example:
I hope my remarks [will] be of some use.

be (of) no use
[B2] to not be useful

Dictionary example:
His advice turned out to be no use at all.

Learner example:
My mother came immediately, but it was no use because my brother isn't afraid of her, so she called my father.

be no use doing sth
[B2] used to say that trying to do something has no effect

Dictionary example:
It was no use talking to him – he just wouldn't listen.

Learner example:
It was no use [trying to] smoke cigarettes in this pub.

make use of sth
[B2] to use something that is available

Dictionary example:
We were encouraged to make use of all the facilities.

Learner example:
Finally, I think the designers will make use of the raw materials and create an innovative look for all of us.

the use of sth
[C2] permission to use something, or the ability to use something

Dictionary examples:
Martin has offered me the use of his car.
She lost the use of both legs in the accident.
**Learner example:**
One of my closest friend[s] who lost the use of her legs five years ago in a tragic car accident took part [in] this trip.

**useful** /ˈjuːs.fʊl/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** use, user, misuse, usefulness
**Verbs:** use, misuse
**Adjectives:** useful, useless

**ADJECTIVE**

come in useful
[C2] to be useful and help someone do or achieve something, especially when there is nothing else to help them

**Dictionary example:**
You should keep that paint – it might come in useful.

**Learner example:**
However, I take great ex[ce]ption to the view that much of our school education is a waste of time because everything we learn at school might come in useful later during our adulthood.

**usefulness** /ˈjuːs.fʌls.nəs/

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** use, user, misuse, usefulness
**Verbs:** use, misuse
**Adjectives:** useful, useless

**NOUN [U]**
[C1] the quality of being useful

**Dictionary example:**
He explained the usefulness of having a wi-fi connection.

**Learner example:**
They came back yesterday and I have interviewed them to find out what they think about the usefulness of the programme.
useless /ˈjuː.əls/  

Word family:  
Nouns: use, user, misuse, usefulness  
Verbs: use, misuse  
Adjectives: useful, useless  

ADJECTIVE  

PERSON  
[C2] informal having no skill in an activity  

Dictionary example:  
Dave's useless at football.  

Learner example:  
Every time I see her, she seems to be busy sewing, knitting etc. In this I really envy her, I'm quite useless at making clothes, although I can certainly do adjustments on my clothes, make curtains and such things.  

utmost /ˈʌt.məʊst/  

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] formal  

EMPHASIS  
[C1] used to emphasize how important or serious something is  

Dictionary examples:  
a matter of the utmost importance  
The situation needs to be handled with the utmost care.  

Learner example:  
In my opinion, there are features of utmost importance that should be [carefully]ly checked.  

NOUN  

do your utmost  
[C1] to try as hard as you can to do something  

Dictionary example:  
We did our utmost to finish the project on time.  

Learner example:  
In addition, we live in a materialistic society where we all do our utmost in order to make ends meet, but we are never satisfied.
utter /ˈʌt.ər/

Word family:
Adjectives: utter
Adverbs: utterly

ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] used to emphasize something

Dictionary example:
She dismissed the article as utter nonsense.

Learner example:
To act otherwise would be, in my opinion, utter nonsense.

VERB [T] FORMAL
[C2] to say something

Dictionary example:
She left without uttering a word.

Learner example:
After I had told him about it, he was in such despair that he was not able to utter a single word.

utterly /ˈʌt.e.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: utter
Adverbs: utterly

ADVERB
[C1] completely

Dictionary example:
It's utterly ridiculous.

Learner example:
The information provided in your report about the final goal was utterly wrong.
vacancy /ˈver.kən.si/

Word family:
Nouns: vacancy
Adjectives: vacant

NOUN [C]

JOB
[C1] a job that is available for someone to do

Dictionary example:
Tell me if you hear of any vacancies for secretaries.

Learner example:
We look forward to meeting you at your earliest convenience to discuss details, go over our salary and health package as well as any other questions you might have, before starting the procedure of finding suitable candidates for the job vacancies.

ROOM
[C1] a room that is available in a hotel

Dictionary example:
Do you have any vacancies?

Learner example:
The hotels have no vacancies, the tourists are everywhere.

vacant /ˈver.kənt/

Word family:
Nouns: vacancy
Adjectives: vacant

ADJECTIVE

EMPTY
[B2] Somewhere that is vacant is available because it is not being used.

Dictionary examples:
a vacant building
The room next to ours is vacant at the moment.
Learner example:
You see, we have plenty of vacant rooms so you would not cause any trouble.

JOB
[B2] A vacant job is available for someone to do.

Dictionary example:
The assistant marketing post is vacant – why don’t you apply?

Learner example:
Therefore, I believe I am suitable for your vacant position.

**vaccinate** /ˈvæk.sɪn.eɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: vaccination, vaccine
Verbs: vaccinate

VERB [T]
[C2] to give someone a vaccine to stop them from getting a disease

Dictionary example:
Have you been vaccinated against polio?

Learner example:
Today, in most civilized countries, small kids are vaccinated against most lethal viruses, like hepatitis, and old people are even vaccinated against the flu.

**vaccination** /ˌvæk.sɪˈneɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: vaccination, vaccine
Verbs: vaccinate

NOUN [C]
[C2] an injection that protects you against a disease

Dictionary example:
All the children are given a meningitis vaccination.

Learner example:
Local health-care centres are assisting with birth-control advice, vaccinations and general check-ups.
**vaccine** /ˈvæk.siːn/

Word family:
Nouns: vaccination, vaccine
Verbs: vaccinate

NOUN [c or u]
[C2] a substance that is given to people to stop them from getting a particular disease

Dictionary example:
Doctors have run out of the flu vaccine.

Learner example:
An experiment was recently conducted by the same scientist group to verify if the vaccine works.

**vague** /vəɪg/

Word family:
Adjectives: vague
Adverbs: vaguely

ADJECTIVE

NOT CLEAR
[C1] not clear or certain

Dictionary examples:
I have a vague idea of where the hotel is.
He was a bit vague about directions.

Learner example:
Do not misunderstand me: I greatly enjoyed the conference but it did not give me the satisfaction of having even a vague idea of what I would like to do...

NOT THINKING
[C2] showing that someone is not thinking clearly or does not understand

Dictionary example:
a vague expression

Learner example:
If someone had asked him why, this person would have [given] a vague look, a dismissive shrug of two shoulders and a "oh, just because".

2607
vaguely /ˈverg.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: vague
Adverbs: vaguely

ADVERB
[C2] in a way that is not clear or certain

Dictionary example:
I vaguely remember meeting him at Lionel's house.

Learner example:
I can vaguely remember the decor, and if I tried harder maybe I could remember the taste of the ice-cream.

vain /vɛn/

Word family:
Nouns: vanity
Adjectives: vain

ADJECTIVE

in vain
[C1] without any success

Dictionary example:
I tried in vain to start a conversation.

Learner example:
We looked in vain for the guide through three London parks.

a vain attempt/effort/hope
[C2] A vain attempt/effort, etc. does not have the result you want.

Dictionary example:
I made a vain attempt to engage him in conversation.

Learner example:
Many flew to cities in the vain hope of earning money, thus increasing the number of the homeless.

APPEARANCE
[C2] too interested in your own appearance and thinking you are very attractive

Dictionary example:
He's terribly vain.
**Learner example:**
Men are vain creatures who worry, maybe excessively, about beauty and keeping up with standards of beauty set by society.

---

**valid** /ˈvæl.id/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** validity  
**Adjectives:** valid

---

**GOOD REASON**  
[B2] based on good reasons or facts that are true

**Dictionary examples:**  
a valid excuse/reason  
a valid argument/criticism

My ideas might be different from yours, but they're equally valid.

**Learner example:**  
You could hardly think of Dr Quimper as guilty, because every one of the Crackenthorpe family had a valid reason to kill.

---

**OFFICIALLY ACCEPTABLE**  
[B2] officially or legally acceptable

**Dictionary examples:**  
The ticket is valid for three months.  
My passport is valid for another two years.  
You need to enter a valid password.

**Learner example:**  
Is this offer valid for the weekends, as well?

---

**validity** /vəˈlɪd.ə.ti/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** validity  
**Adjectives:** valid

---

**NOUN [u]**  
[C2] how true or reasonable something is

**Dictionary example:**  
We should question the validity of these statements.
Learner example:
This statement is so obvious we almost never question its validity.

**valuable** /ˈvæl.jʊ.bl/ 

Word family:
Nouns: value
Verbs: value
Adjectives: valuable, invaluable

**ADJECTIVE**

INFORMATION
[B2] Valuable information, advice, etc. is very helpful or important.

Dictionary example:
He was able to provide the police with some valuable information.

Learner example:
This trip will allow me to gain valuable knowledge and experience.

**value** /ˈvæl.juː/

Word family:
Nouns: value
Verbs: value
Adjectives: valuable, invaluable

**NOUN**

values
[B2] the beliefs people have about what is right and wrong and what is most important in life, which control their behaviour

Dictionary example:
family/moral/traditional values

Learner example:
A tragedy occurs which causes Andrew to rediscover his moral values.

at face value
[C1] If you accept something at face value because of the way it first looks or seems, you do so without thinking carefully about it.

Dictionary examples:
You can't just accept everything you read in the newspapers at face value.
These results should not be taken at face value – careful analysis is required to assess their full implications.
Learner example:
People are assessed at face value [by] the type of cars they drive.

VERB [Y]

IMPORTANCE
[B2] to consider something important

Dictionary example:
I've always valued her advice.

Learner example:
I will learn how other people live and I will also learn to value the things I have.

MONEY
[C2] to judge how much money something could be sold for

Dictionary example:
The ring was valued at $1000.

Learner example:
My house was valued at £200,000.

dict.

vandalism /ˈvæn.dəl.ɪzm/  

NOUN [U]
[C2] the crime of intentionally damaging things in public places

Dictionary example:
There has been more vandalism in the town centre recently.

Learner example:
As the members of the local council will know, our area is facing many problems with youths hanging around on the weekends causing grievances such as vandalism, noise and stealing in the local shops.

vanish /ˈvæn.ɪʃ/  

VERB [I]
[B2] to disappear suddenly

Dictionary examples:
The sun vanished behind the clouds.
The child vanished while on her way home from school.

Learner example:
I [went after] the thief but he vanished into the crowd.
vanity /ˈvæn.ə.ti/

Word family:
Nouns: vanity
Adjectives: vain

NOUN [u]
[C2] when someone thinks they are very attractive and is too interested in their own appearance

Dictionary example:
Her vanity is staggering.

Learner example:
The vanity of wearing the most fashionable clothes bores my other friend, Kate, to death.

variable /ˈveə.ri.ə.bl/ 

Word family:
Nouns: variation, variety, variable
Verbs: vary
Adjectives: varied, various, variable
Adverbs: invariably

ADJECTIVE
[C1] changing often

Dictionary example:
The sound quality on the recording is variable.

Learner example:
By contrast the figure is more variable regarding the other topics.

NOUN [c]
[C1] a number, amount, or situation which can change

Dictionary example:
A patient's recovery time depends on so many variables, such as age, weight, and general health.

Learner example:
There are too many variables and happiness may also depend on the soci[al] background of a person.
variation /ˈveə.riˈeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: variation, variety, variable
Verbs: vary
Adjectives: varied, various, variable
Adverbs: invariably

NOUN

DIFFERENCE
[B2] [c or u] a difference in amount or quality

Dictionary examples:
variations in price/temperature
There was some variation in the quality of the prints.

Learner example:
Apart from this, there is very little variation in temperature between day and night.

DIFFERENT THING
[C2] [c] something that is slightly different from the usual form

Dictionary example:
It's a variation on the standard apple pie.

Learner example:
Big Brother's counterpart, "Lost Story", did really well the first time and a bit less the second time. Still, it is very popular and a variation on this theme, called "Nine people", still does very well today.

varied /ˈveə.rɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: variation, variety, variable
Verbs: vary
Adjectives: varied, various, variable
Adverbs: invariably

ADJECTIVE
[B2] consisting of many different things or types

Dictionary examples:
a varied diet
a long and varied career

Learner example:
Remember you should always eat a varied diet.
**vary** /ˈveəri/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** variation, variety, variable  
**Verbs:** vary  
**Adjectives:** varied, various, variable  
**Adverbs:** invariably

**VERB**

**BE DIFFERENT**

[B2] [ɪ] If things of the same type vary, they are different from each other.

**Dictionary examples:**
Car prices vary greatly/widely across Europe.  
The samples varied in quality but were generally acceptable.

**Learner example:**
The price of the dishes varies.

**CHANGE**

[B2] [ɪ or ʊ] to change or to cause something to change

**Dictionary examples:**
Temperatures vary depending on/according to the time of year.
I try to vary what I eat.

**Learner example:**
To vary the pictures of cultural events, I would recommend [visiting] the Wednesday market, which starts at 8 am.

**vast** /ˈvɑːst/  

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] extremely big

**Dictionary examples:**
a vast amount/sum of money  
vast areas of forest  
The vast majority of pupils attend state schools.

**Learner example:**
Among the vast choice of interesting buildings to photograph I can name the "National Portrait Museum", a huge building in renaissance style, [and] the old "Castle of Sforza", built in the eleventh century.
vegetation /ˌvedʒ.ɪˈteɪ.ʃən/

NOUN [u]
[C1] the plants and trees that grow in a particular area

Dictionary example:
They hacked a path through the dense vegetation.

Learner example:
I dream of being the first one to set foot on a white sandy beach, to admire a new kind of vegetation: cranberry bushes, sweet potatoes, wild turkeys, a different climate; how scary and exciting at the same time!

vehicle /ˈviː.ɪ.kl/

NOUN [c]
a vehicle for sth/doing sth
[C2] something that you use as a way of telling people your ideas or opinions

Dictionary example:
The paper was merely a vehicle for his political beliefs.

Learner example:
And you, as our local newspaper, will become a vehicle for our objections.

veil /vɛɪl/

NOUN [c]
[C1] a thin piece of material that covers a woman's face

Dictionary example:
She wore a thin veil.

Learner example:
And most brides wear a long veil so grooms can't see their wife's face.

vein /vɛɪn/

NOUN
[C1] [c] one of the tubes in your body that carries blood to the heart

Dictionary example:
the veins in the leg/neck
Learner example:
Do you love the sensation of your blood rushing in your veins, your knees trembling slightly and your hair standing [to] attention? Well, I do, and dangerous sports are the thing for me.

velvet /ˈvel.vɪt/

NOUN [u]
[C2] cloth that has a thick, soft surface on one side

Dictionary example:
a black velvet jacket

Learner example:
Then came the day of his funeral and we attended the ceremony (as good neighbours do when someone from next door dies), only to find that it was held by a group of 12 sombre men, clad in dark velvet robes, each one of them holding a black candle, chanting some kind of mourning song that haunted our memories for the rest of the day and, perhaps even the following night.

vent /vent/

NOUN [c]

give vent to
[C2] to express strong anger or another strong feeling

Dictionary example:
He gave vent to the frustration that had been building up inside him.

Learner example:
It's a great fallacy that giving vent to our emotion will be a solution to the problem itself and will lead to anything at all.

VERB

vent your anger/frustration, etc.
[C2] to do or say something to show your anger or another strong, bad feeling

Dictionary example:
He vented his anger by kicking the door.

Learner example:
The room at the attic was my only haven, the sole asylum where I could forget the wrinkled face ranting and raving at me, fuming with animosity towards me, venting her anger and frustration and all the other feelings bottled up in her.
venture /ˈven.tʃər/  

NOUN [C]  
[C2] a new activity or business  

Dictionary example:  
a business venture  

Learner example:  
They even give vast amounts of people a means of living, and can become very lucrative business ventures.

VERB  

venture into/out/outside, etc.  
[C2] to leave a safe place and go somewhere that may involve risks  

Dictionary example:  
If the snow stops, I might venture out.  

Learner example:  
After having visited some of the more frequented island[s], we decided to venture out to the island of Fourni.

nothing ventured, nothing gained  
[C2] used to say that it is worth trying something, even if you may not succeed  

Dictionary example:  
It will be quite expensive ... still, nothing ventured nothing gained!  

Learner example:  
It was a demanding task to prepare it but nothing ventured nothing gained.

venue /ˈven.juː/  

NOUN [C]  
[B2] a place where a sports game, musical performance, or special event happens  

Dictionary examples:  
The hotel is an ideal venue for conferences and business meetings.  
The stadium has been specifically designed as a venue for European Cup matches.  

Learner example:  
This festival has already got a good reputation as an alternative venue for both artists and audience.
**verbal /ˈvɜː.bəl/**

**ADJECTIVE**

**WORDS**

[C2] relating to words or the use of words

**Dictionary example:**
verbal ability/skills

**Learner example:**
Not only would this system help the keen students to improve their verbal fluency, it would also help them to prepare their lessons in time for the next class.

**SPOKEN**

[C2] spoken and not written

**Dictionary example:**
a verbal promise/agreement

**verdict /ˈvɜː.dɪkt/**

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] a decision made in a court of law or by a person in authority

**Dictionary examples:**
a guilty verdict
The jury took nine hours to reach a verdict.

**Learner example:**
As far as I can see it the redundancy verdict is based on the judgement about an employee's value.

**verge /vɜːdʒ/**

**NOUN [c]**

**be on the verge of sth/doing sth**

[C2] to be going to happen or to do something very soon

**Dictionary examples:**
a company on the verge of financial disaster
I was on the verge of leaving my job.

**Learner example:**
I was on the verge of depression, when I decided to take control of my own life.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>verify</strong> /ˈver.i.fai/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VERB</strong> [v]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[C1] to prove that something is true, or do something to discover if it is true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was impossible to verify her statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Canadian Patent Office Branch will be responsible for verifying if new inventions are truly new or have already been invented somewhere in the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>versatile</strong> /ˈvɜː.sə.tai/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PERSON</strong> [C2] having many different skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a versatile player/performer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She is a very gregarious and versatile person whose scintillating and jocular personality makes everybody melt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THING</strong> [C2] useful for doing a lot of different things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a versatile tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Internet today is the most versatile tool in so many ways.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<th><strong>verse</strong> /vɜːs/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOUN</strong> [c]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[B2] one of the parts that a song or poem is divided into</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary examples:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I only know the first verse of the poem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each verse was sung as a solo and then everyone joined in on the chorus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learner example:
But I was so puzzled that when I tried to sing, I couldn't remember a word of the verse I had written.

**version** /ˈvɜː.ʒən/

**NOUN [C]**

**FORM**
[B2] one form of something that is slightly different to other forms of the same thing

**Dictionary examples:**
An English-language version of the book is planned for the autumn.
The original version of the film is much better.
a new/updated version

**Learner example:**
Who has never said that the original book was better than the film version?

**DESCRIPTION**
[C1] someone's description of what has happened

**Dictionary example:**
Bates gave his version of events to the police.

**Learner example:**
For that reason, I have to ask you for a formal apology in print, where you could give the correct version of events and also change the bad image you gave to the readers of the people of my organisation.

**versus** /ˈvɜː.ʃəs/

**PREPOSITION**

**AGAINST**
[C1] used to say that one team or person is competing against another

**Dictionary example:**
Tomorrow's game is Newcastle versus Arsenal.

**Learner example:**
Starting in chronological order you can see the first game – Argentina versus Germany – which was a revenge for the final competition in the previous World Cup, '88.
**COMPARED WITH**

[C1] used to compare two things or ideas, especially when you have to choose between them

**Dictionary example:**
private education versus state education

**Learner example:**
Mobile phones – fashion versus utility Nowadays, [everywhere] you look, there is someone speaking [on] a mobile phone.

---

**vertical /ˈvɜː.tɪk.əl/**

**ADJECTIVE**
[C1] pointing straight up from a surface

**Dictionary example:**
an a vertical line

**Learner example:**
The vertical axis shows the percentage of age groups attending the cinema at least once in a year, while the horizontal axis represents the years from 1990 to 2010.

---

**very /ˈver.i/**

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**
[C2] used to emphasize a noun

**Dictionary examples:**
This is the very book I’ve been looking for all month.
You’re the very person we need for the job.
The letter was sent on Monday from Manchester and arrived in London the very same/next day.

**Learner example:**
You cannot infringe individual liberties and ban the purchase of cars – it would go against the very fabric of modern society.

---

**vest /vest/**

**NOUN [C]**

**UNDERWEAR**
[C1] a piece of underwear that you wear under a shirt
Dictionary example:
You'll need a vest in this weather.

Learner example:
The contents include two [items of male] underwear, size medium, white colour. Also a pair of white sock[s] and one vest medium size.

**veteran** /ˈvetərən/

**NOUN [C]**

**MILITARY PERSON**

[C2] someone who has been in an army or navy during a war

**Dictionary example:**
a veteran of World War Two

**Learner example:**
But even now I can recollect my unwillingness to get involved in parades, to join the veterans, military men, soldiers who were really proud of having a rare opportunity to feel a cog in a big wheel.

**A LONG TIME**

[C2] someone who has done a job or activity for a long time

**Dictionary example:**
a 20–year veteran of BBC news

**Learner example:**
Since I'm a passionate and veteran traveller, I do agree with some points.

**viable** /ˈvaɪəbəl/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] effective and able to be successful

**Dictionary examples:**
a viable alternative to nuclear power
an economically viable plan

**Learner example:**
This is a question that demands reasonable answers and viable solutions.
**vice** /ˈvaɪs/

NOUN

[C2] [c] something bad that someone often does

**Dictionary example:**
Smoking is his only vice.

**Learner example:**
At present I'm a heavy smoker and I think I will do my best to keep them away from this unhealthy vice.

**vice versa** /ˌvaɪsˈvɜː.sə/

ADVERB

[C1] used for referring to the opposite of what you have just said

**Dictionary example:**
Never use indoor lights outside and vice versa.

**Learner example:**
The piles of cash are not far away from any celebrity and we all know that time equals money and vice versa.

**vicinity** /ˈvɪsɪn.ə.ti/

NOUN

**in the vicinity (of sth)** FORMAL

[C2] in the area near a place

**Dictionary example:**
A number of buildings in the vicinity of the fire were damaged.

**Learner example:**
This centre would provide new sports and leisure premises for our town and would certainly attract young people from other towns in the vicinity as well.
vicious /ˈvɪʃ.əs/

**ADJECTIVE**

**VIOLENT**
[C2] violent and dangerous

*Dictionary examples:*
a vicious attack on a child
a vicious dog

*Learner example:*
She was a real, vicious murderer.

**UPSETTING**
[C2] intended to upset someone

*Dictionary example:*
a vicious *rumour*

*Learner example:*
One advantage with this school that rose above the others, was the fact that there was virtually no cruel bullying or vicious teasing.

**a vicious circle/cycle**
[C2] a continuing unpleasant situation, created when one problem causes another problem which then makes the first problem worse

*Dictionary example:*
Many people get trapped in a vicious circle of dieting and weight gain.

*Learner example:*
So we could say that it becomes a vicious circle.

victim /ˈvɪk.tɪm/

**NOUN [C]**
[B2] someone who has suffered the effects of violence, illness or bad luck

*Dictionary examples:*

victims of crime
The children are the *innocent* victims of the fighting.
The new drug might help save the lives of cancer victims.

*Learner example:*
His wife was his last victim.
victory /ˈvɪk.tər.i/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] when you win a game, competition, election, fight, war, etc.

Dictionary examples:
Phoenix managed a 135–114 victory over Denver.
Grant won/achieved/gained a comfortable/easy victory over Cooper in yesterday's match.
This result is a victory for democracy.

Learner example:
They were all celebrating their victory with a gorgeous dinner.

view /vjuː/

Word family:
Nouns: view, viewer
Verbs: view

NOUN

ABILITY TO SEE
[B2] [NO PLURAL] how well you can see something from a particular place

Dictionary examples:
We had a great view of the procession.
Don't stand in front of me – you're blocking my view of the stage.
She turned a corner, and disappeared from view.

Learner example:
In a few seconds, he disappear[ed] out of my view.

In view of sth
[B2] FORMAL because of

Dictionary example:
In view of recent events, we have decided to cancel the meeting.

Learner example:
In view of what happened, I would advise you not to try to mislead people like this [again].

with a view to doing sth FORMAL
[C1] so that you can do something

Dictionary example:
He's doing some improvements on the house with a view to selling it.
Learner example:
The purpose of this report is to assess the success of the latest tour our sports club organised and make relevant suggestions with a view to enhancing future trips.

POSITION
[C2] [u] a position from which something can be seen

Dictionary examples:
The house was hidden from view behind a wall.
He turned the corner and the harbour came into view.

Learner example:
The animal disappeared as unexpectedly as it came into view.

VERB
WATCH
[C2] to watch something

Dictionary example:
They were able to view the city from a helicopter.

Learner example:
People sit in p[al]atial cafes and restaurants to view the beauty of that "lazy river".

OPINION
[C2] to have a particular opinion about someone or something

Dictionary example:
In all three countries he is viewed as a terrorist.

Learner example:
There is of course the argument of many young people: that they live in a society that oppresses them, where they cannot express themselves freely and where, whatever they do or say, they are viewed as 'punks' or 'idiots' by adults.

viewer /ˈvjuːər/

Word family:
Nouns: view, viewer
Verbs: view

NOUN [C]
[B2] someone who watches a television programme

Dictionary example:
Millions of viewers will be watching this match.
Learner example:
He's an extraordinary person and TV viewers will love him because of his good sense of humor and his honesty.

**viewpoint** /ˈvjuː.pɔɪnt/

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] a way of thinking about a situation

**Dictionary example:**
From his viewpoint the action seemed entirely justified.

**Learner example:**
As a student, I feel concerned about the traffic issue and I asked some people about their viewpoints on the two proposals.

**villager** /ˈvɪl.ɪ.dʒər/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** village, villager

**NOUN [c]**

[C2] someone who lives in a village

**Dictionary example:**
Most of the villagers are opposed to the new road.

**Learner example:**
We, the villagers, are very worried about the effect the noise will have on our children and their sense of hearing.

**vine** /vaɪn/

**NOUN [c]**

[C1] a plant that grapes grow on

**Dictionary example:**
The wall was covered in a vine.

**Learner example:**
After following the walking path through the vines at Canon-Fronsac you could climb the Canon Mountain to have a view all over the region.
vinegar /ˈvɪn.ɪ.gər/

NOUN [u]
[B2] a sour liquid that is used in cooking, often made from wine

Dictionary example:
red wine vinegar

violate /ˈvəɪ.ə.lət/

Word family:
Nouns: violence
Verbs: violate
Adjectives: violent
Adverbs: violently

VERB [T] FORMAL
[C2] to not obey a law, rule, or agreement

Dictionary example:
Countries that violate international law will be dealt with in court.

Learner example:
All three points strongly violate the regulations and immediate action is required.

violence /ˈvəɪ.lən.təs/

Word family:
Nouns: violence
Verbs: violate
Adjectives: violent
Adverbs: violently

NOUN [u]

HURT
[B2] I when someone tries to hurt or kill someone else

Dictionary examples:
an act of violence
A number of people were killed in the violence.
Violence against women has increased in recent years.
The recent outbreak of violence in the region is very disturbing.

Learner example:
Today, it is important that children and teenagers do something with their free time and do not get in contact with criminality and violence.

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EXTREME FORCE
[C2] extreme force and energy, especially of something causing damage

Dictionary example:
Such was the violence of the explosion that three buildings collapsed.

violent /ˈvaɪə.lənt/

Word family:
Nouns: violence
Verbs: violate
Adjectives: violent
Adverbs: violently

ADJECTIVE

ACTION
[B2] involving violence

Dictionary examples:
a violent crime
a violent protest
His films tend to be very violent.

Learner example:
Some say that television can affect people in bad ways and sometimes causes violent incidents.

PERSON
[B2] using force to hurt or attack someone else

Dictionary examples:
a violent criminal
He shouts a lot but I don’t think he’s ever been physically violent towards her.

Learner example:
Now Mary knew what happened at Jamaica Inn and it was very dangerous for her because her uncle was a violent man.

DAMAGE
[C2] sudden and causing damage

Dictionary example:
a violent explosion/storm

Learner example:
The violent storm was rocking the ship back and forth.
violently /ˈvaɪə.lənt.li/

Word family:
Nouns: violence
Verbs: violate
Adjectives: violent
Adverbs: violently

**ADVERB**

[B2] in a way that involves violence

**Dictionary examples:**
He often **behaved** violently and they were terrified of him.
He claimed to have been violently assaulted while in prison.

**Learner example:**
Sometimes they behave violently because of their [imprison]ment.

virgin /ˈvɜː.dʒɪn/

**NOUN [C]**

[C2] someone who has never had sex

**Dictionary example:**
She was a virgin at the time of her marriage.

**Learner example:**
Why was it that everybody assumed that after your 18th birthday you could not possibly be a virgin any more?

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] Virgin land, forest, etc. has not been used or damaged by people.

**Dictionary example:**
50 acres of virgin woodland

**Learner example:**
The balance of nature is threatened by the construction of luxurious hotels in the middle of virgin forests.

virtual /ˈvɜː.tju.əl/

Word family:
Adjectives: virtual
Adverbs: virtually
ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

USING COMPUTER

[B2] using computer images and sounds that make you think an imagined situation is real

Dictionary example:
a virtual art gallery online

Learner example:
However, I go far away from my family and other people and have virtual relationships.

ALMOST

[C1] almost a particular thing or quality

Dictionary examples:
Ten years of bad government had brought about the virtual collapse of the country's economy. War in the region now looks like a virtual certainty.

Learner example:
However the growth of our cities and townships co[up]led with an exponential increase in traffic and facilities have transformed these areas into virtual no–go zones

virtually /ˈvɜː.tju.ə.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: virtual
Adverbs: virtually

ADVERB

ALMOST

[B2] almost

Dictionary examples:
I've virtually finished.
Their twins are virtually identical.
That wine stain on my shirt has virtually disappeared.

Learner example:
Virtually everyone today can go out and buy their own personal computer.

COMPUTER

[B2] in a way that uses computer images and sounds that make you think an imagined situation is real

Dictionary example:
Nowadays all these things can be experienced virtually.
Learner example:
I also have the possibility of making new friends: I can connect to a special site which will enable me to [meet people] virtually.

**virtual reality** /ˌvɜː.tju.əˈrɛ.ə.ti/  
NOUN  
[B2] when a computer produces images and sounds that make you think an imagined situation is real  
**Dictionary examples:**  
virtual reality games  
virtual reality software  

**Learner example:**  
Magnificent scientific pro[j]ects are done by computers, [as well as] daily shopping, com[m]unication with people in other parts of the world, games, getting any kind of information and, soon, virtual reality!

**virtue** /ˈvɜː.tjuː/  
NOUN  
by virtue of sth FORMAL  
[C2] because of something  
**Dictionary example:**  
She succeeded by virtue of hard work rather than talent.  
**Learner example:**  
However, you should take into consideration the expenses, which might be exorbitant by virtue of the fact that you inten[d] to create places with a beautiful ambience and a wide range of comforts offered that will facilitate residents' lives.

**GOOD QUALITY**  
[C2] [c] a good quality that someone has  
**Dictionary example:**  
Patience is not among his virtues.  
**Learner example:**  
The saying 'patience is a virtue' has been very over–used but that does not make it any less true.

**ADVANTAGE**  
[C2] [c or u] an advantage or useful quality
Dictionary example:
The great virtue of having a small car is that you can park it easily.

Learner example:
Finally it should be said that despite the negative attitudes towards the overcrowding of our good old Earth, longer life seems to have more virtues than drawbacks.

MORAL BEHAVIOUR
[C2] [u] behaviour that is morally good

Dictionary example:
She was a woman of great virtue.

Learner example:
Mother Theresa, she was a model of virtue.

virus /ˈvaɪərəs/

NOUN [c]

SMALL ORGANISM
[B2] an infectious organism too small to be seen that causes disease, or an illness that it causes

Dictionary examples:
a flu virus
I don't know exactly what's wrong with her – I think it's some sort of virus.

Learner example:
My "friend" Pat told everybody that my brother died and that he died because he got a virus – that's why I didn't have friends because all the people thought that I had the virus too.

visible /ˈvɪzəbl/

Word family:
Nouns: vision
Adjectives: invisible, visible, visual
Adverbs: visibly

ADJECTIVE

CAN BE SEEN
[B2] able to be seen
**Dictionary examples:**
You should wear something light-coloured when you're cycling at night so that you're more visible.
The fire was visible from five kilometres away.
There are few visible signs of the illness that kept her in hospital for so long.
The comet should be visible to the naked eye.

**Learner example:**
He waited curiously for her to become visible through the fog, which seemed to have become denser in the last few seconds.

**OBVIOUS**

[C1] obvious or noticeable

**Dictionary examples:**
She is a highly visible environmental spokesperson.
There is a visible improvement in your essay writing.

**Learner example:**
After about three months I noticed a visible improvement.

**visibly /ˈvɪz.ə.bli/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** vision

**Adjectives:** invisible, visible, visual

**Adverbs:** visibly

**ADVERB**

[C2] in a way that can be seen

**Dictionary example:**
He was visibly upset.

**Learner example:**
However, it is my firm conviction that if the authority reconsiders some of its regulations and take urgent steps, [the number of] unemployed people will be visibly reduced.

**vision /ˈvɪʒ.ən/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** vision

**Adjectives:** invisible, visible, visual

**Adverbs:** visibly
NOUN

IDEA
[B2] [C] an idea or image in your mind of what something could be like in the future

Dictionary examples:
a vision of a better society
We see in his novels his grim vision of the future.

Learner example:
All in all, I think you must write a new report to apologize for having been so pessimistic and having given such a bleak vision of this Festival.

SIGHT
[B2] [U] the ability to see

Dictionary example:
He has poor vision in his left eye.

Learner example:
Her hands were sweating and her vision had become a blur because of the tension in the air.

ABILITY TO PLAN
[C1] [U] the ability to make plans for the future that are imaginative and wise

Dictionary example:
As a leader, he lacked vision.

Learner example:
A man of vision, Eleftherios Venizelos played a significant role in the history of my country, as in his time it became, with [few] changes, what it is today.

visual /ˈvɪʒ.əl/

Word family:
Nouns: vision
Adjectives: invisible, visible, visual
Adverbs: visibly

ADJECTIVE
[B2] relating to seeing

Dictionary example:
The film has some powerful visual effects.

Learner example:
It also provides a clear idea of how people's lives were in a particular period by showing us the visual images of that time.
vital /ˈvaɪ.təl/  

Word family:
Adjectives: vital  
Adverbs: vitally  

ADJECTIVE  
[B2] necessary or extremely important  

Dictionary examples:  
Tourism is vital to the country’s economy.  
The kidney plays a vital role/part in the removal of waste products from the blood.  
It’s absolutely vital that you follow the instructions exactly.  

Learner example:  
If you don't mind I would like to ask you some vital questions.  

vitality /vaɪˈtæl.ə.ti/  

NOUN [u]  
[C2] energy and strength  

Dictionary example:  
At 48, he still projects an image of youth and vitality.  

Learner example:  
His bad behaviour was often excused, being blamed on his "boyish vitality", [while] I was expected to be a good girl most of the time.  

vitally /ˈvaɪ.tə.li/  

Word family:  
Adjectives: vital  
Adverbs: vitally  

ADVERB  
[C2] in a very important way  

Dictionary example:  
Safety at work is vitally important.  

Learner example:  
Being able to use the computer and the Internet successfully is vitally important in today’s society but it will be even more important in the future.  

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**vitamin** /ˈvɪt.ə.mɪn/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] one of a group of natural substances that you need to be healthy

**Dictionary examples:**
- a vitamin pill
- Oranges are full of vitamin C.

**Learner example:**
On the one hand, we eat a lot of sweet [or] fat food, which lack[s] vitamins.

---

**vivacious** /vɪˈveɪ.ʃəs/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] A vivacious person, especially a woman, is full of energy and enthusiasm.

**Dictionary example:**
She is extremely vivacious.

**Learner example:**
She was a vivacious and audacious girl keen on getting to know the world outside Israel.

---

**vivid** /ˈvɪv.ɪd/

**Word family:**
- Adjectives: vivid
- Adverbs: vividly

**ADJECTIVE**

**DESCRIPTIONS**
[B2] Vivid descriptions or memories produce strong, clear images in your mind.

**Dictionary examples:**
- He gave a very vivid account/description of life in Havana.
- I still have a very vivid memory of the evening.
- She has a very vivid imagination.

**Learner example:**
Each memory is still so vivid.

**COLOURS**
[B2] A vivid colour is very bright.

**Dictionary example:**
- She was wearing a vivid pink shirt.
Learner example:
Students would like to have some vivid colours or pictures on the walls but the best solution would be to repaint the walls.

vividly /ˈvɪv.ɪd.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: vivid
Adverbs: vividly

ADVERB
[B2] in a vivid way

Dictionary example:
I vividly remember my first day at school.

Learner example:
She could vividly remember the last time he hurt her, only then it was with a razor.

vocabulary /vəˈkæb.jʊ.lər.i/

NOUN

LANGUAGE
[C1] [NO PLURAL] all the words that exist in a language, or that are used when discussing a particular subject

Dictionary example:
Computing has its own specialist vocabulary.

Learner example:
The tuition is well adapted to our needs, I mean a specialized vocabulary and the ability to speak with our clients from the English–speaking areas in a fluent way even for technical matters.

vocation /vəˈkeɪ.ʃən/

Word family:
Nouns: vocation
Adjectives: vocational

NOUN [C or U]
[C2] a strong feeling that you are right for a particular type of work, or a job that gives you this feeling
Dictionary example:
He knew that teaching was his true vocation.

Learner example:
He was a teacher, seeing teaching as his vocation, [and] nothing could boost his confidence as much as excellent students and successful [results].

vocational /vəʊˈkeɪ.ʃən/  
Word family:
Nouns: vocation  
Adjectives: vocational

ADJECTIVE  
[C2] Vocational education and skills prepare you for a particular type of work.

Dictionary example:
The college offers both vocational and academic courses.

Learner example:
Homeless people need coun[s]elling and education in order to ad[ap]t themselves [to] modern society, appropriate guidance on how to get a job, what vocational qualification is required, and to equip them with confidence to resist the temptation of being in [a] rut again.

voice /voɪs/  
NOUN

lose your voice  
[B2] to become unable to speak, often because of an illness

Dictionary example:
She had a bad cold and was losing her voice.

Learner example:
I immediately became agitated and at the precise moment of my speech I lost my voice completely.

raise your voice  
[C1] to speak loudly and angrily to someone

Dictionary example:
He never raised his voice at the children.

Learner example:
Not every au–pair family is pleasant. And believe me, mine was giving me hell on earth. [...] After I returned home I took some time to learn not to freak out when someone raised his voice and eventually I started to see my time in Germany as a great [lesson in] life.
VERB
[C2] to say what you think about a particular subject

Dictionary example:
He has voiced concern about the new proposals.

Learner example:
And in the end they voiced their wishes to re-unify Germany.

volcano /vɒlˈkeɪ.nəʊ/ (plural volcanoes or volcanos)

NOUN [C]
[B2] a mountain with a large hole at the top which sometimes explodes and produces hot, melted rock and smoke

Dictionary examples:
an extinct/active volcano
Erupting volcanoes discharge massive quantities of dust into the atmosphere.

Learner example:
Finally, I think that a good place to go is Santorini, a beautiful island which has a volcano.

volume /ˈvɒl.juːm/

NOUN

AMOUNT
[B2] [u] the number or amount of something, especially when it is large

Dictionary examples:
I was put off by the volume of work involved.
The volume of traffic in the city is causing problems.

Learner example:
Nowadays, marketing volume is rapidly increased in Internet business, according to one of [the] major newspaper[s].

BOOK
[C2] [c] a book, especially one of a set

Dictionary example:
a new dictionary in two volumes
Learner example:
This book which I adored as a child, and as a matter of fact, one which I often come back to, comprises seven volumes, each giving a vivid account of the adventures that the Pevensie siblings, Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter, encounter in the magical land of Narnia.

speak volumes
[C2] If something speaks volumes, it makes an opinion, characteristic or situation very clear without the use of words.

Dictionary example:
She said very little, but her face spoke volumes.

Learner example:
It remains to be seen whether the effect of stem cells when applied to humans would be the same, but the achievements speak volumes about the fact that stem cells may one day turn a new page in many people's lives and let them get rid of that humiliating label of a "disabled person."

voluntarily /ˈvɒl.ən.tər.i/ 

Word family:
Nouns: volunteer
Verbs: volunteer
Adjectives: voluntary
Adverbs: voluntarily

ADVERB
[C2] If you do something voluntarily, nobody has forced you to do it.

Dictionary example:
She left voluntarily.

Learner example:
After he had himself discharged voluntarily from the hospital, he drove up to the cliff, and left his car there.

voluntary /ˈvɒl.ən.tər.i/ 

Word family:
Nouns: volunteer
Verbs: volunteer
Adjectives: voluntary
Adverbs: voluntarily

ADJECTIVE
[C1] Voluntary work is done without being paid and usually involves helping people.
Dictionary examples:
She does voluntary work for Doctors Without Borders. voluntary organizations

Learner example:
I did voluntary work for a whole year in 1998 in Britain.

volunteer /ˌvɒl.ənˈtɜr/ 

Word family:
Nouns: volunteer
Verbs: volunteer
Adjectives: voluntary
Adverbs: voluntarily

NOUN [C]
[B2] a person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it

Dictionary examples:
a Red Cross volunteer
The charity relies on volunteers to run the office and answer the telephones.

Learner example:
Well the concert was Friday night and I went there with the Red Cross volunteers, did you know I’m one of them?

VERB
[C1] [I or T] to offer to do something without being asked or told to do it

Dictionary example:
Rob volunteered to look after the kids.

Learner example:
One of my classmates, Maria, has volunteered to talk about the different courses and summer activities that the school offers.

vomit /ˈvɒm.ɪt/ 

VERB [I or T]
[C2] If someone vomits, the food or liquid that was in their stomach comes up and out of their mouth.

Dictionary example:
She was vomiting blood.
Learner example:
They assured me that they felt very sorry for me, but then they always changed the subject quickly and began joking and laughing, whereas I went into the toilet and vomited, because I could not live with all the disgust.

**vote** /ˈvəʊt/

Word family:
Nouns: vote, voter
Verbs: vote

NOUN

DECIDE
[B2] [C USUALLY NO PLURAL] a way of making a decision by asking a group of people to vote

Dictionary example:
We called a meeting in order to take a vote on the issue.

the vote
[C1] when someone is officially allowed to vote

Dictionary example:
In some countries women still don’t have the vote.

Learner example:
Women acquired the vote only 70 years ago.

cast a/your vote
[C2] to vote

Dictionary example:
Many people cast their votes for the opposition.

Learner example:
When the day of the General Elections came, no woman cast her vote [for] James and he lost his seat to a man from a minority party, not even the man representing the Labour Party.

**voter** /ˈvəʊ.tər/

Word family:
Nouns: vote, voter
Verbs: vote

NOUN [c]
[C2] a person who votes or who has a legal right to vote, especially in an election
Dictionary examples:
Of course, tax cuts are usually popular with (the) voters.
Are you a Labour voter?

Learner example:
Raising taxes to support low-cost housing or provide support for children and women who have been exposed to domestic violence may be unpopular with voters, but it should be emphasised that spending money to reduce homelessness certainly will pay off in the long run.

vow /vaʊ/

VERB [T]
[C2] to make a serious promise or decision

Dictionary examples:
She vowed that she would never leave the children again.
I've vowed never to go there again.

Learner example:
Most definitely Yiannakis’ plan had not worked out and after that episode he vowed that he would never set foot in a stadium again.

NOUN [C]
[C2] a serious promise or decision

Dictionary examples:
m华侨 vowels
I made a vow that I would write to him once a week.

Learner example:
The vows (and the rings) are exchanged after a short speech given by the priest.

voyage /ˈvɔɪ.ɪdʒ/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a long journey, especially by ship, or in space

Dictionary example:
Cook’s voyage to Australia

Learner example:
Besides, I have a good command of French and I speak English fluently, which might be also useful during the voyage around the world.
vulnerable /ˈvʌlnərəbl/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C2] easy to hurt or attack physically or emotionally  

**Dictionary examples:**  
She was a vulnerable sixteen-year-old.  
The troops are in a vulnerable position.  
He's more vulnerable to infection because of his injuries.  

**Learner example:**  
Therefore they are vulnerable to being twisted by their environment, by events, or by more manipulat[ive] minds.
waist /ˈweɪst/

NOUN [C]
[B2] the part of the body above and slightly narrower than the hips

Dictionary examples:
a small/narrow/tiny/large waist
These trousers are a bit tight around my waist.
She has a 26-inch waist.

Learner example:
Chris was holding his arm tight[ly] around Claire's waist.

wait /ˈweɪt/

VERB [i]

wait and see
[C1] to wait to discover what will happen

Dictionary example:
We'll wait and see what she says.

Learner example:
We will just have to wait and see.....

NOT DO SOMETHING
[C1] to not do something until something else happens

Dictionary example:
We'll wait till Jane gets here before we start eating.

Learner example:
The wedding will be at midday, but because Spanish [people] are the most unpunctual people in the world, maybe we'll have to wait until half past twelve to start the ceremony.

NOUN [NO PLURAL]
[B2] when you stay in one place until someone or something arrives, or someone or something is ready for you
Dictionary examples:
a long wait
well worth the wait
We had a three-hour wait before we could see the doctor.
The long wait for the doctor/to see the doctor really made me anxious.

### walk /ˈwɔːk/

Word family:
Nouns: walk, walking, walker
Verbs: walk

NOUN [c]

**a short/ten–minute, etc. walk**
[B2] a journey that takes a short time/ten minutes, etc. when you walk

Dictionary example:
The station is just a five–minute walk from the house.

Learner example:
A fi[f]teen–minute walk was necessary to reach it and there were no neighbours around.

PATH
[C1] a path or route where people can walk for enjoyment

Dictionary example:
There are some lovely walks in the forest.

Learner example:
The walk ends in Valli del Natisone, but from here there are 2 other different routes that can be chosen.

### walker /ˈwɔː.kər/

Word family:
Nouns: walk, walking, walker
Verbs: walk

NOUN [c]

[C1] someone who walks for exercise or enjoyment

Dictionary example:
This pub is popular with walkers.

Learner example:
If you are a keen walker and you like unspoilt nature, the walk between Granna and Tranas in the South [of] Sweden will be the one.
wander /ˈwɑndər/

VERB [i]

WALK SLOWLY
[B2] to walk around slowly in a relaxed way or without any clear purpose or direction

Dictionary examples:
We spent the morning wandering around the old part of the city.
He was here a moment ago but he’s wandered off somewhere.

Learner example:
If you can't afford it you can just wander around the city and enjoy meeting people.

sb's attention/mind/thoughts, etc. wander
[C2] If someone's attention/mind, etc. wanders, they start thinking about one subject when they should be thinking about a different subject.

Dictionary example:
I was bored and my thoughts started to wander.

Learner example:
His mind kept wandering off and he always found himself dreaming of her beautiful blue eyes, her long, dark eye-lashes and her soft, curled hair.

war /ɔːr/

NOUN

TO STOP
[C2] ![NO PLURAL] an attempt to stop something bad or illegal

Dictionary example:
the war against crime/drugs

Learner example:
Some years ago, she had given an interview [o]n a local channel, explaining why she chose to devote herself to the war against the destruction of the environment.

ward /ɔːd/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a room or area in a hospital, where people receiving treatment stay
Dictionary example:
She's in a ward on the fourth floor.

Learner example:
I spent two days alone in a ward [in] Biarritz’s hospital.

wardrobe /ˈwɔː.drəʊb/

NOUN

CLOTHES
[C1] [NO PLURAL] all the clothes that you own

Dictionary example:
She has an extensive wardrobe.

Learner example:
Our wardrobe seemed to have changed from neutral colours which symbolised no freedom of expression to purple-green outfits that tell you: ".. that's me, if you don't like it, get...".

warehouse /ˈweə.haʊs/

NOUN [C] (warehouses)
[C2] a large building for storing goods that are going to be sold

Dictionary example:
We have several thousand of the books in our warehouse.

Learner example:
Whether we sit hunched over our computers, telework in the dim light of a reading lamp at home or perform physical jobs in a warehouse, we are surrounded [by] numbers of colleagues.

warm /wɔːm/

Word family:
Nouns: warmth
Verbs: warm
Adjectives: warm
Adverbs: warmly

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to become warm or make something become warm

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Dictionary examples:
You're so cold – come and warm your hands by the fire.
Your supper's just warming through in the oven.
We can warm (up) the room quite quickly with this electric fire.

Learner example:
After they saved me, I put those gloves on to warm my hands.

warmly /ˈwɔːrn.li/

Word family:
Nouns: warmth
Verbs: warm
Adjectives: warm
Adverbs: warmly

ADVERB

KEEP WARM
[B2] in a way that keeps you warm

Dictionary example:
You're not dressed warmly enough – put a sweater on.

FRIENDLY
[B2] in a friendly or loving way

Dictionary example:
He shook my hand warmly.

Learner example:
He embraced me warmly and whispered 'You wouldn't have believed me.'

warmth /ˈwɔːrnθ/

Word family:
Nouns: warmth
Verbs: warm
Adjectives: warm
Adverbs: warmly

NOUN [u]

HEAT
[B2] the heat that is produced by something

Dictionary example:
I've put a T-shirt on under my sweater for extra warmth.
Learner example:
We lay down on the sand enjoying the warmth of the sun and listening to the birds.

FEELING

[B2] a friendly and loving quality in someone or something

Dictionary example:
I still remember the warmth of their welcome.

Learner example:
They gave us so much when we were children, their love and their warmth, and now it is up to us to stay with them and give back the love we [received].

warrior /ˈwɔr.i.ə/ 

NOUN [C]
[C1] a person who has experience and skill in fighting in a war, especially in the past

Dictionary example:
These warriors used spears made from iron.

Learner example:
It is true that the Vikings were warriors, some would say bloodthirsty as well, but that is something I will leave to you to judge.

wary /ˈweə.ri/ 

ADJECTIVE
[C2] If you are wary of someone or something, you do not trust them completely.

Dictionary example:
She’s still wary of strangers.

Learner example:
Therefore, I strongly believe that consumers should be wary of “pots of gold” and promises [made] in vain. They should trust solely in what their doctors recommend for each specific case.

wasp /wɑsp/ 

NOUN [C]
[B2] a black and yellow flying insect that can sting you
**Dictionary examples:**
There's a wasps' nest in that old tree.
a wasp sting

**Learner example:**
We were sitting in the garden and suddenly a wasp entered my T-shirt.

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**waste /ˈweɪst/**

**NOUN**

**UNWANTED MATTER**

[B2] [u] unwanted matter or material of any type, often that which is left after useful substances or parts have been removed

**Dictionary examples:**
Britain produces 20 million tonnes of household waste each year.  
He opposes any kind of nuclear waste being dumped at sea.  
Oil spills are common, as is the dumping of toxic waste.

**Learner example:**
What I did to get it was send them an article based on some possible solutions to the problem of nuclear waste in my local area.

**VERB [T]**

**be wasted on sb**

[C2] to be clever or of high quality in a way that someone will not understand or enjoy

**Dictionary example:**
Good coffee is wasted on Joe – he prefers instant.

**Learner example:**
Many older people can be heard grumbling that youth is wasted on the young, and I can see their point, though obviously I don't agree.

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**watch /wɒtʃ/**

**VERB**

**BE CAREFUL**

[B2] [I] to be careful about something
Dictionary examples:
I have to watch my **weight** now I'm not doing so much sport.
Watch **how** you cross the road!
Watch (that) you don't get glue on your fingers, won't you?
Watch **what** you're doing with that knife, Jim, it's sharp.

**Learner example:**
The odd glass of wine is fine but watch what you [eat].

**water** /ˈwɔː.tə/

**NOUN [u]**

**running water**
[C1] If a place has running water, it has a working water system.

**Dictionary example:**
They bought an old house with no electricity or running water.

**Learner example:**
It is hilarious to think that at the same time people in [the] north of Europe were still living a primitive and uncivilized life not even able to invent an axe, the Romans managed to install running water in their huge houses.

**be (like) water off a duck's back**
[C2] If criticisms, insults, etc. are like water off a duck's back to you, they do not affect you at all.

**Dictionary example:**
She calls him lazy and useless, but it's like water off a duck's back.

**Learner example:**
The main lesson I have learned is by looking at some people who have lived alone for most of their life and faced with neither contradiction nor argument, they stay in their ivory tower, so sure of their opinions that whatever you say is like water off a duck's back.

**not hold water**
[C2] If you say that an argument doesn't hold water, you mean that it can't possibly be true.

**Dictionary example:**
I'm sorry, but what you are suggesting just doesn't hold water!

**Learner example:**
It remains to us to prove that the opinions of some scientists are far–fetched and don't hold water.

**fresh water**
[C2] water from lakes, rivers, etc. that has no salt in it
Dictionary example:
These fish live in fresh water.

Learner example:
You find stunning white beaches, clear, fresh water lakes, isolated tropic islands, reef, rainforests, buzzing cities, challenging mountain range, bush, outback – and the desert.

**keep your head above water**  
[C2] to have just enough money to live or to continue a business

Dictionary example:
With extra income from private sponsorship, the club is just about managing to keep its head above water.

Learner example:
I also started to realise how much she had on her plate, how very little help she had and how, at times, she had to struggle just like me to keep her head above water.

**VERB**

**PLANTS**
[B2] [t] to pour water on to plants or the soil that they are growing in

Dictionary example:
I've asked my neighbour to water the plants while I'm away.

Learner example:
I cleaned [the flat] every day and watered your flowers.

**MOUTH**
[C2] [i] If food makes your mouth water, it makes you want to eat it, sometimes making your mouth produce liquid.

Dictionary example:
The smells from the kitchen are making my mouth water.

**waterproof**  
/ˈwɔː.tə.pruːf/

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] not allowing water to go through

Dictionary example:
Canvas boots are all right but they're not as waterproof as leather.

Learner example:
Probably warm jumpers and a waterproof coat would do, don't you think so?
wave /weɪv/

VERB [I or T]

MOVE SIDE TO SIDE

[C1] (ALSO wave about/around) to move from side to side in the air or make something move this way

Dictionary examples:
The long grass waved in the breeze.
He started waving his arms about wildly.

Learner example:
I can picture myself standing in front of the "Casa Prosada", waving my arms and cheering with all the other patriots.

NOUN [C]

ENERGY

[B2] the pattern in which some types of energy, such as sound, light and heat, are spread or carried

Dictionary example:
radio waves

Learner example:
Indeed, it is thought that using a mobile phone may cause brain damage owing to magnetic waves.

GROUP

[C2] a group of people or things that arrive or happen together or in a short period of time

Dictionary examples:
There has been a wave of kidnappings in the region.
Another wave of refugees is arriving at the border.

Learner example:
These people, who belong mostly to the middle class, and some other[s] like explorers […] or youngsters seeking some adventure, produce the big wave of tourists to different countries.

a wave of hatred/enthusiasm/sadness, etc.

[C2] when you suddenly feel an emotion

Dictionary example:
She felt a sudden wave of sadness.

Learner example:
As he counted the money, a wave of shame and horror hit Berthold.
make waves
[C2] to cause problems by asking difficult questions or criticizing

Dictionary example:
He has earned a reputation for making waves during political campaigns.

Learner example:
If we don’t want to regret anything, it is time we started to make waves by scrutinizing our history.

HAND
[C2] when you raise your hand and move it from side to side in order to attract someone’s attention or say goodbye

Dictionary example:
She gave a little wave as the train left.

Learner example:
And as with a wave of a magic hand, everything changed.

wavelength /ˈweɪv.lɛnθ/

NOUN [C]
be on the same wavelength
[C2] If two people are on the same wavelength, they have the same way of thinking and it is easy for them to understand each other.

Dictionary example:
We chatted occasionally, but I never really felt we were on the same wavelength.

Learner example:
We were on the same wavelength and we therefore started our own research.

way /weɪ/

NOUN
one way or another
[B2] in some way that is not stated

Dictionary examples:
One way or another these bills have to be paid.
Everyone at the party was related in one way or another.

Learner example:
All of them made a big difference to our personal life and have affected it one way or another.
one way or the other
[B2] in any way that is possible

Dictionary example:
We have to make a decision one way or the other about what needs to be done.

Learner example:
Our transportation system nowadays is also very well organised and there is a wide range of buses, subways, etc. with which you can reach your destination one way or the other.

the other way round/around
[B2] happening in the opposite way

Dictionary example:
I thought the older people would be more offended than the young people, but it was the other way round.

Learner example:
As you know, I did that the other way round for the States.

make your way
[B2] to get to a place

Dictionary examples:
We slowly made our way down the river.
It's getting late – we should make our way home soon.

Learner example:
She made her way slowly to the waiting room and patiently waited for the train to arrive.

all the way
[B2] the complete distance

Dictionary example:
They cycled all the way to London.

Learner example:
I drove all the way to Bergen in only one day.

in a way; in some/many ways
[B2] used to say that you think something is partly true

Dictionary examples:
In a way, I would prefer it if they didn't come because it would mean extra work.
In some ways it would be better if we met on Monday rather than Wednesday.
He was a remarkable politician in many ways.

Learner example:
I think that many people would like shops to be open all the time, and it might be good in some ways.
MANNER

[C1] [NO PLURAL] the manner in which someone behaves or thinks, or in which something happens

**Dictionary examples:**
Don't be alarmed – it's just his way.
He looked at me in a sinister way.
It's amazing the way she manages to stay so calm.
The way he was shouting, you'd have thought he was badly hurt.
To my way of thinking, they shouldn't be building so many roads.
It's always the way at work – either I've got nothing to do or I'm rushed off my feet!

**Learner example:**
To my way of thinking, despite all the problems I have mentioned, this company will succeed.

**in no way/not in any way**
[C1] not at all

**Dictionary example:**
This is in no way your fault.

**Learner example:**
This magazine will be loved by students as it will help them learn English in the best way and in no way will students find it boring.

**by way of sth**
[C1] as a type of something

**Dictionary example:**
He sent me some flowers by way of apology.

**Learner example:**
The Academy however provided nothing whatsoever by way of entertainment, though with a group of interesting young people and a little imagination this should not be a problem.

**get/have your (own) way**
[C1] to get what you want, although it might upset other people

**Dictionary example:**
She always gets her own way in the end.

**Learner example:**
They are provided with what they desire, and the majority of them are used to getting their own way.

**(take) the easy way out**
[C1] to do what is easiest in a difficult situation

**Dictionary example:**
I know you don't approve of his working methods, but why not take the easy way out this time and agree to his request?
Learner example:
On the other hand you cannot survive without your pay-check and to be able to both make a car[ee]r and have the time to be green, sometimes you just have to take the easy way out.

**FREE SPACE**

[C2] [NO PLURAL] the space needed for a particular movement or action

**Dictionary examples:**
"Sorry, am I in your way? I'll move."
If you don't move that vase out of the way, it might get broken.
Don't let your new friends get in the way of your studies.
I couldn't see the stage because there was a pillar in the way.
Please make way so the ambulance can get by.

Learner example:
As Mark Twain once said "Don't let school get in the way of your education".

**make your way**
[C2] to be successful and make progress in your work

**Dictionary example:**
He managed to make his way in the film industry.

Learner example:
For each one of the famous sportsmen we re[cog]nise on television or in the newspapers, there are thousands of hopeful youngsters trying to make their way to the top.

**go out of your way to do sth**
[C2] to try very hard to do something pleasant for someone

**Dictionary example:**
He went out of his way to make us feel welcome.

**get/have sth out of the way**
[C2] to finish a task or to get rid of something unpleasant

**Dictionary example:**
I'll go shopping when I've got this essay out of the way.

Learner example:
It was a joyful reunion and everybody was grateful to have all misunderstandings out of the way and to be one big family once more.

**In a big way** INFORMAL
[C2] used to say that someone or something does something to a large degree

**Dictionary example:**
They celebrate birthdays in a big way.

Learner example:
Tourism helps Greece's national economy – which is not at its best – in a big way.
be under way
[C2] to be already happening

Dictionary example:
Building work is already under way.

Learner example:
Sociologists are well-aware of the fact and experiments are under way to counterbalance these disadvantages.

give way to sth
[C2] to change into something else

Dictionary example:
Her excitement quickly gave way to horror.

Learner example:
This friendship gave way to love, but it was a really difficult situation, after all she was the Managing Director’s daughter.

give way
[C2] If something gives way, it falls because it is not strong enough to support the weight on top of it.

Dictionary example:
Suddenly the ground gave way under me.

Learner example:
Fred’s voice trailed off as he felt his legs give way beneath him.

make way for sth
[C2] to be replaced by someone or something

Dictionary example:
They knocked down the old houses to make way for a new hotel.

Learner example:
In the UK most high-streets already look very much the same and the local shops had to make way for big conglomerates.

pave the way
[C2] If something paves the way for something else, it makes the other thing possible.

Dictionary example:
Scientists hope that data from the probe will pave the way for a more detailed exploration of Mars.

Learner example:
Many celebrities engage actively in UN projects and pave the way for others to contribute.

do/learn sth the hard way
[C2] to do or learn something by experiencing a lot of problems or difficulty
Dictionary example:
I learned the hard way that training every single day is not the best way to get fit.

Learner example:
If you don't know the past, you're liable to live through it again as instead of deriving the lessons from someone else's experiences, you'll have to learn them the hard way, by trial and error.

thread your way through/between, etc.
[C2] to move carefully through a crowded place, changing direction in order to avoid people or things

Dictionary example:
She threaded her way through the crowd.

Learner example:
And if I thread my way through the crowd along the street, I can find almost all things I want to buy, from inexpensive souvenirs to internationally known brands of suits.

weak /wiːk/

Word family:
Nouns: weakness
Verbs: weaken
Adjectives: weak

ADJECTIVE

CHARACTER
[B2] not powerful, or not having a strong character

Dictionary example:
a weak leader/government/king

Learner example:
At the beginning of the story, [Mary] seemed to be a weak person, but in the end she demonstrated that she could overcome her fears in order to protect someone.

TASTE
[B2] containing little taste or alcohol

Dictionary example:
weak coffee/beer

SLIGHT
[B2] difficult to see or hear

Dictionary example:
He spoke in a weak voice.
**Learner example:**
I could hardly see with the weak light of the candle and I couldn’t remember the last time I had used it.

**REASON**
[C1] A weak reason, argument or excuse is one that can easily be proved to be false.

**Dictionary example:**
He gave the weakest of excuses when asked why he was late.

**LIKELY TO FAIL**
[C1] likely to fail

**Dictionary examples:**
a weak economy
a weak team

**Learner example:**
A very difficult aspect currently is our weak economy, we could nearly speak of a recession.

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**weaken** /ˈwiː.kən/

**Word family:**
Nouns: weakness
Verbs: weaken
Adjectives: weak

**VERB [I or T]**

**LOSE POWER**
[C1] to become less strong or powerful, or to make someone or something less strong or powerful

**Dictionary example:**
A number of factors have weakened the economy.

**Learner example:**
If we get rid of the factories to save the river, it is obvious that our economy will be weakened.

**LOSE CONFIDENCE**
[C2] to become less certain or determined about a decision, or to make someone less determined

**Dictionary example:**
I told him he wasn’t having any more money but then I weakened.
Learner example:
I felt my resistance weaken and at the end of our conversation I said that she could come over for a night but just this night, as I tried to make it very clear to her.

**weakness /ˈwiːk.nəs/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** weakness
**Verbs:** weaken
**Adjectives:** weak

**NOUN**

**NOT STRONG**
[B2] [u] when someone or something is not strong or powerful

**Dictionary example:**
Asking for help is not a sign of weakness.

**Learner example:**
I believe that I'll be able to cover my physical weakness with my experience and knowledge.

**NOT EFFECTIVE**
[B2] [c] a particular part or quality of someone or something that is not good or effective

**Dictionary examples:**
There are definite weaknesses in their security arrangements.
His main weakness as a manager is his inability to delegate.
The later novels show none of the weaknesses of his earlier work.

**Learner example:**
However, I have to complain about a few weaknesses in this festival.

**have a weakness for sth/sb**
[C2] to like a particular thing or person very much

**Dictionary example:**
She has a real weakness for ice cream.

**wealth /welθ/**

**Word family:**
**Nouns:** wealth
**Adjectives:** wealthy
NOUN [u]

MONEY
[B2] a large amount of money or valuable possessions that someone has

Dictionary example:
During a successful business career, she accumulated a great amount of wealth.

Learner example:
On the other hand, having a mobile phone can also create social distinctions between people as it can [be] a sign of wealth.

a wealth of sth
[C2] a large amount of something good

Dictionary example:
a wealth of experience/information

Learner example:
One of the advantages often mentioned is that old people have a wealth of experience, gained throughout life.

wealthy /ˈwel.θi/

Word family:
Nouns: wealth
Adjectives: wealthy

ADJECTIVE
[B2] rich

Dictionary examples:
He's a very wealthy man.
With its natural resources it is potentially a very wealthy country.

Learner example:
But how can anyone satisfy a wealthy woman like her without giving her an expensive present?

weapon /ˈwep.ən/

NOUN [c]
[B2] ! any object used in fighting or war, such as a gun, bomb, sword, etc.

Dictionary examples:
chemical/nuclear/biological weapons
The youths were dragged from their car and searched for weapons.
Learner example:
Technology is used [to] create new types of weapons.

wear /weər/  

VERB [ɪ] (wore, worn)  
HAIR  
[B2] to arrange or grow your hair in a particular way  
Dictionary example:  
She usually wears her hair in a ponytail.  
Learner example:  
I now wear my long hair loose and I dyed it black.  
FACE  
[C2] to show a particular emotion on your face.  
Dictionary example:  
He was wearing a smile /frown.  
Learner example:  
She was wearing a big smile on her face that reflected happiness.  
wear thin  
[C2] If a feeling or explanation starts to wear thin, it becomes weaker or harder to accept.  
Dictionary example:  
I've warned you several times about being late and my patience is wearing thin.  
Learner example:  
Hardly could they fight against others, when their own convictions had started to wear thin.

weary /ˈwiər.i/  

ADJECTIVE  
TIRED  
[C2] very tired  
Dictionary example:  
You look weary, my love.  
Learner example:  
On the other hand, if we choose to sleep, it means that we are willing to inject some power in our weary bodies and minds.
weary of *sth/sb*
[C2] bored with something or someone

**Dictionary example:**
She **grew** weary of the children and their games.

**Learner example:**
The young man was getting weary of being rejected like this, but he was still hoping that she would open her heart to him some day.

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**weather** /ˈweð.ər/

**NOUN [u]**

**be/feel under the weather**
[C2] to feel ill

**Dictionary example:**
I'm feeling a bit under the weather this morning.

**Learner example:**
Ann was a bit under the weather, [and] she felt quite lonely in her big flat.

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**weed** /wiːd/

**NOUN [c]**
[C2] a wild plant that you do not want to grow in your garden

**Dictionary example:**
Dandelions are common weeds.

**Learner example:**
A loose shutter was tapping against the wall, he walked over to close it and from the window he saw the garden overgrown with weeds.

---

**weep** /wiːp/

**VERB [I or T] LITERARY (wept)**
[C2] to cry, usually because you are sad

**Dictionary example:**
She covered her face with her hands and wept.

**Learner example:**
Still weeping, Mary felt a tiny little hand on her arm and stared at it in astonishment.
**weigh** /weɪ/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** weight
- **Verbs:** weigh, outweigh
- **Adjectives:** overweight

**VERB [T]**

**CONSIDER CAREFULLY**

[B2] (also weigh up) to consider something carefully, especially in order to make a decision

**Dictionary example:**
He needs to weigh up the pros and cons of going to college.

**Learner example:**
Having weighed the pros and cons, I thought you [ought] to be conscious of the fact that... you’re working too hard.

---

**weight** /weɪt/

**Word family:**
- **Nouns:** weight
- **Verbs:** weigh, outweigh
- **Adjectives:** overweight

**NOUN**

**HEAVINESS**

[B2] [u] the quality of being heavy

**Dictionary example:**
The shelf collapsed under the weight of the books.

**Learner example:**
The weight of the snow broke the branches of the trees.

**OBJECT**

[B2] [c] something that is heavy

**Dictionary examples:**
Try not to lift heavy weights.
I lift weights twice a week at the gym.

**Learner example:**
[...] my long training periods in lifting weights.
pull your weight
[C2] to work as hard as other people in a group

Dictionary example:
The rest of the team complained that Sarah wasn't pulling her weight.

Learner example:
For instance, before your kin get all nice and comfortable, you could ask them to pull their weight around the house by doing a few jobs.

carry weight
[C2] to be considered important and effective in influencing someone

Dictionary example:
His opinions carry a lot of weight with the scientific community.

Learner example:
It has become increasingly important to strive for near perfection in every move they make, the pursuit of excellence therefore carrying more weight than ever and leading to strenuous training programs.

weird /wɪəd/

ADJECTIVE
[B2] very strange and unusual, unexpected or not natural

Dictionary examples:
Her boyfriend's a bit weird but she's all right.
That's weird – I thought I'd left my keys on the table but they're not there.
There is nothing to rival the weird and wonderful things that come out on the streets at carnival time.

Learner example:
She was hearing all sorts of weird noises.

welcome /ˈwel.kəm/

VERB [T]

ENCOURAGE
[B2] to be pleased about something and encourage or support it

Dictionary examples:
The decision has been widely welcomed.
I would welcome your advice.
Learner example:
The time will arrive [when] all of us will accept and welcome this "beautiful machine"! [the computer]

ADJECTIVE
PLEASING
[B2] If something is welcome, people are pleased about it and want it to happen.

Dictionary examples:
a welcome change
Your comments are always welcome.

Learner example:
And, since all these new things only make our life easier, technology is welcome.

NOUN [C or U]
outstay/overstay your welcome
[C2] to stay somewhere too long so that people want you to leave

Dictionary example:
I don't want to outstay my welcome.

Learner example:
The worst thing one can do is to let them know they have outstayed their welcome, that will only make things worse.

welfare /ˈwel.fər/  
NOUN [U]

HEALTH
[B2] Someone's welfare is their health and happiness.

Dictionary example:
He is concerned about the welfare of young men in prison.

Learner example:
To take care of the visitor's wishes must be a priority: his welfare has to be enforced by structural measures (facilities, services, activities) and cultural ones.

CARE
[C2] care or money provided by the government for people who are poor, ill, or who do not have jobs

Dictionary examples:
She works in child welfare.
The country's welfare bill is massive.
**Learner example:**
Living in a welfare state is a great thing, but not all of us are so lucky.

---

**well /wel/**

**Word family:**

**Adjectives:** unwell, well

**ADVERB (better, best)**

**may/might as well**

[B2] used to suggest doing something, often when there is nothing better to do

**Dictionary examples:**

We might as well walk there.
As you already know so much about the subject, you might as well skip this lecture.

**Learner example:**
In my opinion, you might as well ask your neighbours if they can look after your flat for one day.

**may/might/could well**

[B2] used to say that something is likely to be true

**Dictionary examples:**

She might well be the best person to ask.
He could well be at Michelle's house.

**Learner example:**
Laura could well imagine [that] she would stand opposite the examiners and not answer any question in the right way.

**EMPHASIS**

[B2] used to emphasize some adjectives

**Dictionary examples:**

The police are well aware of the situation.
The museum is well worth a visit.

**Learner example:**
Finally I would like to recommend a visit to Lampton Castle; in addition to the paintings and furniture there is now a new collection of musical instruments, which is well worth seeing.

**CONSIDERABLY**

[C1] used to emphasize some prepositions

**Dictionary examples:**

The results are well above/below what we expected.
Keep well away from the edge of the cliff.
It cost well over £100.
Learner example:
The hospital received well over 80% of the profits, and that as you can see is much more than just 60%.

**may/might as well do sth**
[C1] If you may/might as well do something, it will not spoil the situation if you do that thing.

Dictionary example:
If we're not waiting for Karen, we might as well go now.

Learner example:
I might as well go with her and if you like, you can join us too.

**it's just as well**
[C1] used to say that it is lucky that something happened

Dictionary example:
It's just as well we brought an umbrella.

Learner example:
It is just as well that my friends had cars to give me a lift to the school.

**can't/couldn't very well do sth**
[C2] used to say that something is not a suitable or practical thing to do

Dictionary example:
I couldn't very well tell her while he was there.

Learner example:
I couldn't very well tell her that without my diaries, I'd be lost and not know who I was.

**mean well**
[C2] to intend to behave in a kind way

Dictionary example:
I know my parents mean well, but I wish they wouldn't interfere.

Learner example:
Although these fans might mean well, in many cases they do not appear to realise that their 'heroes' perhaps would like to be left alone.

**ADJECTIVE (better, best)**

**it's just as well**
[B2] used to say that it is lucky that something happened

Dictionary example:
It's just as well we brought an umbrella.

Learner example:
It is just as well that my friends had cars to give me a lift to the school.
be all very well
[C1] used to show that you do not agree with something or that you are annoyed about something

Dictionary example:
It’s all very well for her to say everything’s fine, she doesn’t have to live here.

Learner example:
That’s all very well for most of the people but according to my desires it’s not enough. I envisage a more sophisticated flat.

well-balanced /ˌwelˈbæl.ənst/

ADJECTIVE

FOOD
[B2] A well-balanced diet or meal includes all the different types of food that the body needs to be healthy.

Dictionary example:
I try to have a well-balanced diet.

Learner example:
So my advice for you would be to try and have some break times during the day, [do] some sports and follow a well-balanced diet.

PERSON
[C1] Well-balanced people are calm and have good judgment.

Dictionary example:
She’s very well-balanced considering her past.

Learner example:
Linda has a good temper, is well-balanced and is able to cope with unforeseen or complicated situations.

well-being /ˌwelˈbiː.ɪŋ/

NOUN [u]
[C1] when someone is healthy, happy, and comfortable

Dictionary example:
I found that yoga increased my sense of well-being.

Learner example:
The beautiful countryside which surrounds the fields can generate a feeling of well-being and make exercise more pleasant.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>well-built</strong> /welˈbɪlt/</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
<td><strong>[B2]</strong> having a large, strong body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
<td>He was a well-built man, in his forties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
<td>When I was twenty three years old, I was married to a handsome, well-built business man.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>well-educated</strong> /welˈedʒ.ʊ.keɪ.tɪd/</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
<td><strong>[C1]</strong> having had a good education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary examples:</strong></td>
<td>We have some very well-educated employees in the department. Most of our employees are pretty well educated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
<td>Increasing numbers of well-educated young people are compelled to stay at home.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>well-equipped</strong> /wel.ɪˈkwɪpt/</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
<td><strong>[C1]</strong> having plenty of good quality equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
<td>He has a very well-equipped kitchen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
<td>There is a well-equipped gym which is supervised by experienced staff.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th><strong>well-informed</strong> /wel.ɪnˈfɔːmd/</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADJECTIVE</strong></td>
<td><strong>[C1]</strong> knowing a lot of useful information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dictionary example:</strong></td>
<td>Some visitors to our museum are very well-informed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner example:</strong></td>
<td>In fact, well-informed teenagers are now aware of the necessity to [do] a sport to stay fit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**well-off** /ˌwelˈɒf/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] having a lot of money  

**Dictionary example:**  
His parents are very well-off.  

**Learner example:**  
If you belong to a well-off family then you are considered lucky, but if you are not this, good luck to you.

---

**well-organized (also UK well-organised)** /ˌwelˈɔː.gəˌnɔrizd/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] working in an effective and successful way because of good organization  

**Dictionary example:**  
She’s always extremely well-organized at work.  

**Learner example:**  
In my opinion it was a very well-organised festival with good performers.

---

**well-paid** /ˌwelˈpeɪd/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[B2] earning a lot of money  

**Dictionary example:**  
a well-paid job  

**Learner example:**  
[She had] an interesting and well-paid job in Paris as a fashion model.

---

**well-qualified** /ˌwelˈkwɒl.i.faid/  

**ADJECTIVE**  
[C1] having suitable experience or formal qualifications  

**Dictionary example:**  
He seems well-qualified for the job.  

**Learner example:**  
That is why foreign employers look for well-qualified Polish specialists.
west (also West) /west/

Word family:
Nouns: west
Adjectives: western

NOUN [u]

(the) West
[B2] the countries of North America and western Europe

Dictionary examples:
There has been concern in / throughout the West about the effects of this measure. East–West relations

what /wʌt/

PRONOUN

What ...for?
[B2] used to ask about the reason for something

Dictionary examples:
What are these tools for?
What are you doing that for?
"We need a bigger car." "What for?"

Learner example:
People love spending hours in their stuffy cars, getting stuck in traffic jams and breathing polluted air. What for?

what's / what is more
[B2] used to add something surprising or interesting to what you have just said

Dictionary example:
They turned up nearly an hour late, and what's more, they didn't bring anything!

Learner example:
What is more, I will have an opportunity to visit the most exotic countries.

what with INFORMAL
[C2] used to talk about the reasons for a particular situation, especially a bad or difficult situation

Dictionary example:
I'm tired, what with travelling all day yesterday and sleeping badly.
Learner example:
The energy of a crowd like that is amazing, what with people jumping up and down, singing their lungs out and pushing each other around.

**whatever** /ˈwɒt.ɛvər/

**PRONOUN**

**NO DIFFERENCE**

[B2] used to say that what happens is not important because it does not change a situation

**Dictionary examples:**
Whatever happens, you know that I'll stand by you.

**Learner example:**
Whatever you decide, I hope you enjoy a wonderful summer.

**or whatever**

[B2] or other things of the same kind

**Dictionary example:**
If you need to wash, or whatever, we can meet you later.

**DETERMINER**

**NO DIFFERENCE**

[B2] used to say that what happens is not important because it does not change a situation

**Dictionary examples:**
We'll go whatever the weather.
Whatever else may be said of him, Mr. Meese is not scared of a fight.
But whatever the reason, most people who move from one region to another are under 35 years old.

**Learner example:**
Whatever you decide, I hope you enjoy a wonderful summer.

**whatsoever** /ˌwɒt.səˈevər/

**ADVERB (also whatever)**

**no ... whatsoever**

[C1] none at all
**Dictionary example:**
There's no evidence whatsoever that she was involved.

**Learner example:**
Moreover, the hotel we were finally dumped in was situated miles from Edinburgh city centre and there was no entertainment whatsoever arranged for the evening, even though all the travellers were more or less stuck there.

---

**wheat** /wiːt/

**NOUN [u]**
[B2] a plant whose yellowish brown grain is used for making flour, or the grain itself

**Dictionary examples:**
wheat fields
Wheat is an important crop for millions of people across the world.

**Learner example:**
[In the painting, a man and woman] are sleeping in a wheat field.

---

**wheel** /wiːl/

**NOUN [c]**

**the wheel**
[B2] a steering wheel

**Dictionary example:**
You should keep both hands on the wheel when driving.

**Learner example:**
On the continent Barbara and I took turns at the wheel and early next morning we reached the Spanish border.

---

**when** /wen/

**CONJUNCTION**

**ALTHOUGH**
[B2] used to say something that is surprising after what has already been said
Dictionary examples:
He says he hasn't got any money when in fact he's got thousands of dollars in his account. I don't understand how he can say that everything's fine when it's so obvious that it's not. Why is she training to be a teacher when she doesn't even like children? How can you say you don't like something when you've never even tried it!

Learner example:
In your advertisement it was said that I would find stars and artists from around the world, when, in fact, they were from only six countries.

when it comes to sth/doing sth
[C1] used to introduce a new idea that you want to say something about

Dictionary example:
When it comes to baking cakes, she's an expert.

Learner example:
But when it comes to computers, they just impose some knowledge on students, without any interaction.

whenever /wenˈev.ə/ CONJUNCTION

whenever possible
[B2] every time it is possible

Dictionary example:
I try to use olive oil whenever possible.

Learner example:
My friends have always regarded me as a cheerful, active girl, who is glad to help out whenever possible.

ADVERB
[C2] every time or any time

Dictionary examples:
"Will it be okay if I do it tomorrow?" "Sure, whenever."
Do it in a spare moment at the weekend or whenever – it really doesn't matter.
where /ˈweə/  

ADVERB

**where you stand (with sb)**

[C2] what someone thinks about you, how they expect you to behave, and how they are likely to behave

**Dictionary example:**
She said she will never leave her husband, so now at least I know where I stand.

**where sb stands (on sth)**

[C2] what your opinion is about something

**Dictionary example:**
We asked the head teacher where he stood on the wearing of jewellery in school.

**Learner example:**
From where I stand, some action must be taken urgently because the problems are constantly exacerbating.

CONJUNCTION

**PROCESS/ACTIVITY**

[B2] used when referring to a particular stage in a process or activity

**Dictionary examples:**
You reach a point in any project where you just want to get the thing finished.
I've reached the stage where I just don't care anymore.

**Learner example:**
We've come to a point where we have forgotten how to read or talk to each other.

whereabouts

ADVERB /ˌweəˈərəˌbaʊts/

[C2] used to ask in what place or area someone or something is

**Dictionary example:**
Whereabouts does he live?

NOUN /ˈweəˌraˌbaʊts/

**sb's whereabouts**

[C2] the place where someone or something is

**Dictionary example:**
His whereabouts are unknown.
**Learner example:**
However, his whereabouts have been unknown for 6 years.

**whereas** /ˈweərˈəz/

**CONJUNCTION**
[B2] compared with the fact that

**Dictionary example:**
He must be about sixty, whereas his wife looks about thirty.

**Learner example:**
For example, it takes two hours by plane from Switzerland to Spain, whereas it takes approximately one day by train.

**whereby** /ˈweərˈbaɪ/

**ADVERB** FORMAL
[C2] by which

**Dictionary example:**
They’ve introduced a system whereby people share cars.

**Learner example:**
Those in favour of separating the genders quote studies whereby boys demonstrate better results in school without the distraction of having the fairer sex around.

**wherever** /ˈwerˈev.ər/  

**CONJUNCTION**
[B2] every time it is possible

**Dictionary examples:**
Wherever possible I use honey instead of sugar.  
We try to sell local fruit and vegetables wherever possible.

**Learner example:**
We can work together [in a] number of ways, for example, we can plant trees wherever possible and we can place bins [in] the necessary areas which will help the public to dispose [of] waste items.
**which** /wɪtʃ/  

**PRONOUN**  

**AFTER PREPOSITION**  

[B2] used after a preposition to show what thing is being referred to  

**Dictionary examples:**  
Is that the film in which she sings?  
The death of his son was an experience from which he never fully recovered.  
It isn’t a subject to which I devote a great deal of thought.  

**Learner example:**  
According to your advertisement in a language magazine you have a vacancy in your campsites, in which I am very interested.  

**GIVING OPINION**  

[B2] used when you give an opinion or comment about what you have just said  

**Dictionary example:**  
He showed me round the town, which I thought was very kind of him.  

**Learner example:**  
I am very interested in being able to help on such a project, which I think is a very good one.  

**whichever** /wɪˈtʃev.ə/  

**DETERMINER**  

**ANY**  

[B2] any of a group of similar things  

**Dictionary examples:**  
Let’s go out on Thursday or Friday – you choose whichever day is best for you.  
You can have whichever bedroom you want in the apartment.  

**Learner example:**  
The meeting will take place on either the 15th or 22nd February, whichever one suits you best.  

**NOT IMPORTANT**  

[B2] used to say that what happens is not important because it does not change a situation  

**Dictionary examples:**  
It’s going to be expensive whichever way you do it.  
Whichever option we choose there’ll be disadvantages.
Learner example:
In Japan, there are two major style[s] of tea. One is Omote and the other is Ura. Both style[s] have only one top family. Whichever they are, the top family uses [a] special bowl made by [the] Raku family.

PRONOUN

[B2] any of a group of similar things

Dictionary examples:
We can go to the seven o'clock performance or the eight – whichever suits you best.
You can choose whichever of those dates is best for you.

Learner example:
This job in a bookshop is in Central London, and you can choo[se] part-time or full time, whichever you want.

while /wail/

CONJUNCTION

ALTHOUGH

[B2] (UK FORMAL ALSO MAINLY whilst) despite the fact that; although

Dictionary examples:
While I accept that he's not perfect in many respects, I do actually quite like the man.
While I fully understand your point of view, I do also have some sympathy with Michael's.

Learner example:
While it is true that everyone should have a computer at home because it is useful, on the other hand hardly anybody [can] afford [one].

NOUN

(every) once in a while

[B2] sometimes but not often

Dictionary example:
We do go to the beach once in a while.

Learner example:
She did not say very much except for "oh" and "yes, yes" every once in a while.

be worth your while

[C2] If it is worth your while doing something, it is useful or enjoyable to do it.

Dictionary examples:
It’s worth your while taking out travel insurance before you travel.
It isn’t worth my while going all that way just for one day.
Learner example:
It would be worth your while to visit the country’s capital Havana, and don’t forget to go into the Folklore Museum and Library, the War Museum and the Archeological Museum.

whim /wɪm/

NOUN [C]
[C2] when you suddenly want to do something without having a reason

Dictionary example:
We booked the holiday on a whim.

Learner example:
He brought her presents and indulged her every whim.

whisky /ˈwɪs.ki/

NOUN [C or U]
[B2] a strong, pale brown alcoholic drink, originally produced in Scotland, that is made from barley

Dictionary example:
The whisky from the island of Islay is excellent.

Learner example:
We stayed in various small inns, where we met a lot of interesting people, for example an old man from a small village outside Aberdeen who accompanied us to a neighbouring whisky distillery, where a most exquisite malt whisky is produced.

whisper /ˈwɪs.pər/

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to speak extremely quietly so that other people cannot hear

Dictionary examples:
She leaned over and whispered something in his ear.
What are you two girls whispering about?
"Where are the toilets?" she whispered.

Learner example:
When I went to the school canteen everybody was staring at me and whispering to each other.
whistle /ˈwɪs.əl/

VERB [I or T]
[B2] to make a sound by breathing air out through a small hole made with your lips, or through a whistle

Dictionary examples:
On the days when she wore a skirt the men on the building site would whistle at her. Someone was whistling Beatles tunes outside my window.

Learner example:
I stood up and many of my companions clap[p]ed their hands, although some of them whistled in a very rude way.

NOUN [C]
[B2] a small, simple instrument that makes a sound when you blow through it

Dictionary example:
The referee blew his whistle to end the game.

Learner example:
I was so nervous and I was thinking about that scream and those whistles, so I decided to go outside to have a look.

white /waɪt/

ADJECTIVE

FACE
[C2] having a pale face because you are ill or you are feeling shocked

Dictionary example:
He was white with shock.

Learner example:
However, when she opened the door, her face went white.

OF WHITE PEOPLE
[C2] relating to white people

Dictionary example:
the white community

Learner example:
As most British in those days, his private life lay in a small circle of the white community.
**who /huː/**  

**PRONOUN**

**Who cares?**  
[B2] informal used to emphasize that you do not think something is important

**Dictionary example:**
"Chelsea should have reached the final!" "Who cares?"

**Learner example:**
"Who cares?" he answered.

**whoever /huːˈevə/**  

**PRONOUN**

**PERSON**
[B2] the person who

**Dictionary examples:**
Whoever broke the window will have to pay for it.
Could I speak to whoever is in charge of international sales, please?

**Learner example:**
I have to admit that whoever invented cars [produce]d the [best] invention [in] the world.

**NOT IMPORTANT**
[B2] used to say that it is not important which person or group does something

**Dictionary examples:**
Can whoever leaves last please lock up?
You’re likely to get the same answer, whoever you ask.

**Learner example:**
The main advantage is obvious – you can communicate whenever you want with whoever you want and wherever you are.

**whole /həʊl/**  

**NOUN**

**as a whole**
[B2] when considered as a group and not in parts
Dictionary example:
The population as a whole is getting healthier.

Learner example:
To sum up, I can say that the greatest ever invention is the invention of computers, that has affected both indivi[d]uals and society as a whole.

ADVERB

[C2] as a single object and not in pieces

Dictionary example:
The baby bird swallowed the worm whole.

wholeheartedly /ˌhəʊlˈhɑː.tɪd.li/

ADVERB

[C2] in a completely enthusiastic way

Dictionary example:
I agreed wholeheartedly with what she said.

Learner example:
First of all, I have to say that I agree with you wholeheartedly.

wholly /ˈhəʊli/

ADVERB

[C2] completely

Dictionary example:
His behaviour is wholly unacceptable.

Learner example:
As far as money is concerned, I think that people who only care about earning lots of money do not wholly understand the question.

whom /huːm/

PRONOUN

FORMAL

[B2] used instead of 'who' as the object of a verb or preposition
Dictionary examples:
I met a man with whom I used to work.
There were 500 passengers, of whom 121 drowned.
To whom do you wish to speak?

Learner example:
This is just to let you know with whom I worked.

wicked /ˈwɪk.id/

ADJECTIVE
[C2] extremely bad and morally wrong

Dictionary example:
a wicked man

Learner example:
[They went to] great pains to do so, as he was indeed a wicked and cunning man, but he had not counted [on] Caroline's and James' superior intelligence, and the documents were eventually found in an empty jar in the kitchen.

wide /waɪd/

Word family:
Nouns: width
Verbs: widen
Adjectives: wide
Adverbs: widely

ADVERB

APART
[B2] farther than usual or as far as possible

Dictionary example:
She ran towards me, her arms open wide.

Learner example:
She came into the living room and saw me standing on the stairs with my eyes opened wide.

be wide awake
[C2] to be completely awake

Dictionary example:
“Is Oliver awake yet?” “Yes, he's wide awake and running around his bedroom.”
**Learner example:**
Sometimes, when I have put my children to bed, half an hour later an aircraft flies over and my two-year old daughter is wide awake again.

---

**widely /ˈwaɪ.d.li/**

Word family:
Nouns: width
Verbs: widen
Adjectives: wide
Adverbs: widely

**ADVERB**

INCLUDING A LOT

[B2] including a lot of different places, people, subjects, etc.

Dictionary examples:
They have both travelled widely. English is widely spoken around the world. His work is widely known/accepted.

Learner example:
It is widely known that the Japanese and Chinese people are often very healthy.

**differ/vary widely**

[B2] to be very different

Dictionary example:
Prices vary widely from shop to shop.

Learner example:
People's opinions on the protection of the environment differ widely.

---

**widen /ˈwaɪ.dən/**

Word family:
Nouns: width
Verbs: widen
Adjectives: wide
Adverbs: widely

**VERB [I or T]**

MAKE WIDER

[B2] to become wider, or to make something wider
Dictionary examples:
They are widening the road.
As it approaches the sea, the river begins to widen (out).

Learner example:
So I suggest widening the [main road].

INCREASE
[B2] to increase or make something increase in number or degree

Dictionary example:
Why not widen the discussion to include other points of view?

Learner example:
It could help me to widen my knowledge about stamps.

widespread /ˈwʌɪd.spred/

ADJECTIVE
[C1] affecting or including a lot of places, people, etc.

Dictionary examples:
a widespread problem
widespread support

Learner example:
It is because of widespread use of deep-freezing and preservatives.

widow /ˈwɪd.əʊ/

NOUN [C]
[B2] a woman whose husband has died and who has not married again

Dictionary example:
Many of her friends are also widows.

Learner example:
Roland was a rich man and now you are a rich widow.
**width** /ˈwɪð/  

**Word family:**  
**Nouns:** width  
**Verbs:** widen  
**Adjectives:** wide  
**Adverbs:** widely  

**NOUN [C or U]**  
[B2] the distance across something from one side to the other  

**Dictionary examples:**  
It is 5 metres in width.  
The needle is seven times smaller than the width of a human hair.  

**Learner example:**  
The width of a car hinders driving on the pavement, for instance.

**wield** /wiːld/  

**VERB [T]**  
[C2] to hold a weapon or tool and look as if you are going to use it  

**Dictionary example:**  
They were confronted by a man wielding a knife.  

**Learner example:**  
To start with, its special effects are superb, transporting the spectator into a new world of fascinating creatures, who wield mighty weapons to get citizens free from slavery and injustice.  

**wield influence/power, etc.**  
[C2] to have a lot of influence or power over other people  

**Dictionary example:**  
People in his position wield a lot of power over our lives.  

**Learner example:**  
Fortunately, my parents do not wield authority over me and my siblings like dictators.

**wild** /waɪld/  

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:** wild  
**Adverbs:** wildly
ADJECTIVE

LAND
[B2] describes land that is not used to grow crops and has few people living in it

Dictionary example:
a wild mountainous region

Learner example:
This area is still wild.

ENERGETIC
[B2] very energetic and not controlled

Dictionary examples:
a wild party
wild dancing
The audience burst into wild applause.
When I told him what I’d done, he went wild.
The children were wild with excitement.

Learner example:
When Jorge went up [on] the stage to get his award, he sang the song and the crowd went wild!

run wild
[C2] If someone, especially a child, runs wild, they behave as they want to and no one controls them.

Dictionary example:
Their nine-year-old son is left to run wild.

Learner example:
My parents decided to move to a small village when I was just a kid. Shortly after we settled [in], my parents decided that I was running wild and that it was time for me to receive some sort of education.

run wild
[C2] If someone's imagination runs wild, they are not able to control their thoughts.

Dictionary example:
It was getting dark and my imagination was starting to run wild.

Learner example:
Her imagination started to run wild and she set about think[ing] about the dark corridors, the secret passages and the obscure dungeons that the castle might hide.

a wild accusation/guess/rumour, etc.
[C2] something that you say which is not based on facts and is probably wrong

Dictionary example:
You can't go round making wild accusations like that.
WEATHER
[C2] with a lot of wind, rain, etc.

Dictionary example:
a wild and stormy night

Learner example:
They played with the shadows of the night and danced with the sound of a wild wind.

beyond your wildest dreams
[C2] bigger or better than anything you could imagine or hope for

Dictionary example:
The house was beyond my wildest dreams.

Learner example:
[It] was beyond my wildest dreams.

not/never in your wildest dreams
[C2] used to say that something is better than anything you could imagine or hope for

Dictionary example:
Never in my wildest dreams had I thought I would be offered a starring role in Hollywood.

Learner example:
Not even in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that finding a diary was to have such fortunate consequences for me.

wilderness /ˈwɪldənəs/

NOUN [c]
[C2] a place that is in a completely natural state without houses, industry, roads, etc.

Dictionary example:
a beautiful mountain wilderness

Learner example:
At 7 o’clock we left our tiny hotel to head for the wilderness.

wildly /ˈwaɪld.li/
ADVERB

WITHOUT CONTROL
[B2] in a very energetic way and without control

Dictionary examples:
He was dancing wildly.
They cheered wildly.

Learner example:
When I arrived at the party, I knew immediately that something was wrong ... people were sleeping on the floor, the house furniture was all torn apart, [and] people with beverages were dancing wildly.

EXTREMELY
[C2] extremely

Dictionary examples:
I must say I'm not wildly keen on the idea.
The product has been wildly successful.

Learner example:
Funding field trips would mean increased resources for our wildly successful guest appearances, as well as the budget needed to foster our skilled debaters.

will /wɪl/

MODAL VERB

will have
[B2] used to form the future perfect tense

Dictionary examples:
Next month, Gary will have been working here for 10 years.
He'll have reached Berlin by tonight.

Learner example:
First of all, if you go to work by bicycle every day, at the end of the month you will have saved more money because you won't have spent it buying petrol.

NOUN

MENTAL POWER
[B2] [c or u] the mental power used to control and direct your thoughts and actions, or a determination to do something, despite any difficulties or opposition

Dictionary examples:
From an early age she had a very strong will.
After six months in hospital she began to lose the will to live.
Learner example:
How would you find the will to look for another job?

**WHAT SOMEONE WANTS**

[C1] [u] what someone wants to happen

**Dictionary examples:**
Against their will, they were forced to hold a meeting.
The government has failed to impose its will upon regional communities.

Learner example:
But if you go [and] learn a language against your will, then it's better not to go at all.

**DOCUMENT**

[C2] [c] an official statement of what a person has decided should be done with their money and property after their death

**Dictionary examples:**
Have you made a will yet?
She left me some money in her will.

Learner example:
This uncle of mine, rich as he was, decided to make a will some years before his death.

---

**willing /ˈwɪl.ɪŋ/**

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** willingness, unwillingness

**Adjectives:** unwilling, willing

**Adverbs:** willingly, unwillingly

**ADJECTIVE**

**WANTING**

[C2] wanting to do something

**Dictionary example:**
He is a very willing assistant.

**Learner example:**
It has also given them a willing slave, the machine, which will work as many hours as required without demanding overtime or rest time and without going on strike.
willingly /ˈwɪl.ɪŋ.li/

Word family:
Nouns: willingness, unwillingness
Adjectives: unwilling, willing
Adverbs: willingly, unwillingly

ADVERB
[B2] in a willing way

Dictionary examples:
He would unwillingly risk his life for her.
I would willingly help you if I weren't going away tomorrow.

Learner example:
Of course, I'll willingly help you, even though I'm going to stay there only for a couple of weeks.

willingness /ˈwɪl.ɪŋ.nəs/

Word family:
Nouns: willingness, unwillingness
Adjectives: unwilling, willing
Adverbs: willingly, unwillingly

NOUN [u]
[B2] the state of being willing

Dictionary example:
I was impressed by her willingness to listen.

Learner example:
Thank you for your willingness [to organise] the trip.

willpower /ˈwɪl.pəʊər/

NOUN [u]
[C2] the ability to make yourself do difficult things or to stop yourself from doing enjoyable things that are bad for you

Dictionary example:
It takes great willpower to lose weight.

Learner example:
In the end, I think, it all comes down to willpower and intelligence.
win /wɪn/

Word family:
Nouns: winner, win
Verbs: win

VERB (winning, won, won)

ARGUMENT
[B2] to be successful in a war, fight, or argument

Dictionary examples:
They won the war, but with heavy losses.
Everyone likes winning an argument.

Learner example:
After a short battle on the floor I won the fight.

win approval/respect/support, etc.
[C2] to get approval/respect/support, etc. because of your skill and hard work

Dictionary example:
Her plans have won the support of many local people.

Learner example:
In my book, they should be prepared to work hard to win their colleagues’ respect before they start to earn real money.

NOUN [C]
[C1] when someone wins a game, competition or election

Dictionary examples:
It was United’s sixth consecutive win this season.
Everyone was predicting a Republican win at the last election and look what happened.

Learner example:
It was a really interesting, ex[cl]iting game which ended with a deserving 'One–Nil' win to Scotland.

wind¹ /wɪnd/

Word family:
Nouns: wind
Adjectives: windy

NOUN [C or U]

throw caution to the wind
[C2] to take a risk
**Dictionary example:**
I decided to throw caution to the wind and book a ticket to India.

**Learner example:**
They just threw caution to the wind, and did what they wanted.

wind² /ˈwaind/

Word family:
Verbs: wind, unwind
Adjectives: winding

**VERB (wound, wound)**

**wind (sth) around/round, etc. sth**
[B2] to turn or twist something long and thin around something else several times, or to turn or twist in this way

**Dictionary example:**
She wound the rope around the tree.

**Learner example:**
The door opened and a[n] enormous worm in [the] shape of a finger rushed toward them. It wound around them and pulled them out of the house.

**wind along/through, etc.**
[B2] If a river, road, etc. winds somewhere, it bends a lot and is not straight.

**Dictionary example:**
The path winds along the edge of the bay.

**Learner example:**
The camp is situated [among] colourful meadows, there is a deep forest and, of course, the river winds through this lovely countryside.

winding /ˈwaind.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Verbs: wind, unwind
Adjectives: winding

**ADJECTIVE**
[B2] describes a path, road, river, etc. which repeatedly turns in different directions

**Dictionary example:**
There's a very long, winding path leading up to the house.
Learner example:
Moreover, I agree with Chris when he thinks the route through the mountain may be very difficult: it is a winding and quite hazardous road.

**wing** /wɪŋ/

**NOUN [C]**

**AIRCRAFT**
[B2] one of the two long, flat parts at the sides of an aircraft that allow it to fly

**Dictionary example:**
I could see the plane’s wing out of the window.

**Learner example:**
Everything looked good but then, he made a wrong move and crashed into another plane with the wing.

**POLITICS**
[C2] a group of people in an organization or political party who have the same beliefs

**Dictionary example:**
the nationalist wing of the party

**wink** /wɪŋk/

**VERB [v]**
[C2] to quickly close and then open one eye, in order to be friendly or to show that something is a joke

**Dictionary example:**
She smiled and winked at me.

**Learner example:**
On the way to town they saw the postman, carrying a pair of shoes and half a dozen letters. He winked at them.

**NOUN [C]**

**not sleep a wink**
[C2] to not have any sleep

**Dictionary example:**
I was so excited last night – I didn’t sleep a wink.
Learner example:
Nevertheless, due to the fact that I hadn't slept a wink the previous night, I began to fall asleep.

**wipe** /waɪp/

VERB [t]

CLEAN
[B2] to clean or dry something by moving a cloth across it

Dictionary examples:
Have you got a cloth that I can wipe the floor with?
I'll just wipe the table.

Learner example:
If you accept my application, I can join any group you've made to help clean the street, [and] wipe the walls or doors of [a] public place.

**wipe sth away/from/off, etc.**
[B2] to remove dirt, water, a mark, etc. from something with a cloth or your hand

Dictionary example:
He wiped a tear from his eye.

Learner example:
My father gave her a tissue and she wiped her tears away.

**wire** /ˈwaɪər/

NOUN

METAL THREAD
[B2] [c or u] thin, metal thread used to fasten things or to make fences, cages, etc.

Dictionary example:
a wire fence

ELECTRICITY
[B2] [c] a long, thin piece of metal thread, usually covered in plastic, that carries electricity, telephone signals, etc.

Dictionary example:
Don't touch those wires whatever you do – they're live.

Learner example:
After carrying stuff like lights, microphones, wires and some other equipment for about three hours, I was exhausted.
wisdom /ˈwɪz.dəm/

Word family:
Nouns: wisdom
Adjectives: wise, unwise
Adverbs: wisely

NOUN [u]

KNOWLEDGE
[B2] the ability to use your knowledge and experience to make good decisions and judgments

Dictionary examples:
One certainly hopes to gain a little wisdom as one grows older.
I tend to doubt the wisdom of separating a child from its family whatever the circumstances.
Did we ever stop to question the wisdom of going to war?
Before I went off to university my father gave me a few words of wisdom.

Learner example:
However, these two [subjects] are vital for us to obtain the wisdom needed in [later] life.

conventional wisdom
[C1] what most people believe

Dictionary example:
These ideas about childcare go against the conventional wisdom on the subject.

Learner example:
Thus, against conventional wisdom, I think that while a lot of adult problems are caused by money or the lack of it, it is really the ability to deal with money and to see money as a means rather than an end.

wise /waɪz/

Word family:
Nouns: wisdom
Adjectives: wise, unwise
Adverbs: wisely

ADJECTIVE
[B2] having or showing the ability to make good judgments, based on a deep understanding and experience of life
Dictionary examples:
I think you made a wise choice.
Looking at the weather, I think we made a wise decision not to go to the coast this weekend.
I think it would be wiser to wait and see how much money you’ve got left before you make any decisions.
I never used to save money, but now I’m a little older and wiser I can see the sense in it.

Learner example:
So, you are coming to my country, that’s a wise decision.

wisely /ˈwaɪz.li/

Word family:
Nouns: wisdom
Adjectives: wise, unwise
Adverbs: wisely

ADVERB
[C1] in a wise way

Dictionary example:
She wisely advised me to wait.

Learner example:
In my opinion, computer learning offers very interesting opportunities, especially to learn new languages, but such a powerful medium as the computer should be used wisely.

wish /wɪʃ/

VERB

wish to do sth
[B2] formal to want to do something

Dictionary examples:
I wish to make a complaint.
Passengers wishing to take the Kings Cross train should go to platform 9.

Learner example:
Dear Sir/Madam, I wish to apply for the post of helper which was advertised on the college noticeboard last Monday.

NOUN [C]

WANT
[B2] what you want to do or what you want to happen
Dictionary examples:
Did he express any wish to see me?
The hospital always tries to respect the wishes of its patients.
It was his greatest wish that one of his grandchildren would become a doctor.

Learner example:
It was always his dream to become a singer and he [did] everything to make his wish come true.

SECRET
[C2] something that you say secretly to yourself about what you want to have or happen

Dictionary example:
She closed her eyes and made a wish.

Learner example:
I saw a star falling. I made a wish.

wit /wɪt/

Word family:
Nouns: wit
Adjectives: witty

NOUN [u]
[C1] the ability to say things that are funny and clever

Dictionary examples:
a woman of great intelligence and wit
He was known for his dry/sharp wit.

Learner example:
His wit and charm drew many people's attention to the topic and we gained [a] deeper insight into the tourist industry.

witch /wɪtʃ/

NOUN [c]
[C1] in stories, a woman who has magical powers that she uses to do bad or strange things

Dictionary example:
It was a story about an old witch.

Learner example:
A famous actress and her friend, a librarian, get the 'elixir of eternal youth' from the mysterious witch (Isabella Rossellini) and then their troubles begin...
**with /wɪð/**

**PREPOSITION**

**CAUSE**

[B2] because of something

**Dictionary examples:**
I was shaking with fear.
I can't work with all that noise going on.

**Learner example:**
It was Tuesday the 13th and the fact that I was very superstitious made me tremble with fear.

**RELATING TO**

[B2] relating to something or someone

**Dictionary example:**
There's something wrong with the car.

**Learner example:**
It's such a shame when people use [computers] badly, just for damaging and making things worse, because if there's something wrong with them, almost everything is wrong [with] us too.

**with respect to sth** FORMAL

[B2] relating to a particular thing

**Dictionary example:**
I am writing with respect to your letter of 24 June.

**Learner example:**
With respect to the ages of the members, they are between fifteen and twenty years old.

**with the aid of sth**

[C1] using something to help you

**Dictionary example:**
She can walk with the aid of a stick.

**Learner example:**
The newest computer can handle data that human brains cannot and therefore all scientific research [is] carried out with the aid of computers.

**with flying colours**

[C1] with a very high score or with great success

**Dictionary example:**
He passed the entrance exam with flying colours.

**Learner example:**
I worked intens[ive]ly on the course and I passed with flying colours.
with a view to doing **sth** **FORMAL**
[C1] so that you can do something

**Dictionary example:**
He's doing some improvements on the house with a view to selling it.

**Learner example:**
The purpose of this report is to assess the success of the latest tour our sports club organised and make relevant suggestions with a view to enhancing future trips.

with **your** bare hands
[C2] without using any type of tool or weapon when doing something that requires a lot of strength

**Dictionary example:**
He wrestled the lion to the ground with his bare hands.

**Learner example:**
You could tell your grand-children about the good old days when you hunted for mammoths and skinned them with your bare hands, just a few million years back (sigh: "seems like yesterday").

with bated breath
[C2] in an excited or anxious way

**Dictionary example:**
I waited with bated breath as the results were read out.

**Learner example:**
Nevertheless, a huge number of scientists carrying out very useful research, [and] composers, actors, [and] artists making us watch their creations with bated breath, do not earn [as much] money as a lot of outstanding sportsmen do.

with the compliments of **sb** **FORMAL**
[C2] used by someone to express good wishes when they give you something free, for example in a restaurant

**Dictionary example:**
Please accept this champagne with the compliments of the manager.

**Learner example:**
The guest can also choose from a selection of wonderful desserts such as mousse au chocolat with fresh raspberries before finishing his/her meal with a rose liqueur – with the compliments of the house (and the bill).

**withdraw** /ˌwɪ draɪ/  

**Word family:**
**Nouns**: withdrawal  
**Verbs**: withdraw
VERB (withdrew, withdrawn)

MONEY
[C1] [ɪ] to take money out of a bank account

Dictionary example:
She withdrew $50.

Learner example:
Apart from this, without credit cards I would have to look for a bank to withdraw money, and this is not very easy for a student.

REMOVE
[C1] [ɪ] to remove something, especially because of an official decision

Dictionary examples:
This product has been withdrawn from sale.
He has threatened to withdraw his support.

Learner example:
But the government stepped back, withdrew the proposal and fired three ministers.

COMPETITION
[C2] [ɪ] to decide that you will not now be in a race, competition, etc.

Dictionary example:
Christie was forced to withdraw from the race because of injury.

withdrawal /wɪðˈdrɔːl/  
Word family:  
Nouns: withdrawal  
Verbs: withdraw

NOUN

MONEY
[C2] [c or u] when you take money out of a bank account

Dictionary example:
The bank became suspicious after several large withdrawals were made from his account in a single week.

NOT AVAILABLE
[C2] [u] when something is taken away so that it is no longer available, or when someone stops being involved in an activity
Dictionary examples:
Doctors demanded the withdrawal of the drug (from the market) after several cases involving
dangerous side-effects were reported.
Her sudden withdrawal from the championship caused a lot of press speculation about her health.
the withdrawal of financial support

withdrawn /wɪˈdrɔːn/

ADJECTIVE [NEVER BEFORE NOUN]
[C2] quiet and not talking to other people

Dictionary example:
He seemed quiet and withdrawn.

Learner example:
I should have been friendlier and more interested, rather than quiet and withdrawn.

within /wɪˈðɪn/

PREPOSITION

LIMIT
[B2] not outside the limits of something

Dictionary examples:
We came within five points of beating them.
The project was completed well within budget.

Learner example:
Similarly [the] visitor has also shown responsibility to remain within [the] limits of the society he is
moving [in], so that he cannot cause any hurt or harm to local culture.

INSIDE
[C1] inside an area, group, or system

Dictionary examples:
a dispute within the department
There's a pharmacy within the hospital building.

Learner example:
Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing to you, as requested, in order to ensure that the training – whose
purpose is to help the staff improve its communications with the other departments within the
company – is effective and not just a waste of time.

within limits
[C2] avoiding behaviour that is extreme or silly
Dictionary example:
You can wear what you want, within limits.

Learner example:
They should be given a choice of food, within limits.

**within (sb's) reach**
[C2] possible for someone to achieve

Dictionary example:
Winning the championship suddenly seemed within their reach.

Learner example:
We have decided to take action to prevent further damage being inflicted, and are convinced the task is fully within our reach.

**within reason**
[C2] If something is within reason, it is acceptable and possible.

Dictionary example:
We can wear what we like to the office, within reason.

Learner example:
Although this view may seem too harsh and hard-hearted, I believe it is within reason.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>withstand</th>
<th>/wɪðˈstænd/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **VERB [T]** *(withstood)*  
[C2] to not be harmed or broken by something |
| Dictionary example:  
a bridge designed to withstand earthquakes |
| Learner example:  
In the past older or weaker organisms unable to withstand certain diseases had to die. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>witness</th>
<th>/ˈwɪt.nəs/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **NOUN [C]**  
[B2] a person who sees an event happening, especially a crime or an accident |
| Dictionary examples:  
Police are appealing for witnesses to the accident to come forward.  
According to *(eye)* witnesses, the robbery was carried out by two teenage boys. |
| Learner example:  
Furthermore, the witness was assassinated. |

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VERB [T]
[B2] to see something happen, especially an accident or crime

Dictionary example:
Did anyone witness the attack?

Learner example:
Finally, if you witness an accident you can inform the police quickly, which can save lives.

witty /ˈwɪt.i/

Word family:
Nouns: wit
Adjectives: witty

ADJECTIVE
[B2] using words in a clever and funny way

Dictionary examples:
a witty comment/remark
He was witty and very charming.

Learner example:
I have read it many times and [the] author’s witty remarks and elegant style have always been a source of entertainment to me.

wolf /wʊlf/

NOUN [C] (plural wolves)
[B2] a wild animal of the dog family

Dictionary examples:
Wolves hunt in groups known as packs.
We could hear wolves howling in the distance.

Learner example:
Before we knew it, Nick leap[t] onto the wolf and they started to fight.

wonder /ˈwʌn.dər/

Word family:
Verbs: wonder
Adjectives: wonderful
**no wonder**

[B2] it is not surprising

**Dictionary examples:**
No wonder the children are excited – this is the first time they've been abroad.
"If brutal killers like these two are at work, it is no wonder that so many people have fled," he said.

**Learner example:**
No wonder that people are more tired and are not interested in reading books as much as in the past.

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**woodland** /ˈwʊd.lənd/

**NOUN [C or U]**

[C2] an area of land with a lot of trees

**Dictionary example:**
A lot of the area is woodland.

**Learner example:**
Our house, which was quite spacious, was near a river and surrounded by beautiful rolling hills and extensive woodland.

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**word** /wɜːd/

**NOUN**

**have a word (with sb)**

[B2] to talk to someone for a short time

**Dictionary examples:**
Could I have a word about the sales figures today?
Perhaps you would have a quiet word with Simon about the problem.

**Learner example:**
The nurse sitting beside me said to me, 'Your mother would like to have a word with you,' then she went out.

**in other words**

[B2] used to explain what something means in a different way

**Dictionary example:**
He said he's too busy – in other words he isn't interested.
Learner example:
They had had a great time before and had drunk too much alcohol. In other words, they were totally drunk.

give *sb* your word
[C1] to promise someone something

Dictionary example:
Paolo gave me his word that he wouldn't tell anyone.

Learner example:
I give you my word that it will never happen again.

take *sb*’s word for it
[C1] to believe what someone says without any proof

Dictionary example:
Take my word for it – this curry is very hot!

Learner example:
You can take my word for it that she is absolutely capable of carrying out this job – fond of children, patient, good-natured and competent.

keep your word
[C1] to do what you said you would do

Dictionary example:
He agreed to come and I’m sure he’ll keep his word.

Learner example:
It turned out that the company that had been hired to organize it did not keep their word.

word for word
[C2] using the exact words that were originally used

Dictionary example:
She repeated word for word what he had told her.

Learner example:
This is word for word the beginning of the story that Katrina handed to her French teacher.

in *sb*’s words
[C2] used when you repeat what someone said

Dictionary example:
In the manager's words, the game was 'a total disaster'.

Learner example:
In the immortal words of the bard "... if music be the food of love....... play on!"

be lost for words
[C2] to be so surprised, angry or moved by something that you do not know what to say
This prize is such an honour and so unexpected – I am lost for words.

I was so enraged that I was lost for words for quite a long time.

at a loss for words
[C2] not knowing what to say

The question was unexpected and she was temporarily at a loss for words.

If it was James I would be at a loss for words, I didn’t know what to tell him.

work /wɜːk/

Word family:
Nouns: work, worker
Verbs: work
Adjectives: working, overworked

NOUN

CREATION
[B2] [c] a painting, book, piece of music, etc.

The museum has many works by Picasso as well as other modern painters.
the complete works of Shakespeare

Learner example:
We agreed that something had to be done to promote the popularity of local films, some of them being great works of art.

VERB

can work sth; know how to work sth
[C1] to know how to use a machine or piece of equipment

Do you know how to work the video camera?

Learner example:
At that time, I also learned how to work the lighting during the play.
workaholic /ˌwɜːkəˈhɒl.ɪk/

**NOUN [C] INFORMAL**

[C2] someone who works too much and does not have time to do anything else

**Dictionary example:**
My husband's a workaholic.

**Learner example:**
Unless you are a real "workaholic", and there are some of them out there, working like a slave to get more money doesn't pay off.

workforce /ˈwɜːk.fɔːs/

**NOUN [GROUP]**

**COMPANY**
[C1] all the people who work for a company or organization

**Dictionary example:**
We have a highly skilled workforce.

**Learner example:**
Before giving them rewards, companies need to train their workforce and identify their potential.

**COUNTRY**
[C2] all the people in a country who are able to do a job

**Dictionary example:**
10% of the workforce are unemployed.

**Learner example:**
There is hardly a nation without representatives in Germany's workforce.

working /ˈwɜːk.ɪŋ/

**Word family:**
Nouns: work, worker
Verbs: work
Adjectives: working, overworked

**ADJECTIVE [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]**

a working knowledge of *sth*
[B2] knowledge about something which is good enough to be useful
Dictionary example:
She has a working knowledge of German and Russian.

Learner example:
Furthermore, I have a working knowledge of English, Spanish, Catalan and Italian.

workplace /ˈwɜːk.pleɪs/

NOUN [C]
[C1] the place where you work

Dictionary example:
We are trying to get rid of bullying in the workplace.

Learner example:
Nowadays, our jobs consume more and more of our time so a good atmosphere at the workplace is important.

workshop /ˈwɜːk.ʃɒp/

NOUN [C]
[C1] when a group of people meet to learn more about something by discussing it and doing practical exercises

Dictionary example:
a workshop on crime prevention

Learner example:
All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed this event, but I think there ought to be more computers provided and the numbers of participants to a single workshop should be limited.

world /wɜːld/

NOUN

(has) the best of both worlds
[C1] to have the advantages of two different situations

Dictionary example:
Living in the country and working in the city you have the best of both worlds.

Learner example:
Only those that can afford to live in the suburban areas can combine the best of both worlds and they tend to be rather affluent.
be out of this world **INFORMAL**
[C2] to be of extremely good quality

**Dictionary example:**
Their chocolate cake is just out of this world!

**Learner example:**
The dessert trays are out of this world.

do sb a/the world of good **INFORMAL**
[C2] to make someone feel much happier or healthier

**Dictionary example:**
That swim has done me a world of good.

**Learner example:**
I feel a year abroad would do her a world of good in letting her care for children, learn to speak English properly, and see life from different aspects.

not be the end of the world
[C2] If something is not the end of the world, it will not cause very serious problems.

**Dictionary example:**
It won't be the end of the world if I don't get the job.

be/feel on top of the world **INFORMAL**
[C2] to be very happy

**Dictionary example:**
I had just won a major tournament and I was feeling on top of the world.

**Learner example:**
I felt like I was on top of the world and nothing could take that happiness from me.

**worldwide** ˈwɜːld.waɪd/

**ADJECTIVE; ADVERB**
[B2] existing or happening in all parts of the world

**Dictionary examples:**
a worldwide success
An increase in average temperature by only a few degrees could cause environmental problems worldwide.

**Learner example:**
You can visit the main monuments of Paris, known worldwide, like Notre–Dame Cathedral or the Eiffel Tower, built in 1903.
**worm** /ˈwɜːm/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] a small creature with a long, thin, soft body and no legs

**Dictionary example:**
Blackbirds eat worms, insects, and berries.

**Learner example:**
Fishing is my hobby and that's why I bought these plastic worms, that are not [very] good – it's better to use live worms!

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**worry** /ˈwʌr.i/

**Word family:**

**Verbs:** worry

**Adjectives:** worried, worrying

**VERB**

**MAKE SOMEONE ANXIOUS**

[B2] [ɪ] to make someone feel anxious because of problems or unpleasant things that might happen

**Dictionary examples:**
It worries me that he hasn't phoned yet.  
The lack of rain is starting to worry people.

**Learner example:**
Unemployment is increasing too, and today, it worries every single citizen of the world, specially the ones who live in [a] third world country.

**NOUN**

**BEING ANXIOUS**

[B2] [u] when you are anxious about something

**Dictionary examples:**
She's been sick with worry.  
Unemployment, bad health – all sorts of things can be a cause of worry.

**Learner example:**
You really need to spend a whole month without any kind of worry.
worrying /ˈwʌr.i.ɪŋ/

Word family:
Verbs: worry
Adjectives: worried, worrying

ADJECTIVE

[B2] making you feel unhappy and afraid

Dictionary example:
It’s a very worrying situation.

Learner example:
But the most worrying thing about this matter is you.

worse /wɜːs/

Word family:
Nouns: worse
Verbs: worsen
Adjectives: worse
Adverbs: worse

ADJECTIVE

worse and worse

[B2] used to emphasize how unpleasant, difficult, severe, etc. something is becoming

Dictionary example:
The economic climate is getting worse and worse.

Learner example:
The traffic situation in all big towns is getting worse and worse, so that bicycles or public transport must become more attractive.

NOUN [u]

[C1] something that is more unpleasant or difficult

Dictionary examples:
By the third month of the expedition they had endured many hardships, but worse was to follow. "What about the bride's dress – wasn't it appalling?" "I don't know, I've seen worse."

Learner example:
But worse was to come at 19:30 when we went to see one of London's musicals.
ADVERB

to make matters worse
[B2] to make a situation more difficult, unpleasant, etc.

Dictionary example:
To make matters worse, our car broke down!

Learner example:
To make matters worse, the newspaper said they only played for thirty-five minutes.

worsen /ˈwɜːsən/

Word family:
Nouns: worse
Verbs: worsen
Adjectives: worse
Adverbs: worse

VERB [I or T]
[C1] to become worse or to make something become worse

Dictionary example:
His condition suddenly worsened last week.

Learner example:
I believe erecting a car park in the centre could worsen the situation drastically.

worship /ˈwɜːʃɪp/

VERB (-pp- or US also -p-)

RELIGION
[C1] [T] to have or show a strong feeling of respect and admiration for God or a god

Dictionary example:
In the various regions of India, Hindus worship different gods and observe different religious festivals.

Learner example:
The Revolution was of such importance because Greece became a free country again and the people were free to talk, worship their God and have Greek schools.

ADMIRE
[C1] to love and admire someone or something very much

Dictionary example:
She worshipped her mother.
Learner example:
Firstly, many famous people are considered as idols who are worshipped and imitated, which might make them believe they are important, especially when they have a certain media presence.

NOUN
[C2] [u] when you worship God or a god, often through praying or singing

Dictionary examples:
daily acts of worship
Christian/Sikh/Muslim worship
For Jews, the synagogue is the centre for community worship and study.
Local people have complained about improperly dressed tourists entering places of worship.

Learner example:
There were Holy Masses celebrated by him in several cities and places of worship.

worst /ˈwɜːst/  

NOUN [NO PLURAL]
worst of all
[B2] used to emphasize the worst thing, situation, etc.

Dictionary example:
We had no food or light, but worst of all, we had no water.

Learner example:
And worst of all, her mother had been always against that relationship and had given her advice many times.

ADVERB
[B2] (superlative of badly) the most badly

Dictionary examples:
Small businesses have been worst hit by the recession.
Roads in the Tayside region were worst affected by the snow.

fear the worst
[C2] to worry that something very bad will happen or that something very bad has happened

Dictionary example:
When there was no sign of the children, the rescuers feared the worst.

Learner example:
Her parents had been quarrelling constantly now for almost half a year, and she feared the worst.
### worth /wɜːθ/  

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:** worth, worthless, worthy

#### ADJECTIVE

**be worth your while**

[C2] If it is worth your while doing something, it is useful or enjoyable to do it.

**Dictionary examples:**
- It's worth your while taking out travel insurance before you travel.
- It isn't worth my while going all that way just for one day.

**Learner example:**
It would be worth your while to visit the country’s capital Havana, and don’t forget to go into the Folklore Museum and Library, the War Museum and the Archeological [Museum].

### worthless /ˈwɜːθ.ləs/  

**Word family:**  
**Adjectives:** worth, worthless, worthy

#### ADJECTIVE

**NOT IMPORTANT**

[C1] not important or useful

**Dictionary example:**
- He made me feel stupid and worthless.

**Learner example:**
- One important aspect is, of course, that they will feel worthless.

**MONEY**

[C2] having no value in money

**Dictionary example:**
- The painting’s a fake – it’s completely worthless.

**Learner example:**
- I think that many people have these kinds of “worthless” objects, which they actually hold more dear to them than the gramophone they bought in an auction, or the car they won in a quiz-show, or even the wedding dress they inherited from their great-grandmother.
worthwhile /ˌwɜːθˈwaɪl/

**ADJECTIVE**

[B2] useful and enjoyable, despite needing a lot of effort

**Dictionary examples:**
She considers teaching a worthwhile career.
The time and expense involved in keeping up to date with all the changes has been worthwhile.
If you need him on this project, you’ve got to make it financially worthwhile for him.

**Learner example:**
It’s a worthwhile trip. You’ll have the opportunity to visit beautiful places and learn lots of history.

worthy /ˈwɜː.ði/  

**Word family:**
**Adjectives:** worth, worthless, worthy

**ADJECTIVE**

DESERVING RESPECT

[C1] formal deserving respect, admiration or support

**Dictionary examples:**
He is unlikely to succeed in getting his bill through Congress, however worthy it is.
Every year she makes a large donation to a worthy cause.

**Learner example:**
The performers are all neatly dressed and on the whole, they have all made a worthy effort.

**worthy of attention/notice, etc.** formal

[C2] deserving to be given attention, noticed, etc.

**Dictionary example:**
Two points in this report are especially worthy of notice.

**Learner example:**
Try as I might, getting good grades was always met more with a sense of mission accomplished – duly noted – than a feat worthy of congratulations.
**would** /wʊd/

**MODAL VERB**

**OFTEN**

[B2] (also 'd) used to talk about things that happened often in the past

**Dictionary example:**
He would always turn and wave at the end of the street.

**Learner example:**
Since my childhood I have always been fond of swimming. I would usually spend my summer holidays on a campsite near a river with my family.

**would sooner**

[C2] would prefer

**Dictionary example:**
I'd sooner spend a bit more money than take chances with safety.

**Learner example:**
However, with many living examples of unemploye[d] people getting by on benefits, some young people have been influenced to think that they would sooner live on benefits than work all week and receive moderate wages.

**would-be** /ˈwʊd.bi/

**ADJECTIVE**

[C2] wanting or trying to be

**Dictionary example:**
a would-be artist/politician

**Learner example:**
Her schoolmates were greatly surprised that a would-be lawyer with a promising career like her had made such a decision.

**wound** /wuːnd/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] an injury, especially one that is made with a knife or bullet

**Dictionary examples:**
a gunshot wound
a chest/leg wound
a flesh wound
**Learner example:**
Rollo discovered that his best friend was implicated in the penicillin racket: the racketeer would put sand into penicillin without worrying about the great suffering that they caused to people who needed penicillin for their wounds.

**VERB [T USUALLY PASSIVE]**

[B2] to injure someone, especially with a knife or gun

**Dictionary example:**
The police chief was **badly** wounded in the explosion.

**Learner example:**
Harry was wounded on his leg.

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**wrap** /ræp/

**VERB [T] (–pp–)**

**PROTECT**

[B2] to cover someone with material in order to protect them

**Dictionary examples:**
She wrapped the baby **in** a blanket.
He wrapped a towel around his shoulders.

**Learner example:**
After a few seconds I gathered my wits and wrapped the towel around myself again.

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**wreck** /rek/

**Word family:**

**Nouns:** wreck, wreckage

**Verbs:** wreck

**VERB [T]**

[C2] to destroy or badly damage something

**Dictionary example:**
The explosion wrecked several cars and damaged nearby buildings.

**Learner example:**
In addition, they [agree] that the solution to the traffic is of utmost importance in a big city, because noise and pollution from car exhaust pipes wreck the nerves of city dwellers.

**NOUN [C]**

**VEHICLE**

[C2] a vehicle or ship that has been destroyed or badly damaged
Dictionary examples:

Divers exploring the wreck managed to salvage some coins and jewellery.
The burnt-out wrecks of two police cars littered the road.

Learner example:

We turned around and saw fumes rising in the air from the wreck of the plane.

PERSON

[C2] someone who is in a bad physical or mental condition

Dictionary example:

I was a complete wreck by the end of my exams.

Learner example:

So much of what I really appreciate in this life is connected to music and the events that surround it, so a loss of that would totally dev[a]state me and turn me into a wreck!

wreckage /ˈrek.i.dʒ/  

Word family:

Nouns: wreck, wreckage
Verbs: wreck

NOUN [u]

[C2] the parts that remain of a car, ship, or aircraft that has been destroyed

Dictionary example:

Two survivors were pulled from the wreckage.

Learner example:

When resting next to the wreckage he had got bitten by a snake and had crept into the cockpit to die there.

wretched /ˈretʃ.id/  

ADJECTIVE

UNHAPPY

[C2] LITERARY very unhappy or ill

Dictionary example:

I’d been feeling wretched all day so I went to bed early.

Learner example:

As a result, some people will realise they were unable to achieve their ends when they were younger and will feel wretched.
BAD
[C2] very bad or of poor quality

Dictionary example:
The refugees were living in wretched conditions.

Learner example:
Because working leads to self-esteem, that is most vital for people, especially when they are in wretched conditions.

wrinkle /ˈrɪŋ.kl/

Word family:
Nouns: wrinkle
Adjectives: wrinkled

NOUN [C]
[C2] a small line on your face that you get when you grow old

Dictionary example:
This cream reduces the appearance of wrinkles.

Learner example:
And so time goes by and old age is closing in. One morning you notice the wrinkles around your eyes and the grey hair that doesn't keep any of the old colour.

wrinkled /ˈrɪŋ.kəld/

Word family:
Nouns: wrinkle
Adjectives: wrinkled

ADJECTIVE
[C2] with a lot of wrinkles

Dictionary example:
a wrinkled face

Learner example:
To this day, and for many years to come, this piece of music brings back the dirty wrinkled face of the loneliest person I've ever known.
wrist /rɪst/

NOUN [c]
[B2] the part of the body between the hand and the arm

Dictionary example:
I sprained my wrist playing squash.

Learner example:
I fell [o]n [some] stair[s] and hurt my wrist.

write /raɪt/ (wrote, written)

Word family:
Nouns: writer, writing
Verbs: rewrite, write
Adjectives: written

PHRASAL VERB
write sb/sth off or write off sb/sth PHRASAL VERB
[C2] to decide that someone or something is not useful or important

Dictionary example:
They had written him off before they even met him.

Learner example:
She had written that man off.

write sth up or write up sth PHRASAL VERB
[C1] to write something on paper or on a computer in a complete or final form, often using notes you have made

Dictionary example:
Have you written up that report yet?

writing /ˈraɪ.tɪŋ/
NOUN [u]

WORK
[B2] the activity of creating pieces of written work, such as books, stories, poems, etc., or the written work of one person or a group of people

Dictionary examples:
I did a course in creative writing.
She is studying women's writing of the 1930s.

Learner example:
Black humor is a distinguishable feature of his writing.

in writing
[B2] An agreement that is in writing is official and is proof of that agreement.

Dictionary example:
Please confirm your reservation in writing.

Learner example:
I am telling you in writing that I would like to help you.

wrong /rɒŋ/

Word family:
Adjectives: wrong
Adverbs: wrong, wrongly

ADJECTIVE

NOT MORAL
[B2] [NEVER BEFORE NOUN] not considered morally acceptable by most people

Dictionary examples:
Children should be taught that violence is wrong.
It is wrong to tell lies.
What's wrong with having a bit of fun?

Learner example:
To sum up, I think it is wrong to keep animals in zoos.

NOT SUITABLE
[C1] not suitable or correct, or not as it should be

Dictionary examples:
She's the wrong person for the job.
She got in with the wrong crowd at university.

Learner example:
Personally I prefer to think that you gave the job to the wrong person.
get off/start on the wrong foot
[C2] to start a relationship or activity badly

Dictionary example:
He got off on the wrong foot with my parents by arriving late.

Learner example:
One of the greatest pleasures of reading "The Remains of the Day" would be to see the gradual development of the relationship between Stevens and Miss Kenton. From the beginning, they get off on the wrong foot.

ADVERB

Don't get me wrong INFORMAL
[C2] used when you do not want someone to think that you do not like someone or something

Dictionary example:
Don't get me wrong, I like her, but she can be very annoying.

Learner example:
Don't get me wrong, I love my aunts, I really do, but not as houseguests.

wrongly /ˈrɒŋ.li/

Word family:
Adjectives: wrong
Adverbs: wrong, wrongly

ADVERB

INCORRECTLY
[B2] not correctly

Dictionary example:
It has been said – wrongly – that Americans hate government.

Learner example:
Equally, the point about 'staying' is erroneous: we stayed at Riverside Hotel instead of Hotel Astrid, [which] closed last year, [and] Hotel Royal [was] wrongly [described as having] 'special rates' for students.

wrongly accused/convicted/imprisoned, etc.
[C1] accused or punished unfairly or illegally

Dictionary example:
She was wrongly convicted of drug smuggling.
Learner example:
You have also wrongly accused the organisers of spending too much money on organising the event.
xenophobia /ˌzenəˈfaʊ.bia/  

**NOUN [u]**  
[C2] extreme dislike or fear of people from other countries  

**Dictionary example:**  
They accused her of xenophobia.

**Learner example:**  
This creates a climate of social tension. The number of poor people increase while the rich become richer and the middle-class tends to disappear; xenophobia and other cultural 'harassment' become popular, accompanied by more violence and increasing crime rates.

X-ray /ˈeks.rɛɪ/  

**NOUN [c]**  
[B2] a photograph that shows the inside of your body  

**Dictionary example:**  
They took an X-ray of his leg.

**Learner example:**  
I was with my last patient trying to operate [on] his damage[d] tooth when I realized the X-Ray was on the wrong side and that I wasn't working on the damage[d] tooth.
yacht /jɒt/

NOUN [c]
[B2] a boat with sails and sometimes an engine, used for either racing or travelling on for pleasure

Dictionary examples:
a luxury yacht
a yacht club

Learner example:
The class of boat that best fits my physical condition is the one called [S]nipe, that seems to be available at your yacht club.

yawn /jɔːn/

VERB [i]
[B2] to take a deep breath with your mouth wide open, because you are tired or bored

Dictionary example:
I can't stop yawning – I must be tired.

Learner example:
I think that the maths lesson is the most suitable one to be recorded. Watching ourselves yawning and nearly asleep would really reflect how boring maths [is].

year /jɪə /

NOUN

10/20, etc. years sb's junior
[C2] 10/20, etc. years younger than someone

Dictionary example:
My wife is 8 years my junior.
Learner example:
I have a sister four years my junior and in my opinion we have no reason to complain.

**yearn** /jɜːn/

**VERB**

*yearn for sth; yearn to do sth*

[C2] to want something very much with a feeling of sadness

**Dictionary examples:**
They yearned for peace.
She yearned to get away.

**Learner example:**
I yearn to go there because I have never been to Africa before.

**yell** /jel/

**VERB** [I or T]

[B2] to shout something very loudly

**Dictionary examples:**
Our neighbours were yelling at each other this morning.
The child yelled out in pain.
"Just get out of here!" she yelled.

**Learner example:**
"Cut," yelled the director.

**NOUN** [C]

[B2] a loud shout

**Dictionary example:**
Suddenly there was a loud/great yell from the bathroom.

**Learner example:**
Suddenly a big yell came out of my throat.

**yet** /jet/

**ADVERB**

*the best/worst, etc. yet*

[B2] the best or worst, etc. until now
Dictionary examples:
Of all the songs I've heard tonight, that's the best yet.
That was my worst exam yet.

Learner example:
And that was my worst experience yet.

yet again
[B2] again after something has happened or been done many times before

Dictionary example:
The bus was late yet again.

Learner example:
Tom, thank you so much yet again for your interest. This talk is very important to me and to count
on you is an honour for our college.

IN THE FUTURE
[C1] from now and for a particular period of time in the future

Dictionary examples:
She won't be back for a long time yet.
Our holiday isn't for weeks yet.

Learner example:
It's a fact that everybody knows that living in Poland is not easy now and it won't be for a long
time yet.

as yet
[C1] FORMAL until and including this time

Dictionary examples:
We haven't needed extra staff as yet, but may do in the future.
No ambulances had as yet managed to get across the river.

Learner example:
I would like to do something about it, but as I can't imagine building anything near my beautiful
house (because I'm afraid it would destroy its wonderful harmony), I have no idea as yet how to
solve this problem.

yet another/more, etc.
[C2] used to show that you are surprised or annoyed that something is being
repeated or increased

Dictionary example:
He's given us yet more work to do.

Learner example:
The awe-inspiring view of the park must not be destroyed for yet another building.

could/may/might, etc. yet
[C2] used to say there is still a possibility that something will happen
Dictionary example:
He may win yet.

Learner example:
Weakened, the tunnel could yet crumble and fall at any time.

**be/have yet to do sth**
[C2] to not have done something that was expected before this time

Dictionary example:
They have yet to make a decision.

Learner example:
But she had yet to inform her fiancé.

**yield** /jiːld/

VERB
[C2] to produce or provide something

Dictionary examples:
to yield a profit
The investigation yielded results.

Learner example:
It is to be hoped that my suggestion will be implemented and will yield immediate results.

**you** /juː/

PRONOUN

**you see**
[C1] used when you are giving an explanation about something

Dictionary examples:
I didn’t know she was Welsh, you see.
You see, it was already late by that time.

Learner example:
Family matters had to stay in the family, you see.

**young** /jʌŋ/

Word family:
Nouns: youngster
Adjectives: young
NOUN

the young
[B2] young people generally

Dictionary examples:
it's the sort of music that appeals mainly to the young.
I have nothing against mini-skirts, but I think they're strictly for the young.

Learner example:
In my opinion the young should work rather than wait for their pocket money.

youngster  /ˈjʌŋ.stər/

Word family:
Nouns: youngster
Adjectives: young

NOUN [C]

[C1] a young person, especially an older child

Dictionary example:
He talked to the youngsters about the dangers of drugs.

Learner example:
Like many other nations worldwide, with mastering much more knowledge and skills of information technology than [the] elder group of people, it is not surprising that Chinese youngsters learn more than their previous generations did about what is happening around the world.

yours  /jɔːz/

Word family:
Nouns: faith
Adjectives: faithful
Adverbs: faithfully

PRONOUN

Yours faithfully
[B2] used to end a formal letter to someone whose name you do not know

Dictionary example:
Yours faithfully, Katherine Smith

Learner example:
Yours faithfully, SAMSON LAM (READER)
**yourself** /ˈjoʊ.ˈself/ (PLURAL **yourselves**)  

**PRONOUN**  

**EMPHASIS**  

[B2] used to give special emphasis to the subject of the sentence  

**Dictionary example:**  
If you yourself ever need help, would you know where to get it?  

**Learner example:**  
If you are thinking of taking it up yourself always do [a] warm-up exercise before you run, don't go too fast at the beginning, and don't overdo it.  

**PEOPLE GENERALLY**  

[B2] used when both the subject and object of the verb are 'you', and 'you' is also being used to refer to people generally  

**Dictionary example:**  
You tell yourself everything's all right but you know it's not really.  

**Learner example:**  
You help yourself by doing some exercise.  

---  

**youth** /juːθ/  

**NOUN**  

**sb's youth**  

[B2] the period of time when someone is young  

**Dictionary example:**  
I was a fairly good football player in my youth.  

**Learner example:**  
I played several kinds of sports during my youth, but now I am not a member of any club.
**zebra** /ˈzeb.ərə/

**NOUN [c]**

[B2] an African animal like a horse with black and white lines

**Dictionary example:**
We saw a zebra in the distance.

**Learner example:**
Otherwise there would be many children and grown-ups who [would have] never seen an elephant, a tiger, a zebra etc.

**zip** /zɪp/

**NOUN**

[B2] [c] a thing for fastening clothes, bags, etc. consisting of two rows of very small parts that connect together

**Dictionary examples:**

to do up/undo a zip
I can't open my bag – the zip has stuck.

**Learner example:**
Suddenly the zip of my new dress broke.