

## A

12 to 14  
age group**abbreviate****verb** /ə'brɪ:vɪeɪt/

to shorten a word by leaving out letters  
*To master the art of shorthand, one needs to know how to abbreviate words.*

**abdicate****verb** /'æbdɪkeɪt/

to give up (the throne, a high office or position of responsibility)  
*The Queen was forced to abdicate the throne.*

**abdomen****noun** /'æbdəmən/

the part of the body below the chest that contains the stomach and bowels  
*The woman fainted due to severe pain in her abdomen.*

**abduction****noun** /æb'dʌkʃn/

kidnap  
*The abduction of the little boy came as a shock to his parents.*

**abeyance****noun** /ə'beɪəns/

temporary disuse  
*The deal was held in abeyance until her arrival.*

**abhorrent****adjective** /əb'hɒrənt/

disgusting or hateful  
*Spitting in public is an abhorrent practice.*

**ablaze****adjective** /ə'bleɪz/

burning quickly and strongly  
*Cars and buses were set ablaze during the riot.*

**ablution****noun** /ə'blu:ʃn/

a ceremonial washing or cleansing of the body as an act of religion  
*He performed his ablution before entering the mosque.*

**abnegation****noun** /,æbni'geɪʃn/

rejection of a belief  
*Through the abnegation of his religion he may retain his position.*

**abnormal****adjective** /æb'nɔ:ml/

different from what is usual or expected  
*His abnormal behaviour alarmed everyone at the party.*

**abnormality****noun** /,æbnɔ:'mæləti/

a feature or event which is not usual  
*There was an abnormality in the test.*

**abolish****verb** /ə'bɒlɪʃ/

to put an end to something (a law, an old custom)  
*We need to abolish racism from our society.*

**abolition****noun** /,æbə'liʃn/

the ending of a system, law or custom  
*Australia will vote on the possible abolition of the monarchy.*

**abortive****adjective** /ə'bɔ:rtɪv/

unsuccessful  
*He made an abortive attempt to escape from prison.*

**abrasion****noun** /ə'breɪʒn/

a damaged area of the skin where it has been rubbed against something hard and rough  
*He suffered a slight abrasion due to his fall.*

**abrasive****adjective** /ə'breɪsɪv/

something that is rough and can be used to clean a surface or to make it smooth  
*I scrubbed the counter with an abrasive kitchen cleaner.*

**abreast****adverb** /ə'breɪst/

next to and facing the same way

*A police car drew abreast of us and signalled us to stop.***abridged****adjective** /ə'brɪdʒd/

a shortened version of a book or play leaving out some parts

*I am reading an abridged edition of Shakespeare's plays.***abrupt****adjective** /ə'brʌpt/

sudden and unexpected

*Work at the factory came to an abrupt stop due to the power failure.***abscess****noun** /'æbses/

a swelling or infected area on the skin or in the body full of a thick yellowish liquid

*She developed an abscess on her arm following an injury.***abscond****verb** /əb'skɒnd/

to depart secretly

*The accountant planned to abscond with the money.***absenteeism****noun** /,æbsən'ti:zəm/

frequent non-attendance from work or school

*The principal will take strict action to deal with absenteeism.***absolute****adjective** /'æbsəlu:t/

complete; total

*Napoleon gained absolute power when he became the emperor.***absolve****verb** /əb'zɒlv/

to release a person (from sin, guilt, a promise, duty)

*I absolve you of all responsibility in the matter.***absorbent****adjective** /əb'sɔ:bənt/

able to soak up liquid easily

*The absorbent tablecloth soaked up the spilt water on the table.***absurd****adjective** /əb'sɜ:d/

not at all logical or sensible

*The committee disagreed with his absurd idea.***abundance****noun** /ə'bʌndəns/

a very large quantity

*The abundance of tourists in this region does wonders for the local economy.***academic****adjective** /,ækə'demɪk/

connected with education

*The academic year in my school is from September to June.***academician****noun** /æ,kədə'mɪʃn/

a member of an academy; related to a field of learning

*The highly reputed academician put forward a new theory which won him the Nobel Prize.***accede****verb** /æk'si:d/

to agree to a proposal, demand or request

*The government decided not to accede to the terrorists' demands.***accelerando****adverb** /æk,sələ'rændəʊ/

in music, gradually increasing in speed

*He was asked to play the music accelerando.*

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**verb** /æk'seləreɪt/  
to increase speed  
*Fertilisers accelerate the growth of plants.*

**access**

**noun** /'ækses/  
the way in to a place  
*We don't have access to the garden from our flat.*

**accessory**

**noun** /æk'sesəri/  
a small article of dress  
*Her favourite accessory is her new leather belt*

**accident**

**noun** /'æksɪdənt/  
an unintentional event  
*She was killed in a car accident.*

**acclaim**

**noun** /ə'kleɪm/  
approval, applause  
*The actor of the film received great acclaim for his extraordinary performance.*

**acclimatise**

**verb** /ə'klaɪmətaɪz/  
to get used to a new place, situation or climate  
*It's not easy to acclimatise to harsh weather conditions.*

**accommodate**

**verb** /ə'kɒmədeɪt/  
to have or provide lodging  
*This hotel can accommodate 600 guests.*

**accommodation**

**noun** /ə,kɒmə'deɪʃn/  
a place to live, work or stay in  
*Hotel accommodation is included in the price of your holiday.*

**accord**

**noun** /ə'kɔ:d/  
an agreement  
*The two governments signed a peace accord last year.*

**account**

**noun** /ə'kaʊnt/  
a description of an event or something that has happened  
*He gave a detailed account of the theft to the police.*

**acetone**

**noun** /'æsɪtəʊn/  
colourless liquid with a strong smell  
*Acetone is used to make paint thinner.*

**acknowledge**

**verb** /ək'nɒlɪdʒ/  
accept that something exists or is true  
*She refuses to acknowledge the need for reform.*

**acoustic**

**adjective** /ə'ku:stɪk/  
of or relating to sound  
*As a birthday present, Ahmed wanted an acoustic guitar from his father.*

**acquaint**

**verb** /ə'kweɪnt/  
to make aware of or familiar with  
*Please acquaint me with the facts of the case.*

**acquiesce**

**verb** /,ækwi'əs/  
to agree, accept, something without an argument  
*She refused to acquiesce in the reorganisation of the committee.*

**acquire**

**verb** /ə'kwaɪə[r]/  
to get, gain or buy  
*I would like to acquire one hundred stock shares.*

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**acrimonious****adjective** /ˌækriˈmɒniəs/

bitter

*Their marriage came to an acrimonious end.***acronym****noun** /ˈækronɪm/

a word formed from the first letters of the words that make up the name of something  
*AIDS is an acronym for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.*

**acupuncture****noun** /ˈækjupʌŋktʃə[r]/

a Chinese method of treating pain and illness using special thin needles  
*He opted for acupuncture to treat his back pain.*

**acute****adjective** /əˈkjuːt/

intense; severe

*There is an acute shortage of water in desert areas.***adder****noun** /ˈædə[r]/

a small poisonous snake  
*The adder is a European snake.*

**adequate****adjective** /ˈædɪkwət/

sufficient

*The flood affected village was provided adequate food supplies for one week.***adjutant****noun** /ˈædʒʊtənt/

a military officer who assists senior officers with administrative work  
*Ralph is an adjutant in the army.*

**administer****verb** /ədˈmɪnɪstə[r]/

organise; manage

*It is important to administer a school properly.***adolescence****noun** /ˌædəˈlesns/

the time in a person's life when he or she develops from a child into an adult

*Children start to think about their careers during their adolescence.***advection****noun** /ədˈvɛkʃən/

transfer of heat, cold or humidity in the atmosphere by the horizontal movement of an air mass

*Today's temperatures were higher due to the advection of warm air into the region.***adversity****noun** /ədˈvɜːsəti/

misfortune; difficulty

*She showed tremendous courage when faced with adversity.***advocate****noun** /ˈædvəkət/

one who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy

*He is a staunch advocate of free speech.***aesthetic****adjective** /iːsˈθetɪk/

concerned with beauty and art and the understanding of beautiful things

*Her aesthetic sense was displayed in her beautifully decorated home.***affable****adjective** /ˈæfəbl/

good-natured and friendly

*Shan has an affable personality which makes him easy to get along with.***affiliation****noun** /əˌfɪliˈeɪʃn/

a connection with an association or party

*He was arrested due to his affiliation with the liberation movement.*

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**verb** /'ægrəveɪt/  
make worse  
*Pollution can aggravate asthma.*

**agitate**

**verb** /'ædʒɪteɪt/  
to stir someone or something up  
*Low wages tend to agitate the workers.*

**agony**

**noun** /'æɡəni/  
extreme physical or mental pain  
*I have been in agony all week with this twisted ankle.*

**alar**

**adjective** /'eɪlə/  
pertaining to, resembling, or having wings  
*Da Vinci's alar drawings are still being used as study models by art students.*

**albinism**

**noun** /'albɪnɪzəm/  
congenital absence of normal pigmentation  
*Albinism is an inherited condition.*

**alight**

**verb** /ə'laɪt/  
to get down from a bus, train, car  
*We had no choice but to alight at the terminal.*

**allegation**

**noun** /,ælə'ɡeɪʃn/  
a claim that someone has done something wrong or illegal  
*The allegation against him is potentially damaging.*

**alligator**

**noun** /'ælıgeɪtə[r]/  
a large reptile of the crocodile family

**alliteration**

**noun** /ə,lɪtə'reɪʃn/  
the use of the same letter at the beginning of words that are close together  
*"Sing a song of sixpence" is an example of alliteration.*

**allocate**

**verb** /'æləkeɪt/  
assign  
*The university is planning to allocate more places for overseas students this year.*

**alluvium**

**noun** /ə'lju:vɪəm/  
a deposit of sand, mud, etc., left by rivers or floods  
*Alluvium can contain valuable ores such as gold and platinum and a wide variety of gemstones.*

**altercation**

**noun** /,ɔ:ltə'keɪʃn/  
a noisy disagreement  
*The police were notified of the altercation in the parking lot.*

**altruism**

**noun** /'æltruɪzəm/  
an unselfish concern for the needs and happiness of others  
*He is revered for his altruism and saintly deeds all around town.*

**altruistic**

**adjective** /'æltru'ɪstɪk/  
concerned for others; unselfishly generous  
*Her altruistic nature was appreciated by everyone in the family.*

**ambidextrous**

**adjective** /,æmbɪ'dekstrəs/  
able to use both the left and the right hand equally well  
*The tennis player's ambidextrous skills proved to be an advantage.*

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**ambience**

**noun** /ˈæmbiəns/  
atmosphere  
*The ambience of the hotel was friendly and welcoming.*

**ambiguity**

**noun** /ˌæmbɪˈɡjuːəti/  
uncertain or inexact meaning  
*There is ambiguity in the statement which nobody cares to clarify.*

**ambiguous**

**adjective** /æmˈbɪɡjuəs/  
having more than one meaning  
*His ambiguous statement left everyone thinking.*

**ambivalence**

**noun** /æmˈbɪvələns/  
the state of having two opposing ideas or opinions  
*Many people show ambivalence regarding the effect of television on children.*

**amble**

**verb** /ˈæmbəl/  
to walk at a leisurely pace  
*We would amble down to the beach every morning.*

**ameliorate**

**verb** /əˈmiːləreɪt/  
to make something better  
*Steps have been taken to ameliorate the situation.*

**ammonia**

**noun** /əˈmɒniə/  
a colourless strong-smelling chemical  
*Ammonia is often used in making cleaning substances.*

**amphibian**

**noun** /æmˈfɪbiən/  
an animal that can live both on land and in water  
*The turtle is an amphibian.*

**amphibious**

**adjective** /æmˈfɪbiəs/  
living in or suited for both land and water  
*The frog's amphibious nature serves it well both in water and on land.*

**amphipoda**

**proper noun** /æmˈfɪˈpɒdə/  
aquatic arthropods such as lobsters and crabs  
*Most amphipoda are marine animals.*

**ample**

**adjective** /ˈæmpl/  
enough or more than enough  
*There was ample time to get to the airport.*

**anaerobic**

**adjective** /ˌænəˈrəʊbɪk/  
pertaining to exercise that increases strength, promotes weight loss, but does not increase cardiovascular efficiency  
*Anaerobic exercises include sprinting, throwing, and weight-lifting.*

**analogue**

**noun** /ˈænəlɒɡ/  
a thing that is similar to another thing  
*Scientists have failed to find a living analogue for dinosaurs.*

**analysis**

**noun** /əˈnæləsɪs/  
careful examination of how something is structured  
*Your analysis of the situation is different from mine.*

**anchor**

**noun** /ˈæŋkə[r]/  
a heavy metal object thrown from a boat or ship but connected to it, which prevents it from moving through the water  
*The anchor held the boat in place despite the stormy sea conditions.*

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age group**anchovy**

**noun** /ˈæntʃəvi/  
a small fish with a strong salty flavour

**ancient**

**adjective** /ˈeɪnʃənt/  
belonging to the very distant past  
*He has collected many antiques belonging to ancient Greece.*

**androgynous**

**adjective** /ænˈdrɒdʒənəs/  
having both male and female characteristics  
*Her androgynous appearance made her a lonely and misunderstood human being.*

**anecdote**

**noun** /ˈæniˌkɒt/  
short, interesting story  
*He amused us with an anecdote about his visit to Africa.*

**animalcule**

**noun** /ˌɑːniˈmɪkjʊːl/  
a minute or microscopic organism  
*Amoeba is an example of an animalcule.*

**animosity**

**noun** /ˌæniˈmɒsəti/  
strong, active hatred  
*There was obvious animosity between the two political parties.*

**annihilate**

**verb** /əˈniːəleɪt/  
to destroy or defeat completely  
*The army had enough weapons to annihilate the enemy.*

**anonymity**

**noun** /əˈnɒnɪmɪti/  
the state of remaining unknown  
*Names of people in the book were changed to preserve anonymity.*

**anorexia**

**noun** /ˌænəˈreksɪə/  
a prolonged eating disorder with a psychological cause  
*The patient received counselling as she was suffering from anorexia.*

**anorthosite**

**noun** /əˈnɔːθəsɪt/  
a granular plutonic rock  
*Anorthosite makes up about 60% of Earth's crust.*

**antagonism**

**noun** /ænˈtæɡənɪzəm/  
hostility or opposition  
*There is growing antagonism towards certain policies of the government.*

**antecedent**

**noun** /ˌæntɪˈsiːdnt/  
an event or situation happening before another  
*An antecedent can shape the future of a nation.*

**anthracite**

**noun** /ˌænθrəsɪt/  
a very hard type of coal that burns slowly without producing a lot of smoke or flames  
*Being in the business of producing steel, our company deals with large quantities of anthracite.*

**anthropologist**

**noun** /ˌænθrəˈpɒlədʒɪst/  
an expert in, or student of, the history and science of mankind  
*Margaret Mead was the first anthropologist to observe varying gender roles in different societies.*

**antonym**

**noun** /ˈæntənɪm/  
a word opposite in meaning to another  
*'Hot' is the antonym of 'cold'.*

**apathy**

**noun** /ˈæpəθi/  
lack of interest/enthusiasm about something  
*There is widespread apathy among the people about the present government.*

**aperiodic****adjective** /ˌeɪpɪərɪ'ɒdɪk/

not periodic, occurring irregularly

*They were receiving aperiodic signals from the control tower.***apocalypse****noun** /ə'pɒkəlɪps/

very serious damage and destruction

*A nuclear war has the potential to cause an environmental apocalypse.***apparatus****noun** /ˌæpə'reɪtəs/

the equipment needed for a particular purpose

*The apparatus needed for his physics experiment all came out of a nifty little box.***apparition****noun** /ˌæpə'riʃn/

a ghost or an image of a person who is dead

*She saw an apparition of her deceased mother.***applause****noun** /ə'plɔːz/

approval or enjoyment shown by a group of people by clapping

*The audience broke into rapturous applause.***approach****verb** /ə'prəʊtʃ/

to come near to something in distance or time

*When you approach the roundabout turn left.***appropriate****adjective** /ə'prəʊpriət/

suitable or acceptable for the particular circumstances

*The lawyer handled the case in an appropriate manner.***aptitude****noun** /'æptɪtjuːd/

natural or acquired ability, talent

*Michelle shows great aptitude for music.***aquifer****noun** /'ækwɪfə/

an underground layer of loose rock, sand, or gravel that holds water in its spaces

*Aquifer may occur at various depths.***arbitrate****verb** /'ɑːbɪtreɪt/

to settle a dispute by acting as judge

*Mr Smith was called to arbitrate between the management and the employees.***archipelago****noun** /ˌɑːkɪ'peləgəʊ/

a group of many islands

*The Indonesian archipelago consists of hundreds of islands.***aristocracy****noun** /ˌærɪ'stɒkrəsi/

the highest social class, consisting of people with hereditary titles

*Many of the French aristocracy were killed during the revolution.***arrogance****noun** /'ærəgəns/

pride; haughtiness

*She was disliked by her friends because of her arrogance.***articulate****adjective** /ɑː'tɪkjuleɪt/

clearly expressed

*Her articulate speech impressed the audience.***assessment****noun** /ə'sesmənt/

an opinion or judgement about something

*What is your assessment of the situation?***assuage****verb** /ə'sweɪdʒ/

to make an unpleasant feeling less severe

*She managed to assuage the customer's anger.*

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a star-shaped character or symbol used to call attention to something

*I have placed an asterisk next to the tasks I want you to do first.*

**astrometry****noun** /ə'strɒmɪtri/

the scientific measurement of the positions, motions and magnitudes of stars

*Astrometry is a branch of astronomy.*

**astute****adjective** /ə'stju:t/

shrewd; crafty

*An astute businessman knows how to manage his finances.*

**attribute****noun** /ə'trɪbjʊ:t/

a quality or feature

*Patience is a praiseworthy attribute.*

**audacious****adjective** /ɔ:'deɪʃəs/

willing to take bold risks

*The judge made an audacious statement in closing, risking his entire judicial career.*

**audacity****noun** /ɔ:'dæsəti/

bold rudeness

*He had the audacity to say that I was too fat.*

**audible****adjective** /'ɔ:dəbl/

loud enough to be heard

*The teacher's voice was barely audible without the microphone.*

**auxiliary****adjective** /ɔ:g'zɪliəri/

providing additional help or support

*We have installed an auxiliary generator in case of power cuts.*

**avalanche****noun** /'ævələ:nʃ/

a mass of snow and ice falling rapidly down a mountainside

*The avalanche in the Alps took many lives.*

**average****adjective** /'ævərɪdʒ/

a standard or level regarded as usual or typical

*His below average performance at the office denied him the bonus.*

**averse****adjective** /ə'vɜ:s/

strongly opposed to something

*He seems to be averse to any change.*

**avocado****noun** /,ævə'kɑ:dəʊ/

a pear-shaped fruit with pale green flesh and a large stone

*Avocado is the main ingredient in guacamole.*

**axiom****noun** /'æksɪəm/

a rule or principle that most people believe to be true

*A religious axiom is rarely questioned by believers.*

**babbl****noun** /'bæblə[r]/

someone who talks quickly and unclearly  
*He earned the reputation of a babbler due to his constant chatter.*

**bagatelle****noun** /,bægə'tel/

a game in which small balls are hit into numbered holes on a board  
*She enjoyed playing bagatelle.*

**bait****noun** /beɪt/

food put on a hook or in a trap to attract fish or other animals  
*Cheese makes good bait for catching mice.*

**balance****noun** /'bæləns/

a state in which weight is equally distributed, ensuring that a person or object does not wobble or fall over  
*He lost his balance and ended up in the water.*

**balcony****noun** /'bælkəni/

a platform built on an outside wall of an upstairs room  
*She had a lovely view of the sea from the balcony.*

**ballet****noun** /'bæleɪ/

a dramatic performance by dancers to music  
*The ballet of Romeo and Juliet was performed beautifully.*

**balsam****noun** /'bɔ:lsəm/

any palm or tree from which an oil with a pleasant smell called balm is obtained  
*The chemist used balsam to make the medicine.*

**banal****adjective** /bə'nɑ:l/

not original or interesting  
*His banal remarks were inappropriate for the happy occasion.*

**bandage****noun** /'bændɪdʒ/

piece of soft material that covers and protects an injured part of the body  
*After cleaning the wound, the doctor put a bandage on my arm.*

**bankruptcy****noun** /'bæŋkrʌptsi/

inability to pay debts  
*The company declared its bankruptcy due to lack of financial alternatives.*

**barbaric****adjective** /bɑ:'bærɪk/

cruel and violent  
*The barbaric act of killing female infants is still prevalent in some parts of the world.*

**barber****noun** /'bɑ:bə[r]/

a hairdresser who cuts men's hair  
*James asked the barber to give him a haircut.*

**barium****noun** /'bæəriəm/

a soft silvery metallic element  
*Barium is used in making dyes and bleaches.*

**barnacle****noun** /bɑ:nəkl/

common sea creatures which encrust rocks and the piles of piers  
*The barnacle clung to a rock.*

**barometer****noun** /bə'rɒmɪtə[r]/

an instrument used to forecast the weather by measuring atmospheric pressure  
*Noticing the change in the barometer reading, the weatherman quickly updated his forecast.*

**barrister****noun** /'bærɪstə[r]/

counsellor-at-law  
*The barrister gave an emotional closing statement for his case.*

## B

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age group**battery****noun** /'bætəri/

a device containing one or more electrical cells, for use as a source of power

*The battery in our camera ran out so we could not take any pictures during our holiday.***beast****noun** /bi:st/

an animal other than a human being that is wild and has four legs

*We were terrified when we saw the beast.***bedouin****proper noun** /'beduɪn/

an Arab living as a nomad in the desert

*After travelling for days the Bedouin reached an oasis.***beetle****noun** /'bi:təl/

an insect which has a hard case on its back covering its wings

**beggar****noun** /'begə[r]/

a person who lives by asking other people for food or money

*A beggar came to my door asking for help.***behaviour****noun** /bɪ'heɪvjə[r]/

the way in which someone or something acts

*He must offer an apology for his inappropriate behaviour.***belated****adjective** /bɪ'leɪtɪd/

delayed, after the expected time

*The government's belated response to the proposal made matters worse for the department.***bemoan****verb** /bɪ'məʊn/

to complain or express unhappiness about something

*He has made it a habit to bemoan everything that goes wrong in his life.***beneath****preposition** /bɪ'ni:θ/

under or below

*We found an old book buried beneath a pile of leaves.***beneficial****adjective** /,benɪ'fiʃl/

advantageous

*The beneficial agreement was acceptable to all companies.***benefit****noun** /'benɪfɪt/

an advantage

*I've had the benefit of a good education.***benevolent****adjective** /bə'nevələnt/

kind and helpful

*After the flood, concerned citizens made benevolent contributions for the relief effort.***benign****adjective** /bɪ'naɪn/

pleasant in nature or influence, gentle, kind

*He is well-liked because of his benign manner.***bereavement****noun** /bɪ'ri:vmənt/

death or departure of a loved one

*The president offered his condolences to the families facing bereavement after the bomb blast.***berserk****adjective** /bɜ:'zɜ:k /

uncontrollably wild

*He went berserk and attacked me.*

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B

**berth****noun** /bɜːθ/

a sleeping place in a train or ship  
*The berth in the train was quite uncomfortable.*

**besiege****verb** /bɪˈsiːdʒ/

surround so as to force to give up  
*The king ordered his troops to besiege the town.*

**besmirch****verb** /bɪˈsmɜːtʃ/

to soil, sully  
*The papers had deliberately set out to besmirch his reputation.*

**betrayal****noun** /bɪˈtreɪəl/

treacherous disloyalty  
*I saw her actions as a betrayal of my trust.*

**biannual****adjective** /baɪˈænjʊəl/

occurring twice a year  
*The carnival is a biannual event in their school.*

**bicephalous****adjective** /bɪˈsef[ə]ləs/

having two heads  
*The bicephalous eagle was displayed in the museum of Natural History.*

**biceps****noun** /ˈbaɪseps/

the large muscle at the front of the arm above the elbow  
*Ali has been working out to tone his biceps.*

**bilingual****adjective** /baɪˈlɪŋɡwəl/

using two languages  
*The bilingual movie attracted a large audience.*

**billionaire****noun** /ˌbɪljəˈneə[r]/

a person owning money and property worth at least a billion dollars or rupees  
*Roman Abramovich was a billionaire at the age of 32.*

**biopharming****noun** /ˈbaɪəʊˈfɑːmɪŋ/

the application of genetic engineering on living organisms to induce or increase production  
*Biopharming, which has been around for a number of years, continues to be a controversial subject.*

**biophysicist****noun** /ˌbaɪəʊˈfɪzɪsɪst/

a physicist who applies the methods of physics to biology  
*The biophysicist went into great detail when explaining the process used in his experiment.*

**biopsy****noun** /ˈbaɪɒpsi/

examination of tissues or liquids from the living body to determine the existence or cause of a disease  
*The doctor would not be able to say anything till he had the results of the biopsy.*

**biscuit****noun** /ˈbɪskɪt/

a small, flat, crisp cake  
*I had a biscuit with a glass of milk for breakfast.*

**bizarre****adjective** /bɪˈzɑː[r]/

highly unconventional or unusual  
*She told us a bizarre story.*

**blandishment****noun** /ˈblændɪʃmənt/

flattery intended to persuade  
*He used many a blandishment to try to persuade her to marry him.*

## B

12 to 14  
age group**blasphemous****adjective** /'blæsfəməs/

insulting or showing a lack of respect for God or religion

*Many Christians found the Da Vinci Code to have been a blasphemous piece of literature.***bleat****noun** /bli:t/

the sound made by sheep and goats

*The lamb gave a faint bleat.***blithe****adjective** /blaɪð/

casual; lacking concern

*He drove with a blithe disregard for traffic rules.***blizzard****noun** /'blɪzəd/

a severe snowstorm with strong winds

*Traffic slowed to a halt because of the blizzard.***blockade****noun** /'blɒ'keɪd/

the action of surrounding or closing a place

*The police set up a blockade on the highway.***blurt****verb** /blɜ:t/

utter impulsively

*Before Sandy could blurt out my secret, I quickly changed the topic of the conversation.***boa****noun** /'bəʊə/

a large snake, found in America

**boar****noun** /bɔ:[r]/

a male pig

**boisterous****adjective** /'bɔɪstərəs/

noisy, lively and high-spirited

*The boisterous crowd made its way home after the game.***boomerang****noun** /'bu:mərəŋ/

a curved flat piece of wood that can be thrown so as to return to the thrower

*One is in danger of injuring oneself if a boomerang is not caught.***bougainvillea****noun** /,bu:gən'vɪliə/

a tropical climbing plant with brightly coloured modified leaves surrounding the flowers

*She grew bougainvillea in her garden.***boundary****noun** /'baʊndrɪ/

the line or plane indicating the limit or extent of something

*The country's boundary is denoted by a dark red line on the map.***bountiful****adjective** /'baʊntɪfl/

given or giving freely; plentiful

*The charity home receives a bountiful supply of goods from the government.***bouquet****noun** /bu:'keɪ/

a bunch of flowers arranged in an attractive way

*She was pleased to receive a bouquet of tulips on her birthday.***boutique****noun** /bu:'ti:k/

a small shop/store that sells fashionable clothes

*They bought the dress from the new boutique.***bracelet****noun** /'breɪslət/

jewellery worn around the wrist

*She loves her new bracelet.*

**brachycardia**

**noun** /'braki'kɑ:diə/  
slowness of the heart rate  
*Bradycardia may cause cardiac arrest in some patients.*

**brackish**

**adjective** /'brakɪʃ/  
(of water) having a somewhat salty, unpleasant taste  
*Brackish water commonly occurs in lakes, lagoons, and marshes.*

**Braille**

**proper noun** /breɪl/  
a written language for the blind using raised dots  
*He is very good at reading Braille.*

**breakage**

**noun** /'breɪkɪdʒ/  
the action of breaking something or the fact of being broken  
*She wrapped the crockery carefully to protect it against breakage.*

**breathe**

**verb** /bri:ð/  
draw air into the lungs and send it out again  
*The air was so cold we could hardly breathe.*

**broadcast**

**noun** /'brɔ:dkɑ:st/  
a programme sent out on television or radio  
*The five o'clock broadcast was interrupted by a power failure at the radio station.*

**broccoli**

**noun** /'brɒkəli/  
a vegetable with a thick green or purple flower head  
*She made a stew of broccoli and carrots.*

**brochure**

**noun** /'brəʊʃə[r]/  
a pamphlet or booklet  
*I decided to visit Singapore after going through the travel brochure.*

**bronchitis**

**noun** /brɒŋ'kɑ:tɪs/  
an illness of the tubes leading to the lungs that causes a very bad cough  
*When diagnosed with bronchitis, Brett decided to quit smoking.*

**browse**

**verb** /braʊz/  
to examine books or other goods in a casual way  
*Please feel free to browse through these books.*

**brunette**

**noun** /bru:'net/  
a person with dark (brown) hair  
*Jane has dyed her hair red but she is actually a brunette.*

**brusque**

**adjective** /bru:sk/  
using very few words and sounding rude  
*The official spoke in a brusque tone.*

**Buddhism**

**proper noun** /'bʊdɪzəm/  
an Asian religion based on the teachings of Buddha  
*Buddhism is the main religion in Thailand.*

**budgerigar**

**noun** /'bʌdʒərɪgɑ:[r]/  
Australian parakeet, usually light green with black markings

**budget**

**noun** /'bʌdʒɪt/  
the amount of money available for a purpose  
*Rent for my flat takes up around sixty per cent of my weekly budget.*

**buffalo**

**noun** /'bʌfələʊ/  
a large shaggy-haired bison originally from the North American plains

## B

12 to 14  
age group**buffet****noun** /'bʊfeɪ/

a meal at which people serve themselves  
*She attended a grand buffet at the king's palace.*

**buffoonery****noun** /bʊ'fʊ:nəri/

acting like a clown or buffoon  
*John was a well loved comedian, famous for his buffoonery.*

**bullock****noun** /'bʊlək/

a young bull, or any male of the ox kind

**bumblebee****noun** /'bʌmblbi:/

a large hairy bee that makes a buzzing noise when it flies

**bungee****noun** /'bʌndʒi/

a stretchy, elasticated rope  
*The bungee was securely tied to his feet before he jumped off the bridge.*

**bunting****noun** /'bʌntɪŋ/

small flags hung up to decorate streets  
*The colourful bunting gave the city a festive look.*

**bureaucrat****noun** /'bjʊərəkræt/

an official who works in a government department  
*Being a bureaucrat in the transport department, he travelled extensively.*

**burial****noun** /'beriəl/

the act of placing a dead body in the ground.  
*His family insisted on him being given a proper burial.*

**bursary****noun** /'bɜ:səri /

a scholarship  
*Dan was awarded a bursary to study at university.*

**butterfly****noun** /'bʌtəflaɪ/

an insect with broad colourful wings

12 to 14  
age group

C

**cacophony****noun** /kə'kɒfəni/

a harsh mixture of sounds

*The rock concert was no more than a mad cacophony.***caffeine****noun** /'kæfi:n/

a substance in coffee, tea that causes a person to be more awake

*The caffeine in the coffee kept me awake all night.***cahoots****noun** /kə'hu:ts/

planning or doing something dishonest with somebody

*He should know better than to be in cahoots with someone as shady as Tim.***cajole****verb** /kə'dʒəʊl/

to influence or persuade by flattering

*I am not going to cajole you into accepting my views.***calamity****noun** /kə'læməti/

an event causing great and often sudden damage or distress

*The recent earthquake was the worst calamity in the country's history.***calculus****noun** /'kælkjələs/

a type of mathematics that deals with variable quantities

*A-level mathematics consists primarily of calculus.***callous****adjective** /'kæləs/

not caring about other people's feelings

*He had a very callous attitude towards his younger siblings.***calypso****noun** /kə'lɪpsəʊ/

a Caribbean song or type of music about a subject of current interest

*They danced to the calypso beat.***camembert****noun** /'kæməbeə[r]/

a rich, soft cheese originally made near Camembert in Normandy, France

*She will serve camembert with fruits.***camouflage****noun** /'kæməflɑ:ʒ/

a colour, pattern, shape used for concealment

*The soldiers used branches of trees as camouflage.***candidate****noun** /'kændɪdət/

a person who applies for a job or is nominated for election

*He is a candidate for a seat in the National Assembly.***canine****adjective** /'keɪnaɪn/

relating to dogs

*Security officials at the airport depend on their canine companions to sniff out anything suspicious.***cannelloni****noun** /'kænə'ləʊni/

large tubes of pasta filled with meat or cheese

*Boil the cannelloni in salty water.***cannon****noun** /'kænən/

a large, heavy gun

*The ship's cannon was damaged in the storm.***cantaloupe****noun** /'kæntəlu:p/

a kind of melon

*A cantaloupe is low in calories and is a good source of vitamin C.*

## C

12 to 14  
age group**cantankerous****adjective** /kæn'tæŋkərəs/

always complaining

*He does not have many friends because of his cantankerous nature.***capacious****adjective** /kə'peɪʃəs/

spacious; roomy

*Her capacious handbag was stuffed with makeup.***capacitance****noun** /kə'pæsɪtəns/the ability of a system to store an electrical charge  
*Capacitance is measured in a unit called farad.***cappuccino****noun** /ˌkæpu'tʃiːnəʊ/

coffee made with milk that has been frothed up with pressurised steam

*They enjoyed a cappuccino after work.***capsize****verb** /kæp'saɪz/

to turn over in the water

*A large wave caused my boat to capsize.***capsule****noun** /'kæpsjʊ:l/

a small soluble container that encloses a dose of medicine

*My daughter found it difficult to swallow the vitamin capsule that I gave her.***carcass****noun** /'kɑ:kəs/

the dead body of an animal

*Vultures fed on the carcass of the dead goat.***carcinogenic****adjective** /ˌkɑːsɪnə'dʒenɪk/

likely to cause cancer

*The carbon monoxide percentage in the air is reaching a carcinogenic level.***cardamom****noun** /'kɑ:dəməm/

the seeds of a plant, used as a spice

*She used cardamom in the chicken curry.***cardiac****adjective** /'kɑ:diæk/

relating to the heart

*He died suddenly following a cardiac arrest.***caricature****noun** /'kærɪkətʃʊə[r]/

a comic representation of a person or thing which exaggerates certain features

*The politician was not pleased to see his caricature in the newspaper.***carriage****noun** /'kærɪdʒ/

a separate compartment in a train; a passenger vehicle

*We decided to sit in the carriage with the least number of passengers.***cartridge****noun** /'kɑ:trɪdʒ/

a container holding film, ink or other items to be inserted into a mechanism

*His cartridge ran out of ink halfway through the exam.***cascade****noun** /'kæ'skeɪd/

something that falls like a waterfall

*A cascade of blonde hair surrounded her radiant face.***cashmere****noun** /'kæʃmɪə[r]/

a type of wool that is very fine and soft

*The cardigan was very warm as it was made of cashmere.*

12 to 14  
age group

C

**casket****noun** /'kɑːskɪt/

a small ornamental box or chest for holding valuable objects

*The casket recovered from the shipwreck contained valuable treasures.***casserole****noun** /'kæsərəʊl/

a hot dish made with meat and/or vegetables

*She prepared a casserole for dinner.***castle****noun** /'kɑːsl/

a large building with high walls and towers

*The castle was protected by high walls and a large iron gate.***casualty****noun** /'kæʒuəlti/

a person killed or injured in a war or accident

*Innocent civilians are the biggest type of casualty in modern wars.***catastrophe****noun** /kə'tæstrəfi/

a sudden event causing great suffering and destruction

*The recent flood was a great catastrophe.***caterpillar****noun** /'kætəpɪlə[r]/

a small hairy animal with a long body and several legs

**cathode****noun** /'kæθəʊd/

a negative electrode in a battery

*The negative terminal of a battery is known as the cathode.***Caucasian****adjective** /kɔː'keɪziən/

white-skinned people of European origin

*Witnesses described the thief as a Caucasian male, with blue eyes and blonde hair.***cauliflower****noun** /'kɒlɪflaʊə[r]/

a vegetable with green leaves around a large white head of flowers

*Do you like to eat cauliflower?***caution****noun** /'kɔːʃn/

attention to safety

*One must cross a busy road with caution.***cavalry****noun** /'kævlrɪ/

soldiers who formerly fought on horseback, now in armoured vehicles

*The charge of the cavalry could not be halted by the enemy.***caviar****noun** /'kæviɑː[r]/

the eggs of a type of fish that are eaten as a very special kind of food

*Caviar is considered to be a delicacy and is very expensive.***cedar****noun** /'siːdə[r]/

a tall coniferous tree with hard, sweet-smelling wood

*The yacht is built of cedar.***celandine****noun** /'seləndaɪn/

a yellow-flowered plant of the buttercup family

*Celandine grows in rich damp soil.***cello****noun** /'tʃeləʊ/

an instrument like a large violin, held upright on the floor between the knees of the seated player

*She has been playing the cello for many years.***Celtic****noun** /'keltɪk/

belonging to a race of people originating in Western Europe

*His red hair indicated that he was of Celtic origin.*

## C

12 to 14  
age group**census****noun** /ˈsɛnsəs/

an official count of something especially a country's population

*The last census was largely inaccurate.***centenary****noun** /sɛnˈtɪnəri/

the hundredth anniversary

*Preparations for the centenary celebrations are in full swing.***centipede****noun** /ˈsɛntɪpɪd/

a small crawling creature with a long body and many legs

**cephalopod****noun** /ˈsɛfələpɒd/

marine mollusc with a well developed head and eyes and sucker-bearing tentacles

**ceramic****adjective** /səˈræmɪk/made of clay that is permanently hardened by heat  
*She designs, moulds and sells ceramic pots.***cereal****noun** /ˈsɪəriəl/

a kind of grain used for food

*She was having a bowl of cereal for breakfast.***cerebellum****noun** /ˌsɛrəˈbɛləm/

the part of the brain at the back of the head that controls the movement of the muscles

*The cerebellum is one of the main parts of the brain.***ceres****noun** /ˈsɪəriːz/

the closest dwarf planet to the sun

*Ceres was the first object to be discovered in the asteroid belt.***certainty****noun** /ˈsɜːntɪti/

the state of being sure

*I cannot say with any certainty what will happen tomorrow.***chagrin****noun** /ˈʃægrɪn/

a feeling of being disappointed or annoyed

*To her chagrin, she failed the test again.***chameleon****noun** /kəˈmiːliən/

a small lizard that can change colour according to its surroundings

**chamois****noun** /ˈʃæmwɑː/

an animal like a small deer, that lives in the mountains of Europe and Asia

**chandelier****noun** /ˌʃændəˈlɪə[r]/a light fitting or candle holder with many branches  
*The chandelier in their lounge is very beautiful.***chaos****noun** /ˈkeɪɒs/

state of complete confusion and lack of order

*Heavy snow has caused total chaos on the roads.***chapel****noun** /ˈtʃæpl/

a small room or building used for Christian worship

*She always went to the chapel on Sundays.***characteristically****adverb** /ˌkærəktəˈrɪstɪkəli/

typical of somebody's character

*Characteristically, she paid for everyone.*

**charisma****noun** /kə'rizmə/

the powerful personal quality to attract and impress others

*The president is an effective leader with tremendous charisma.***charismatic****adjective** /kæriz'mætɪk/

having charm

*He is an immensely charismatic man and usually gets his way.***chassis****noun** /'ʃæsi/

the metal frame of a vehicle

*Even after the disastrous accident, the chassis of the car was still intact.***chastise****verb** /tʃæ'staɪz/

to criticise

*She should not chastise her secretary in front of other colleagues.***chateau****noun** /'ʃætəʊ/

a castle or large country house in France

*The chateau we stayed at was next to a lake.***chauvinism****noun** /'ʃəʊvɪnɪzəm/

too much support or enthusiasm for one's own gender, group, or kind

*His male chauvinism made many people dislike him.***chemotherapy****noun** /kɪ:məʊ'therəpi/

the treatment of an illness using chemical substances

*Chemotherapy is used to treat cancer.***cheque****noun** /tʃek/

a written order to a bank to pay money

*"May I pay by cheque?" asked the customer.***chic****adverb** /ʃi:k/

elegant and fashionable

*She always manages to look extremely chic.***chieftain****noun** /'tʃi:ftən/

the leader of a people or clan

*The chieftain was respected by the whole clan.***chisel****noun** /'tʃɪzəl/

a hand tool with a long blade, used to cut or shape wood, stone, or metal

*The artisan used his chisel to chip away at the marble.***chivalry****noun** /'ʃɪvəlri/

courteous and courageous behaviour shown by mediaeval knights

*St George demonstrated great chivalry when he killed the dragon and rescued the princess.***chlorine****noun** /'klɔ:ri:n/

a green gaseous chemical element

*Chlorine is added to swimming pools to keep the water clean.***choir****noun** /'kwaɪə[r]/

a group of people who sing together

*The school choir has won a large number of awards in many contests.***cholera****noun** /'kɒləərə/

an infectious disease of the small intestine

*There is very little incidence of cholera in the city.*

## C

12 to 14  
age group**choreography****noun** /ˌkɔːrɪˈɒɡrəfi/

the art of designing and arranging the steps and movements in dances

*The choreography of the ballet was done by a famous dancer.*

**chorus****noun** /ˈkɔːrəs/

a part of a song which is repeated after every verse

*Everyone joined in the chorus at the end of the song.*

**chromium****noun** /ˈkrəʊmiəm/

a hard grey metal that shines brightly when polished

*Coloured plastic bags contain harmful toxic metals like chromium and copper.*

**chromosome****noun** /ˈkrəʊməsəʊm/

a part of a cell in living things that determines character, gender, shape

*In human females, there is no Y chromosome.*

**chronic****adjective** /ˈkrɒnɪk/

lasting for a long time

*He developed chronic bronchitis because of heavy smoking.*

**chronicle****noun** /ˈkrɒnɪkl/

a written record of historical events

*The Sports Almanac is a chronicle of sports history.*

**chrysalis****noun** /ˈkrɪsəˌlɪs/

the case around a caterpillar that is changing into a butterfly or moth

*The child saw a chrysalis on the branch of a tree.*

**chyme****noun** /kʌɪm/

thick semifluid mass of partly digested food formed in the stomach during digestion

*The rhythmic muscular action of the stomach wall moves the chyme into the first section of the small intestine.*

**cicada****noun** /sɪˈkɑːdə/

a stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings

**cinnamon****noun** /ˈsɪnəməʊn/

a spice made from the bark of a tree

*I used a lot of cinnamon when I made that apple pie.*

**circumstantial****adjective** /ˌsɜːkəmˈstæʃnəl/

strongly suggesting but not proof

*The circumstantial evidence made it difficult for the jury to come to a decision.*

**cirrostratus****noun** /sɪˈrɪəʊˈstrætəs/

a type of cloud that forms a thin layer at a very high level

*Temperatures at the cirrostratus level are fairly low.*

**clairvoyant****noun** /kleəˈvɔɪənt/

a person who is said to be able to predict future events

*The clairvoyant predicted that he would enjoy a long and happy life*

**clarity****noun** /ˈklærəti/

clearness

*His speech had a strong element of clarity.*

**claustrophobia****noun** /ˌklɔːstrəˈfəʊbiə/

fear of being in a small or enclosed space

*People who have claustrophobia avoid using lifts.*

**clientele****noun** /ˌkliːənˈtel/

the customers of a business

*The new restaurant attracted a young and trendy clientele.***coagulant****noun** /kəʊˈæɡjələnt/

a substance that causes a fluid to change to a solid or semi-solid state

*The doctors injected a coagulant to stop the bleeding.***cobra****noun** /ˈkəʊbrə/

a poisonous snake that can expand the skin of its neck into a hood

*The cobra is found mostly in India.***cockatoo****noun** /ˌkɒkəˈtuː/

white or light-coloured crested parrot of the Australian region

*I saw a cockatoo in a pet shop.***cockerel****noun** /ˈkɒkərəl/

a young male chicken

**cockroach****noun** /ˈkɒkrəʊtʃ/

a large dark brown insect usually found in dirty or damp places

**coerce****verb** /kəʊˈɜːs/

to persuade using force or threats

*They tried to coerce him into robbing his friend.***coincidence****noun** /kəʊˈɪnsɪdəns/

similar things happening at the same time by chance

*The two sisters ended up wearing identical clothes at the dinner entirely by coincidence.***collaborate****verb** /kəˈlæbəreɪt/

work together

*In my work I would like to collaborate with the famous architect.***collateral****adjective** /kəˈlætərəl/

connected but less important

*Even targeted bombings result in some form of collateral damage.***colliery****noun** /ˈkɒliəri/

a coal mine

*He has worked at the colliery almost all his life.***colloquial****adjective** /kəˈlɒkwɪəl/

conversational but not in formal language

*Colloquial words should be avoided in formal speech and writing.***cologne****noun** /kəˈləʊn/

a type of light perfume or scented water

*A man's choice of cologne says a lot about him.***coloratura****noun** /ˌkɒləreɪˈtuərə/

complicated passages for a singer

*The opera singer was an expert in coloratura.***comeuppance****noun** /kʌmˈʌpəns/

a punishment or fate that someone deserves

*Ideally, every evil-doer ought to get his comeuppance.***commandant****noun** /ˈkɒməndənt/

the officer in charge

*The commandant of our group is very strict and disciplined.*

## C

12 to 14  
age group**commensurate****adjective** /kə'menʃərət/

equal in extent

*Salary will be commensurate with experience.***commission****noun** /kə'mɪʃn/

a body of people with authority to perform certain duties

*The commission published a report of their supervision of the election.***commodious****adjective** /kə'məʊdiəs/

roomy and comfortable

*She fell asleep in the commodious armchair.***compartmentalise****verb** /ˌkɒmpɑ:t'mentəlaɪz/

divide into sections and categories

*Sometimes we are too ready to compartmentalise people before we really get to know them.***complacent****adjective** /kəm'pleɪsnt/

self-satisfied

*Shahid lost his job because of his complacent attitude.***complement****verb** /'kɒmplɪmənt/

to make something complete

*The husband and wife complement each other.***composure****noun** /kəm'pəʊzə[r]/

mental calmness

*She showed great composure during the emergency.***compulsion****noun** /kəm'pʌlʃn/

obligation

*There is no compulsion for you to attend the meeting.***concave****adjective** /kɒn'keɪv/

curved inwards

*Concave lenses are used to make spectacles.***concede****verb** /kən'si:d/

to admit

*He was forced to concede that there might be difficulties.***concentric****adjective** /kən'sentrik/

having a common centre

*Planets orbit the Sun in concentric circles.***conception****noun** /kən'sepʃn/

formation

*The country has been confronted with problems since its conception.***concerto****noun** /kən'tʃɜ:təʊ/

a musical composition for an orchestra and one or more solo instruments

*She gave a wonderful performance at the concerto last night.***concierge****noun** /'kɒnsiɜ:ʒ/

a resident caretaker of a block of flats or small hotel

*The concierge told the noisy tenants on the fifth floor not to play loud music.***conciliatory****adjective** /kən'sɪliətəri/

making calmer and less angry

*The president's speech was a conciliatory gesture towards businessmen.***concurrence****noun** /kən'kʌrəns/

agreement

*The doctor must seek the concurrence of a relative before proceeding with surgery.*

**condemn****verb** /kən'dem/

to express complete or strong disapproval of something

*I condemn war in all its forms.***confetti****noun** /kən'feti/

small pieces of coloured paper traditionally thrown at weddings

*The bride and groom were showered with confetti as they left the church.***conform****verb** /kən'fɔ:m/

to behave and think in the same way as others

*His ideas do not conform with mine.***conjure****verb** /'kɒndʒə[r]/

to make things appear or disappear as if by magic

*He is known to conjure up the spirits of the dead.***connoisseur****noun** /'kɒnə'sɜ:ʃ[r]/

a person who knows a lot about art, good food and music

*He is a connoisseur of antiques.***consecrate****verb** /'kɒnsəkreɪt/

to declare or set apart as sacred

*They organised a ceremony to consecrate the new mosque.***consequence****noun** /'kɒnsɪkwəns/

a result

*Twenty people lost their lives as a direct consequence of the earthquake.***consolidate****verb** /kən'sɒlɪdeɪt/

to make firmer or stronger

*The documents were signed to consolidate the merger.***constituency****noun** /kən'stɪtjuənsi/

a district that elects its own representative to parliament

*He owns a house in his Oxford constituency.***consultancy****noun** /kən'sʌltənsi/

a business or agency offering expert or professional advice in a field

*He opened a financial consultancy firm to advise people on monetary issues.***contagious****adjective** /kən'teɪdʒəs/

transmissible by direct or indirect contact; infectious

*Chicken pox is a contagious illness.***contaminate****verb** /kən'tæmɪneɪt/

pollute

*The leak in the sewage system might contaminate the main water supply.***contemplate****verb** /'kɒntəmpleɪt/

to think about as possible

*The idea of war is too awful to contemplate.***continuum****noun** /kən'tɪnjuəm/

a continuous sequence in which the elements next to each other are very similar, but the last and the first are very different

*It is impossible to say at what point along the continuum a dialect becomes a separate language.***controversial****adjective** /'kɒntrə'vɜ:ʃl/

causing or likely to cause public debate

*The European Union constitution is a very controversial document, splitting opinion down the middle.*

## C

12 to 14  
age group**convalesce**

**verb** /ˌkɒnvəˈles/  
to return to health and strength after illness;  
recuperate  
*She went to the mountains to convalesce after leaving the hospital.*

**convene**

**verb** /kənˈviːn/  
to come together formally  
*The committee will convene at nine thirty tomorrow morning.*

**convenience**

**noun** /kənˈviːniəns/  
a useful device or situation  
*Supermarkets are a great convenience to most people.*

**conversant**

**adjective** /kənˈvɜːsnt /  
familiar with  
*He was not conversant with the routines of his new workplace.*

**conversationalist**

**noun** /ˌkɒnvəˈseɪʃənəlɪst/  
a person who is good at or fond of engaging in conversation  
*He is a terrific conversationalist and after-dinner speaker.*

**converse**

**verb** /kənˈvɜːs /  
to talk with  
*The ability to converse easily with strangers comes naturally to some people.*

**copious**

**adjective** /ˈkəʊpiəs/  
abundant; plentiful  
*He had a copious supply of tools at his workshop.*

**cordial**

**adjective** /ˈkɔːdiəl/  
pleasant, friendly  
*He greeted me with a cordial handshake.*

**corduroy**

**noun** /ˈkɔːdərɔɪ/  
a thick cotton fabric with velvety ribs  
*She wanted to purchase a jacket of corduroy.*

**cornea**

**noun** /ˈkɔːniə/  
the transparent layer forming the outer part of the eye  
*She had to wear a patch over her eye as she had injured her cornea.*

**corpse**

**noun** /kɔːps/  
a dead body  
*His corpse was taken to the city morgue.*

**correspondence**

**noun** /ˌkɒrəˈspɒndəns/  
letters sent to or received from someone  
*Their correspondence lasted over a decade.*

**corrode**

**verb** /kəˈrəʊd/  
to destroy something slowly especially by chemical action  
*The bonnet of his car has started to corrode.*

**cosmonaut**

**noun** /ˈkɒzməʊnɔːt/  
a Russian astronaut  
*Yuri Gagarin is the most famous cosmonaut.*

**councillor**

**noun** /ˈkaʊnsələ[r]/  
a member of a council  
*The councillor was elected on the basis of his past experience.*

**couplet****noun** /'kʌplət/

a pair of successive rhyming lines of verse  
*The poet recited a couplet from his latest poem.*

**courteous****adjective** /'kɜːtiəs/

polite and considerate  
*I received a charmingly courteous reply to my invitation.*

**covert****adjective** /'kɒvət/

secret, hidden  
*He stole a covert glance at her across the table.*

**cranium****noun** /'kreɪniəm/

the bone structure that forms the head and encloses the brain  
*The cranium is the hardest part of the body as it protects the brain.*

**credence****noun** /'kriːdɪns/

belief  
*One should not give any credence to rumours.*

**cricket****noun** /'krikiːt/

an insect that makes a loud noise by rubbing its wings together

**crimson****adjective** /'krɪmzɪn/

a deep red colour  
*She was wearing a crimson dress.*

**crocodile****noun** /'krɒkədail/

a large aquatic reptile with a long tail and a big mouth with sharp teeth

**croissant****noun** /'krwæsɔ̃/

a crescent-shaped flaky bread roll  
*She ate a croissant for breakfast.*

**crucial****adjective** /'kruːʃl/

decisive, critical  
*She could not answer the crucial question correctly.*

**crustacean****noun** /krʌ'steɪʃn/

any aquatic arthropod usually with a segmented body in a hard shell  
*Crabs, lobsters and shrimps are all examples of a crustacean.*

**cubicle****noun** /'kjuːbɪkl/

a small division of a larger room making a separate compartment  
*She studies in a cubicle at the school library.*

**cuckoo****noun** /'kʊkuː/

a bird with a call that sounds like its name

**cucumber****noun** /'kjuːkʌmbə[r]/

a long, green fruit with watery flesh, eaten as a vegetable in salads  
*The price of cucumber shot up after the floods.*

**curator****noun** /kjʊə'reɪtə[r]/

an official in charge of a museum or art gallery  
*The new curator of the museum was asked to plan interesting events.*

**curious****adjective** /'kjʊəriəs/

eager to know or learn something  
*He is such a curious boy, always asking questions.*

# C

**12 to 14**  
age group

## cyclotron

**noun** /ˈsaɪklətrɒn/

a machine that, using electrical and magnetic fields, makes atoms or electrons move more quickly.

*The design of a cyclotron varies according to the specifications of the purchaser.*

## cynical

**adjective** /ˈsɪnɪkl/

doubtful or distrustful of human motives

*The cynical old man had become bitter because of what he had experienced during the war.*

**dandruff****noun** /'dændrʌf/

small pieces of dead skin in the hair, that look like white flakes

*He uses a special shampoo for his dandruff.***debilitate****verb** /dɪ'bɪlɪteɪt/

to weaken

*His bout of malaria served to debilitate his already questionable health.***debris****noun** /'deɪbrɪ:/scattered broken pieces of wood, metal, brick  
*Debris covered the farmland after the volcanic eruption.***debye****noun** /dɪ'beɪ/

a unit used to express electric dipole moments of molecules

*The debye is still used in atomic physics and chemistry.***decade****noun** /'dekeɪd/

a period of ten years

*The last decade saw many new developments in science and technology.***decapitate****verb** /dɪ'kæpɪteɪt/

to behead

*They are going to decapitate him as a punishment for his crime.***decay****noun** /dɪ'keɪ/

the process or result of being destroyed by natural causes or by not being cared for

*The landlord had let the building fall into decay.***deceased****noun** /dɪ'si:st/

a person who has died

*The body of the deceased was moved from the hospital to his home.***deceit****noun** /dɪ'si:t/

dishonest behaviour

*He was accused of lies and deceit.***decision****noun** /dɪ'sɪʒn/

a choice or judgement

*Her decision to resign from the job surprised us all.***decorum****noun** /dɪ'kɔ:rəm/

polite behaviour

*She showed remarkable decorum at the reception.***decrepit****adjective** /dɪ'kreɪtɪ/

worn out or ruined because of age or neglect

*The government decided to demolish the decrepit apartment complex.***deductible****adjective** /dɪ'dʌktəbl/

can be taken away from

*The deductible amount from his income is quite substantial.***defamatory****adjective** /dɪ'fæmətri/

attacking one's reputation

*His defamatory remarks about the company ruined its reputation.***defiance****noun** /dɪ'faɪəns/

open disobedience

*He has made it a habit to act in defiance of the law.*

## D

12 to 14  
age group**defibrillator****noun** /dɪˈfɪbrɪleɪtə[r]/

a piece of equipment used to control the movement of the heart muscles

*The patient was put on the defibrillator to restore normal rhythm to his heart.***degenerative****adjective** /dɪˈdʒenərətɪv/

causing gradual deterioration

*A degenerative disease like arthritis will eventually make the patient bedridden.***deliberate****verb** /dɪˈlɪbərət/

to think very carefully

*She took her time to deliberate over the menu before placing an order.***delicacy****noun** /dɪlɪkəsi/

a type of food considered to be special

*Caviar is considered to be a delicacy.***delicatessen****noun** /ˌdɪlɪkəˈtesn/

a shop that sells special, unusual foods

*We go to the delicatessen everyday for their special French cheese.***delirious****adjective** /dɪˈlɪriəs/

in an excited state and not able to think or speak clearly, usually because of fever

*The delirious patient did not recognise his children.***delude****verb** /dɪˈluːd/

to deceive or mislead

*It is not right to delude oneself with false hopes.***delusion****noun** /dɪˈluːʒn/

a false impression or opinion

*Her comments make it seem like she is living in a world of delusion.***demagogue****noun** /ˈdeməɡɒɡ/

a political leader who tries to win support by using arguments based on emotion rather than reason

*Hitler is considered to be a demagogue by many historians.***demeanour****noun** /dɪˈmiːnə[r]/

behaviour; bearing

*He maintained a professional demeanour during the interview.***demonic****adjective** /dɪˈmɒnɪk/

connected with evil

*The priest said the magician was using demonic powers to perform certain acts.***denizen****noun** /ˈdenɪzn/

inhabitant or occupant of a particular place

*He is a denizen of one of the remote mountainous regions.***denounce****verb** /dɪˈnaʊns/

to speak publicly strongly against, condemn

*I was shocked to hear Jane denounce her sister as a liar.***denudation****noun** /dɪnjuˈdeɪʃən/

the removal or exposure of a covering or surface layer

*The denudation of forests may result in mudslides in the monsoon.***depot****noun** /ˈdepəʊ/

a place where large amounts of food, goods or equipment are stored

*Flour bags were being carried to the ration depot.*

**dereliction****noun** /ˌdɛrəˈlɪkʃn/

abandonment

*The previous owners had rescued the building from dereliction.***deride****verb** /dɪˈraɪd/

to ridicule

*I think he will deride our views on the irrigation system.***derogatory****adjective** /dɪˈrɒɡətəri/

expressing a low opinion and lack of respect

*He made derogatory statements about her behaviour.***desiccated****adjective** /ˈdesɪkətɪd/

dried out

*Amna put desiccated coconut in the dessert.***despicable****adjective** /dɪˈspɪkəbl/

very unpleasant or evil

*His despicable behaviour was not acceptable.***despondency****noun** /dɪˈspɒndənsi/

loss of hope

*He was unable to conceal his despondency from his parents.***dessert****noun** /dɪˈzɜ:t/

sweet food eaten usually at the end of a meal

*She served delicious chocolate brownies with vanilla ice-cream for dessert.***destitute****adjective** /ˈdɛstɪtʃu:t/

without money, food and the other things necessary for life

*The destitute family had to sleep on the footpath as they had no other place to go.***detergent****noun** /dɪˈtɜ:dʒənt/

a washing powder or liquid that removes dirt

*This laundry detergent can remove grease stains from clothes.***detonation****noun** /ˌdɛtəˈneɪʃn/

a loud explosion

*The detonation of the bomb was heard all over the city.***deuce****noun** /dju:s/

a playing card with the number two

*I played the deuce which helped me win the game of cards.***deuteron****noun** /ˈdju:tərɒn/

a positively charged particle consisting of a proton and a neutron

*The deuteron is a stable particle.***diabetes****noun** /ˌdaɪəˈbi:tɪz/

a disease of the pancreas in which sugars cannot be properly absorbed

*My friend was diagnosed with diabetes.***diagonal****adjective** /daɪˈæɡənəl/

at an angle

*The flag consists of red diagonal stripes.***diarrhoea****noun** /ˌdaɪəˈrɪə/

an illness in which waste matter is emptied from the bowels much more frequently than normal

*She suffered from diarrhoea after eating the stale food.***dichotomy****noun** /daɪˈkɒtəmi/

difference or opposition between two things

*There is a dichotomy between the academic and the industrial worlds.*

## D

12 to 14  
age group**dictate****verb** /dɪk'teɪt/

to say words for somebody else to write down  
*He said he would dictate the whole letter to his secretary.*

**digest****verb** /dɪ'dʒest/

to cause food to be changed in the stomach into a soluble form  
*Some foods digest more easily than others.*

**digress****verb** /daɪ'ɡres/

to stray away  
*He was instructed not to digress from the main points in his presentation.*

**dilemma****noun** /dɪ'lemə/

a difficult choice between two alternatives  
*She is in a dilemma about continuing with her job or looking for a new one.*

**dinosaur****noun** /ˈdaɪnəsɔː[r]/

any of the numerous extinct terrestrial reptiles of the Mesozoic era

**diphtheria****noun** /dɪf'θɪəriə/

a serious infectious disease causing inflammation of the mucous membranes, especially in the throat  
*He cancelled his holiday because he was ill with diphtheria.*

**disarray****noun** /ˌdɪsə'reɪ/

a state of disorder  
*The peace talks broke up in disarray.*

**discerning****adjective** /dɪ'sɜːnɪŋ/

able to perceive or distinguish well  
*His discerning mind is able to grasp all new concepts in class.*

**discourteous****adjective** /dɪs'kɜːtiəs/

rude and lacking consideration for others  
*His discourteous display of anger has seen him struck off most party lists.*

**discrete****adjective** /dɪ'skriːt/

separate from other things of the same type  
*The organisms can be divided into discrete categories.*

**disease****noun** /dɪ'ziːz/

an illness affecting humans, animals or plants  
*Smoking is one of the major causes of heart disease.*

**disembarkation****noun** /ˌdɪs,embɑː'keɪʃn/

leaving a ship, aircraft or train  
*The passengers awaited disembarkation at Crete.*

**disguise****verb** /dɪs'ɡaɪz/

to use an unusual appearance in order to hide the identity of a person or a thing  
*He grew a beard to disguise himself.*

**disinclination****noun** /ˌdɪs,ɪnklɪ'neɪʃn/

lack of willingness or enthusiasm  
*Some people have a strong disinclination for work.*

**disinterested****adjective** /dɪs'ɪntrestɪd/

not influenced by personal concerns  
*He was a disinterested judge in the dispute.*

**dismal****adjective** /'dɪzməl/

gloomy, depressing  
*I do not feel like going out in this dismal weather.*

12 to 14  
age group

D

**dispassionate****adjective** /dɪs'pæʃənət/

not favouring a particular side, opinion  
*In a dispassionate analysis, he carefully examined the concerns of both parties.*

**disperse****verb** /dɪ'spɜːs /

to scatter  
*The police was asked to disperse the crowd.*

**dispirited****adjective** /dɪ'spɪrɪtɪd/

discouraged  
*She refused to be dispirited by her prolonged illness.*

**disposable****adjective** /dɪ'spəʊzəbl/

intended to be used once and then thrown away  
*The doctor put on disposable gloves before examining the patient.*

**dissertation****noun** /,dɪsə'teɪʃn/

a long formal essay  
*Her dissertation was on modern poetry.*

**distil****verb** /dɪ'stɪl/

to purify a liquid by heating it so that it vaporises, then condensing the vapour and collecting the resulting liquid  
*It is essential to distil sea water before it is fit for consumption.*

**diverge****verb** /daɪ'vɜːdʒ /

to proceed in different directions  
*The parallel lines appear to diverge.*

**divination****noun** /,dɪvɪ'neɪʃn/

discovery of the unknown by supernatural means  
*The old man used divination to find the water source.*

**docile****adjective** /'dɒsəl/

quiet and easy to control  
*The trainer gave a docile horse to the new rider.*

**dodo****noun** /'dɒdəʊ/

a large heavy bird that used to live on an island in the Indian Ocean

**doldrums****plural noun** /'dɒldrəmz/

the state of being sad or depressed  
*He has been down in the doldrums ever since he failed in his monthly exams.*

**dollop****noun** /'dɒləp/

a lump of soft food often dropped from a spoon  
*I added a dollop of whipped cream to the fruit trifle.*

**dolphin****noun** /'dɒlfɪn/

any of the various small toothed whales with a beak-like snout

**domain****noun** /də'meɪn/

an area of knowledge or activity  
*The care of older people is being placed firmly within the domain of the family.*

**domineering****adjective** /,dɒmɪ'niəriŋ/

arrogant and overbearing  
*Nobody enjoys the company of a domineering person.*

**dormitory****noun** /'dɔːmətri/

a bedroom for a number of people in an institution  
*The dormitory was large enough to sleep twenty people.*

## D

12 to 14  
age group**dough****noun** /dəʊ/

mixture of flour and water that is made into bread and pastry

*We made biscuits from the dough.***doughnut****noun** /ˈdəʊnʌt/

a small fried cake or ring of sweetened dough

*She bought a chocolate doughnut from the bakery.***dowry****noun** /ˈdaʊəri/

money or property that, in some societies, a woman's family must pay to the man when getting married

*She started collecting dowry for her daughter soon after she was born.***drainage****noun** /ˈdreɪnɪdʒ/

the process by which water or liquid waste is taken out from an area

*The drainage of the city was well planned.***dramatic****adjective** /drəˈmætɪk/

noticeable, sudden and often surprising

*The budget had a dramatic effect on the real estate prices.***dreadful****adjective** /ˈdredfəl/

extremely bad or serious

*They treat their staff in the most dreadful way.***drizzle****noun** /ˈdrɪzəl/

light rain

*The drizzle slowly turned into a heavy downpour.***dromedary****noun** /ˈdrɒmədəri/

a camel with only one hump

**drought****noun** /draʊt/

a very long period of little or no rainfall

*The drought in Ethiopia has killed thousands of people.***drudgery****noun** /ˈdrʌdʒəri/

hard, menial, or dull work

*Working at the factory all day on the assembly line is sheer drudgery.***dual****adjective** /ˈdjuːəl/

having two parts; double

*She has dual nationality.***dubious****adjective** /ˈdjuːbiəs/

of questionable value or truth

*They have indulged in dubious business practices to obtain their current position in the market.***ductile****adjective** /ˈdʌktaɪl/

(of a metal) that can be made into a thin wire

*Ductile metal is used for making wires.***dungeon****noun** /ˈdʌndʒən/

a strong underground prison cell

*He was kidnapped and kept prisoner in the dungeon of the old castle.***durable****adjective** /ˈdʒʊərəbəl/

likely to last for a long time

*She bought some durable plastic bowls from the supermarket.***duress****noun** /dʒʊˈres/

threats or force

*He signed the statement under duress.*

**dutiful**

**adjective** /ˈdjuːtɪfl/

showing submission to natural superiors  
*She is a dutiful daughter.*

**duvet**

**noun** /ˈduːvət/

a large, thick quilt filled with feathers or other soft material  
*The duvet kept me warm and cosy last night.*

**dynamo**

**noun** /ˈdɪnəməʊ/

a generator, especially one for producing direct current  
*He used a dynamo that ran on pedal power.*

**dyslexia**

**noun** /dɪsˈleksiə/

a disorder of the brain that causes difficulty in reading and spelling  
*She had difficulty taking exams as she suffered from dyslexia.*

## E

12 to 14  
age group**earnest****adjective** /'ɜːnɪst/

serious or determined

*I had an earnest conversation with him.***easel****noun** /'iːzl/

a wooden frame on legs used for holding an artist's work in progress

*His easel stands in the far corner of the studio.***eclipse****noun** /'kɪlɪps/

a partial or total disappearance of the light of the Sun or the moon

*A total solar eclipse is rarely sighted.***eczema****noun** /'ekzɪmə/

a skin condition in which areas of skin become red, rough and sore

*I have tried a lot to cure the eczema on my legs but nothing seems to work.***efface****verb** /ɪ'feɪs/

to remove something

*He tried to efface the memory of the accident.***effervescent****adjective** /ɪ'efə'vesnt/

having or producing small bubbles of gas

*Cola is an effervescent drink.***effluent****noun** /'ɛfluənt/

liquid waste or sewerage discharged into a river or sea

*Effluent from the river-side factories represents a considerable pollution risk.***egalitarian****adjective** /ɪ,gæ'lɪ'teəriən/

believing that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities

*Sweden is a good model of an egalitarian society.***egotism****noun** /'ɪgətɪzəm/

thinking that you are better or more important than anyone else

*Society is slowly deteriorating because of excessive egotism and pride.***eiderdown****noun** /'aɪdədaʊn/

a quilt filled with feathers or some other soft material

*I snuggled under the eiderdown to stay warm.***elastic****noun** /ɪ'læstɪk/

material with rubber, that can stretch and then return to its original size

*The skirt needs some new elastic at the waist.***electioneering****noun** /ɪ,lɪkʃə'nɪəriŋ/

the action of campaigning to be elected to a political position

*The party has started its electioneering early this term.***elephant****noun** /'elɪfənt/

a very big wild animal from Africa and Asia with a long trunk

**elicit****verb** /ɪ'lɪsɪt/

to draw out

*The teacher was unable to elicit an answer from her student.***eligible****adjective** /'elɪdʒəbəl/

fit or suitable to be chosen

*Adnan is considered to be the most eligible bachelor in town.***eliminate****verb** /ɪ'lɪmɪneɪt/

completely remove or get rid of

*Let us all strive to eliminate poverty.*

**elinvar****noun** /'elən,vɔr/

a kind of steel known for its elasticity remaining constant over a wide range of temperature  
*The largest use of Elinvar is in the balance springs for mechanical watches and chronometers.*

**elliptical****adjective** /ɪ'lɪptɪkəl/

oval shaped  
*The Earth follows an elliptical orbit around the Sun.*

**eloquence****noun** /'eləkwəns/

fluent or persuasive writing or speaking  
*She is famous for her eloquence.*

**elusive****adjective** /ɪ'lʊ:sɪv/

difficult to find, capture  
*Wild rabbits are extremely elusive animals.*

**emancipate****verb** /ɪ'mænsɪpeɪt/

to set free  
*The attempts to emancipate the slaves were not popular in Mississippi.*

**embalm****verb** /ɪm'bɑ:m/

to treat a dead body with special substances to preserve it and prevent it from decay  
*In ancient Egypt, it was a common ritual to embalm a body before burying it.*

**embellish****verb** /ɪm'belɪʃ/

to add details to something to make it more attractive  
*He planned to embellish the carved door of his house with brass door knobs.*

**embezzlement****noun** /ɪm'bezlɪmənt/

the act of stealing money that you are responsible for  
*The bank employee was found guilty of embezzlement.*

**emblazon****verb** /ɪm'bleɪzn/

to decorate something with a design, symbol or words  
*The Principal wanted to emblazon the school logo on the sports shields.*

**embroidery****noun** /ɪm'brɔɪdəri/

the art of sewing decorative needlework patterns on fabric  
*The intricate embroidery on his kurta won many admirers.*

**emerald****noun** /'emərəld/

a bright green precious stone  
*This emerald was mined in Columbia.*

**emulate****verb** /'emjuleɪt/

to imitate; to try to equal or excel  
*She hopes to emulate her sister's sporting achievements.*

**encephalitis****noun** /en,sefə'laitəs/

an infection which causes the brain to become swollen  
*David is suffering from encephalitis.*

**enclosure****noun** /ɪn'kloʊʒə[r]/

an area of land surrounded by a fence or wall  
*We got to sit in the best enclosure of the stadium during the recent cricket match.*

**encumber****verb** /ɪn'kʌmbə[r]/

to hamper, burden  
*It is not a good idea to encumber yourself with heavy luggage while travelling.*

**encumbrance****noun** /ɪn'kʌmbərəns/

a burden or impediment  
*His heavy luggage was an encumbrance.*

## E

12 to 14  
age group**endangered****adjective** /ɪn'deɪndʒə[r]d/

in danger of being destroyed

*The giant panda is an endangered species.***endearment****noun** /ɪn'diəmənt/

an act, word or expression of affection

*The word 'darling' is a term of endearment.***endeavour****verb** /ɪn'devə[r]/

try hard

*Pakistan will endeavour to uphold the rights of women.***engrossed****verb** /ɪn'grəʊst/

extremely busy with and interested in something

*She was engrossed in conversation.***enhance****verb** /ɪn'hɑːns/

to intensify, heighten

*High quality fuel can enhance the performance of your car.***enigma****noun** /ɪ'nɪgmə/

a puzzle or riddle

*The student's exceptional skill in mathematics was an enigma.***enlighten****verb** /ɪn'laɪtn/

to give somebody information so they understand something better

*I would like him to enlighten me on what really happened that night.***enrage****verb** /ɪn'reɪdʒ/

to make somebody very angry

*It will enrage me if I spill grape juice on my white pants.***enterprise****noun** /'entəpraɪz/

a company or business

*Jack set up a new enterprise after returning from England.***enthusiasm****noun** /ɪn'θjuːziæzəm/

great eagerness

*The cricket team was welcomed with great enthusiasm after their victory.***entomology****noun** /ɪ,entə'mɒlədʒi/

the scientific study of insects

*I found entomology the most difficult part of my biology course.***entrepreneur****noun** /ɪ,ɒnrəprə'nɜː[r]/

a businessman or woman

*She is a successful entrepreneur with a chain of restaurants in the city.***entrepreneurial****adjective** /ɪ,ɒnrəprə'nɜːriəl/

making money through business activity

*His entrepreneurial skills will help the company greatly.***envelope****noun** /'envələʊp/

a flat paper container for letters

*She wrote the address in block letters on the envelope.***envious****adjective** /'enviəs/

jealous

*He could see the envious look in the other boy's eyes.***envisage****verb** /ɪn'vɪzɪdʒ/

to imagine a future situation

*I don't envisage myself working with him next year.*

**epiglottis****noun** /ˌɛpɪˈɡlɒtɪs/

a thin piece of tissue behind the tongue that prevents food or drink from entering the lungs

*The epiglottis covers the windpipe while swallowing.*

**epitaph****noun** /ˈɛpɪtəːf/

words written in memory of a person who has died

*The epitaph on his gravestone did not do justice to his life.*

**epitome****noun** /ˈɛpɪtəmi/

a perfect example of something

*Her clothes are the epitome of good taste.*

**equilibrium****noun** /ˌiːkwɪˈlɪbrɪəm/

a state of balance

*Any disturbance to the body's equilibrium can produce stress.*

**equipment****noun** /ˈkwiːpmənt/

the items needed for a particular purpose

*They loaded the equipment into the back of the van.*

**eradicate****verb** /ɪˈrædɪkeɪt/

root out; get rid of

*The citizens of this town are determined to eradicate crime from their community.*

**erroneous****adjective** /ɪˈrəʊniəs/

incorrect

*He was under the erroneous impression that the boss was very fond of him.*

**escalate****verb** /ˈɛskəleɪt/

to become greater, worse, or more serious

*At times, minor disagreements between people can escalate into serious fights.*

**esplanade****noun** /ˌɛspləˈneɪd/

a long, level area along which people may walk for pleasure

*The couple enjoy their walks along the esplanade.*

**essence****noun** /ˈɛsnəs/

the most important quality or feature of something

*Her paintings capture the essence of our country.*

**estuary****noun** /ˈɛstʃuəri/

the wide part of a river where it flows into the sea

*An estuary contains both fresh and salt water.*

**eucalyptus****noun** /ˌjuːkəˈlɪptəs/

a tall straight tree with leaves that produce an oil with a strong smell

*He was sitting under the shadow of a tall eucalyptus, reading a book.*

**euphemism****noun** /ˈjuːfəˌmɪzəm/

a mild word or phrase that is used to refer to something unpleasant

*"User fees" is a politician's euphemism for taxes.*

**euphoria****noun** /juːˈfɔːriə/

strong feeling of well-being

*I was in a state of euphoria after my victory.*

**exacerbate****verb** /ɪgˈzæsəbeɪt/

make something worse

*Your intrusion will only exacerbate the situation.*

**exceed****verb** /ɪkˈsiːd/

to be greater than

*He was instructed not to let his monthly expenditure exceed a certain limit.*

## E

12 to 14  
age group**excerpt****noun** /'eksɜːpt/

a short piece of writing, music, film taken from a longer whole

*The magazine will be carrying an excerpt from his new book.***exchequer****noun** /ɪks'tʃekə[r]/

a royal or national treasury

*The Chancellor of the Exchequer takes the credit for the strong economy.***exemplify****verb** /ɪg'zemplɪfaɪ/

to be a typical example

*I would like my food to exemplify Italian cooking at its best.***exhilarate****verb** /ɪg'zɪləreɪt/

cause to feel very happy

*A bungee jump will exhilarate you more than a roller coaster ride.***existential****adjective** /ɪgzɪ'stenʃəl/

connected with human existence

*The existential philosopher put forward a new theory, which was widely criticised.***expedient****adjective** /ɪk'spiːdiənt/

advantageous but not always fair

*The government has decided that a cut in interest rates would be politically expedient.***explicit****adjective** /ɪk'splɪsɪt/

clear and easy to understand

*He gave me very explicit directions on how to get to his place.***extinguish****verb** /ɪk'stɪŋgwɪʃ/

to make a fire stop burning or a light stop shining

*The water was not enough to extinguish the fire.***extortionate****adjective** /ɪk'stɔːʃənət/

grossly over-priced

*They are offering loans at extortionate rates of interest.***extradite****verb** /'ekstrədaɪt/

to officially send back somebody who has been accused of a crime to the place where the crime was committed

*The British government attempted to extradite the suspects from Belgium.***extrapolate****verb** /ɪk'stræpəleɪt/

to estimate something not known from data or information available

*I am trying to extrapolate some results from research done in other countries.***extravagant****adjective** /ɪk'strævəgənt/

spending or using more than you can afford

*She has very extravagant tastes.***exuberant****adjective** /ɪg'zjuːbərənt/

full of energy, excitement and happiness

*She gave an exuberant performance at the piano recital.*

**fabricate****verb** /'fæbrɪkeɪt/

to make up something false

*He likes to fabricate stories which have very little truth in them.***facet****noun** /'fæsɪt/

a particular part or aspect of something

*As they struggled to find a solution, they realised there was another facet to the problem.***facetious****adjective** /fə'siːʃəs/

joking

*She was angry with him for making a facetious remark about her appearance.***factotum****noun** /fæk'tɒtəm/

an employee who does all kinds of work

*He has been working as a factotum at this office for a long time.***facula****noun** /'fækjʊlə/

an irregular, unusually bright patch on the sun's surface.

*Facula causes an appearance of spots on the surface of the sun.***falconry****noun** /'fɔːlkənri/

the art or sport of keeping and breeding birds of prey and training them to hunt

*The sheikh's interest in falconry far exceeded his other hobbies.***fallacious****adjective** /fə'leɪʃəs/

wrong, based on a false idea

*The fallacious arguments in his presentation were pointed out by the teacher.***fallacy****noun** /'fæləsi/

a misleading argument

*It is a fallacy to say that the camera never lies.***famine****noun** /'fæmɪn/

extreme scarcity of food

*There is widespread poverty and famine in some parts of Africa.***fanaticism****noun** /fə'nætɪsɪzəm/

extreme beliefs or behaviour

*The management decided to take action against fanaticism.***fastidious****adjective** /fæ'stɪdiəs/

very accurate and detailed

*Everything was planned in fastidious detail.***fatigue****noun** /fə'tiːg/

extreme tiredness

*He was suffering from both physical and mental fatigue.***favourable****adjective** /'feɪvərəbəl/

expressing approval

*She made a favourable impression on his parents.***febrifuge****noun** /'febrɪfjuːdʒ/

a medicine or remedy that is used to reduce fever

*Febrifuge is similar to any drug used to reduce fever.***feign****verb** /feɪn/

to pretend

*She decided to feign illness so she could leave her work place early.*

## F

12 to 14  
age group**elicitous****adjective** /fə'li:sɪtəs/

apt; suitably expressed; well chosen

*Being famous for his felicitous remarks, he was called to serve as master-of-ceremonies at the banquet.***fellowship****noun** /'feləʊʃɪp/

an organised group of people who share an interest, aim or belief

*The church welcomed new members into its fellowship.***ferocious****adjective** /fə'rəʊʃəs/

savagely fierce, cruel, or violent

*The ferocious lion rushed towards the antelope.***fervour****noun** /'fɜ:və[r] /

passion, very strong feelings

*His speech was marked with a strong patriotic fervour.***fetish****noun** /'fetɪʃ/

an object or principle irrationally revered

*Some women have a fetish about new clothes.***fibre****noun** /'faɪbə[r] /

the part of food that helps in digestion and helps a person keep healthy

*Beans and dried fruit are healthy foods as they are high in fibre.***fibrinogen****noun** /'faɪbrɪnədʒən/

a substance in the blood from which fibrin is produced

*A test was performed to check the level of fibrinogen in his blood.***fibrous****adjective** /'faɪbrəs/

having to do with or made of threads

*Muscles are made up of fibrous tissue.***fictitious****adjective** /fɪk'tɪʃəs/

invented, not true

*The fictitious places in the novel really fascinated the readers.***field****noun** /fi:ld/

an area of land, usually surrounded by a hedge or fence, used for cattle or for growing crops

*The girl's pony was kept in the field outside the farm.***fierce****adjective** /fiəs/

violent, cruel, angry

*He was badly injured after being attacked by a fierce dog.***figurine****noun** /'fɪgəri:n/

a small statue of a person or an animal used as a decorative object

*She presented me with a beautiful figurine from China.***filigree****noun** /'fɪlɪgri:/

delicate, lace-like metal work

*She wore beautiful silver filigree earrings.***fiscal****adjective** /'fɪskl/

connected with government or public money specially taxes

*The government proposed new fiscal policies to improve the country's economy.***flair****noun** /'fleɪ[r] /

the natural ability to do something well

*She has a flair for learning new languages.***flamboyant****adjective** /fləm'boɪənt/

ostentatious, showy

*She dresses in a very flamboyant style.*

12 to 14  
age group

F

**flea****noun** /fli/

a very small jumping insect without wings, that feeds on the blood of humans and animals

**flounder****verb** /'flaʊndə[r]/

to move clumsily or with difficulty  
*I am a very good swimmer and will not flounder in deep water.*

**fluctuation****noun** /,flʌktʃu'eɪʃn/

irregular variation  
*The constant fluctuation in voltage prevented the air conditioner from cooling the room.*

**fluke****noun** /flu:k/

a lucky or unusual thing that happens by accident and not because of planning or skill  
*They are determined to show that their last victory was no fluke.*

**fluorescence****noun** /,flɔ:'resns/

light given out by a substance when it is exposed to radiation  
*Fluorescence has been used to study the structure and conformations of DNA techniques.*

**fluorescent****adjective** /,flɔ:'resnt/

producing or sending out a bright light  
*They painted the room bright fluorescent pink.*

**fluoride****noun** /'flɔ:raɪd/

a chemical substance that protects teeth from decay  
*Fluoride is added to drinking water in some countries.*

**foible****noun** /'fɔɪbl/

a minor character flaw  
*The strict boss would not tolerate any foible in his subordinate.*

**forbear****verb** /fɔ:'beə[r]/

to refrain from  
*Although she was furious, she decided to forbear from taking any impulsive action.*

**foreboding****noun** /fɔ:'bəʊdɪŋ/

a feeling that something unpleasant is going to happen  
*She had a sense of foreboding that the news would be bad.*

**foreign****adjective** /'fɔ:rən/

in or from a country that is not your own  
*He learnt a foreign language within one year.*

**formidable****adjective** /'fɔ:mɪdəbl/

difficult to deal with or overcome  
*His recent victories in tennis have given him the reputation of being a formidable opponent.*

**fowl****noun** /faʊl/

a bird, especially one kept on a farm  
*A chicken is a type of fowl.*

**fragment****noun** /'frægmənt/

a small part of something  
*I could only save a fragment of the document.*

**fraudulent****adjective** /'frɔ:dʒələnt/

dishonest  
*He was put in prison for his fraudulent behaviour.*

**frequency****noun** /'frɪkwənsi/

the number of any occurrence within a given time  
*Natural disasters appear to happen with increasing frequency.*

## F

12 to 14  
age group**frigate**

**noun** /'frɪgət/  
a small fast ship  
*A frigate accompanied the battleship.*

**frightful**

**adjective** /'fraɪtfl/  
causing fear, dreadful  
*The frightful expression on her face alarmed everyone in the room.*

**frivolous**

**adjective** /'frɪvələs/  
not serious or important  
*She spends too much money on frivolous things.*

**frolicking**

**noun** /'frɒlɪkɪŋ/  
playing in a lively way  
*Please stop this frolicking around and get on with your work.*

**frugal**

**adjective** /'fru:ɡl/  
careful, economical  
*They had a frugal meal at a small restaurant.*

**fulfilment**

**noun** /fʊl'fɪlmənt/  
satisfaction  
*The members of the committee could look back on their report with a feeling of fulfilment.*

**fumble**

**verb** /'fʌmbəl/  
to feel about or look for something uncertainly  
*She started to fumble around in her pockets for the key.*

**fumigate**

**verb** /'fju:mɪgeɪt/  
to disinfect with chemical vapour  
*He had to fumigate his cotton fields every year.*

**funereal**

**adjective** /fju'nɪəriəl/  
gloomy, dismal  
*There was a funereal atmosphere in their house for days after their mother's death.*

**gallivant****verb** /'gælɪvənt/

to go from place to place in excitement

*At the weekend he likes to gallivant from one party to the next.***galore****adjective** /gə'leɪ[r]/

in large numbers or amounts

*They have flowers galore in their garden every spring.***gander****noun** /'gændə[r]/

a male goose

**gangrene****noun** /'gæŋgrɪn/

the decay of a part of the body due to obstructed circulation

*He has developed frostbite in his foot and is taking antibiotics to stop gangrene from setting in.***gangrenous****adjective** /'gæŋgrɪnəs/

decomposing (of bodily tissue)

*Patients with gangrenous limbs were treated at the clinic.***ganymede****noun** /'gənimɪd/

the largest moon of the planet Jupiter

*Ganymede was originally sighted by Galileo and is one of the largest satellites in the solar system.***gargantuan****adjective** /gɑ:'gæntʃuən/

enormous

*Big Lenny has always had a gargantuan appetite.***gargle****verb** /'gɑ:gl/

to wash the throat with a liquid

*He was asked to gargle with salt and hot water everyday to cure his sore throat.***garrulous****adjective** /'gærələs/

talking too much

*One should not trust a garrulous person with a secret.***gauche****adjective** /gəʊʃ/

socially shy and clumsy

*The gauche schoolgirl often landed in trouble by saying the wrong things.***gaunt****adjective** /gɔ:nt/

very thin because of hunger, illness

*The gaunt faces of the starved children in Ethiopia was a sorrowful sight.***gazebo****noun** /gə'zi:bəʊ/

a small building with open sides usually in a garden offering a wide view of the surrounding area

*We sat in the gazebo admiring the beautiful view of the garden.***gazette****noun** /gə'zet/

an official newspaper published by an organisation

*She frequently wrote for the company's gazette.***gelatine****noun** /'dʒelətɪn/

a clear, tasteless substance used in foods

*The chef used gelatine in the cheesecake.***genesis****noun** /'dʒenəsɪs/

the beginning or origin of something

*He proposed a new theory about the genesis of civilization.***genius****noun** /'dʒi:niəs/

unusual great intelligence, skill or artistic ability

*Her idea was a stroke of genius.*

## G

12 to 14  
age group**genome****noun** /ˈdʒiːnəʊm/

the complete set of genes in a cell or living thing  
*The human genome is a very complex yet intricate part of nature.*

**geodesic****adjective** /ˌdʒiːəʊˈdesɪk/

denoting the shortest possible line between two points on a curved surface  
*Geodesic structures are especially good at spanning large spaces*

**germanium****noun** /dʒɜːˈmeɪniəm/

a grey crystalline element with semiconducting properties, resembling silicon  
*Garlic, along with several other minerals, contains germanium.*

**gesture****noun** /ˈdʒestʃə[r]/

a movement of the hand, head or face to show feeling  
*He made a rude gesture at the driver of the other car.*

**geyser****noun** /ˈgiːzə[r]/

a hot spring in which water intermittently boils and gushes out  
*The local geyser attracts many tourists.*

**ghastly****adjective** /ˈgɑːstli/

very frightening and unpleasant  
*The news of the ghastly murder shocked everyone in the small town.*

**giraffe****noun** /dʒəˈrɑːf/

a large African animal with very long legs and neck

**glaciation****noun** /ˌgleɪsiˈeɪʃn/

the movement of a mass of ice over an area of land  
*Global warming is having a harmful effect on glaciation.*

**glacier****noun** /ˈglæsiə[r]/

a large mass of ice that moves very slowly down a valley  
*A glacier is a slow-moving river of ice.*

**glimpse****noun** /ˈɡlɪmpz/

a quick, incomplete view or look  
*He caught a glimpse of the intruder's face from the window.*

**glitch****noun** /ˈɡlɪtʃ/

a small problem or fault  
*The pilot blamed the delay on a technical glitch.*

**glitterati****plural noun** /ˌɡlɪtəˈrɑːti/

fashionable people involved in show business or other glamorous activity  
*The red carpet affair was littered with glitterati from television to the big screen.*

**globular****adjective** /ˈɡləʊbjələ[r]/

spherical or shaped like a globe  
*On her birthday, her father gave her a lovely lamp with a globular shade.*

**glorious****adjective** /ˈɡləːriəs/

splendid or magnificent  
*It was such a glorious day that we decided to go to the beach.*

**glossary****noun** /ˈɡləʊsəri/

a list in a book with explanation of special words used in the text  
*I found the glossary at the end of the book very useful.*

12 to 14  
age group

G

**gluon****noun** /'glu:ɒn/

a subatomic particle of a class that is thought to bind quarks together

*The first direct experimental evidence of a gluon was noted in 1979.*

**glutinous****adjective** /'glu:tənəs/

sticky

*She served an unappetising and glutinous dessert.*

**goitre****noun** /'gɔɪtə[r]/

a swelling of the throat caused by a disease of the thyroid gland

*Goitre is more common in females than in males.*

**gondolier****noun** /'gɒndə'liə[r]/

a Venetian boatman

*The gondolier sang a ballad while he rowed.*

**goose****noun** /gu:s/

a big aquatic bird that has a long neck

**gorgonzola****noun** /'gɔ:gen'zəʊlə/

a strong-flavoured Italian cheese with bluish-green veins

*He bought a packet of gorgonzola from the store.*

**gorilla****noun** /'gɔ'rɪlə/

a very large powerful African ape

*The mountain gorilla is close to extinction.*

**gradient****noun** /'greɪdiənt/

the degree of a slope

*The gradient of the hill was too steep to climb.*

**graduation****noun** /'grædʒu'eɪʃn/

successful completion of a university degree

*She received many job offers even before her graduation.*

**grandiose****adjective** /'grændiəs/

on an impressive scale

*I was greatly impressed by the grandiose architecture of the mosque.*

**granulated****adjective** /'grænjulətɪd/

in the form of grains

*Granulated salt is mixed with iodine to make it more healthy.*

**gratuitous****adjective** /grə'tju:ɪtəs/

done without reason or purpose

*Films are full of gratuitous violence these days.*

**gratuity****noun** /grə'tju:eti/

money that you give to somebody who has provided a service for you

*Waiters are usually paid a fifteen% gratuity in the United States.*

**grease****noun** /'greɪs/

a thick substance containing oil

*You will need liquid detergent to get the grease off the plates.*

**Grecian****adjective** /'gri:ʃn/

from ancient Greece

*Grecian architecture is renowned for its beauty and elegance.*

**gregarious****adjective** /'grɪ'geəriəs/

sociable or liking the company of others

*The gregarious child amused everyone at the birthday party.*

## G

12 to 14  
age group**gristle****noun** /ˈɡrɪsl/

tough, flexible tissue in vertebrates

*The gristle in the meat really spoiled the dinner for me.***guacamole****noun** /ˌɡwækəˈməʊli/

a dish of mashed avocado

*She made guacamole for the picnic.***gymnastics****noun** /dʒɪmˈnæstɪks/

physical exercises using special equipment

*Gymnastics is a sport that requires a lot of patience and determination.***gynaecology****noun** /ˌɡaɪnəˈkɒlədʒi/

the scientific study and treatment of the diseases and medical conditions of women

*She is specialising in the field of gynaecology.***gypsum****noun** /ˈdʒɪpsəm/

a soft, white mineral like chalk

*Pakistan has large deposits of high quality gypsum.***gyroscope****noun** /ˈdʒaɪrəskəʊp/

a device used to provide stability or maintain a fixed direction

*The gyroscope malfunctioned and threw them off course.*

12 to 14  
age group

H

**habitual**

**adjective** /hə'bitʃuəl/  
regular, customary  
*She is a habitual liar.*

**hackneyed**

**adjective** /'hæknid/  
unoriginal and dull  
*She often uses the most hackneyed phrase to make her point.*

**haemophilia**

**noun** /,hi:mə'filiə/  
a medical condition in which the blood fails to clot normally  
*Patients suffering from haemophilia must be extremely wary of anything that could cause them injury.*

**halitosis**

**noun** /,hæli'təʊsɪs/  
a condition in which the breath smells unpleasant  
*Halitosis can often be remedied by something as simple as toothpaste.*

**hallucination**

**noun** /hə,lʊ:sɪ'neɪʃn/  
vision of something that is not present  
*Some drugs can cause a hallucination.*

**halogens**

**noun** /'hælədʒəns/  
any of a set of five chemical elements that react with hydrogen to form acids  
*Halogens, in the form of gas, are used in lamps and cookers.*

**hammock**

**noun** /'hæmək/  
a hanging bed made of canvas or a network of ropes  
*Mark is always asleep in the hammock in his backyard.*

**haphazard**

**adjective** /hæp'hæzəd/  
with no particular order or plan; not organised well  
*The books had been piled on the shelf in a haphazard fashion.*

**harangue**

**noun** /hə'ræŋ/  
a long, forceful speech  
*We had to listen to his political harangue for over an hour.*

**harmonious**

**adjective** /hɑ:'məʊniəs/  
forming a pleasing combination  
*My wife and I have a harmonious relationship.*

**harpoon**

**noun** /hɑ:'pu:n/  
a weapon like a spear on a rope, that is thrown or fired from a gun  
*The hunters in Africa still use the harpoon as their main weapon against wild animals.*

**hatchet**

**noun** /'hætʃɪt/  
a small axe  
*The angry man picked up a hatchet in a threatening manner.*

**haughtiness**

**noun** /'hɔ:tinəs/  
pride; arrogance  
*His haughtiness is disliked by all.*

**hazardous**

**adjective** /'hæzədəs/  
dangerous  
*The hazardous chemical waste should not be disposed of in the ocean.*

## H

12 to 14  
age group**hedge****noun** /hedʒ/

a row of bushes, shrubs or tall plants forming a boundary for a garden, field

*The hedge around our garden needs trimming every few weeks.***hedgehog****noun** /hedʒhɒg/

a small brown animal covered with sharp spikes

**hegemony****noun** /hi'dʒeməni/

dominance of one group or state over another

*Western hegemony is growing in most parts of Asia.***helmet****noun** /helmit/

a type of hard hat that you wear to protect your head

*He never rides a motorcycle without wearing a helmet.***hemisphere****noun** /hemɪsfɪə[r]/

one half of the Earth

*Pakistan is located in the Northern hemisphere.***hepatitis****noun** /ˌhepə'taɪtɪs/

inflammation of the liver

*She has been missing school because she is suffering from hepatitis.***herald****verb** /herəld/

to signal the approach of

*These talks could herald a new era of peace.***herbaceous****adjective** /hɜː'beɪʃəs/

relating to certain plants

*She wanted to put some herbaceous plants in the house.***hereditary****adjective** /hə'redɪtri/

passed on from parent to child

*Epilepsy is a hereditary illness.***heritage****noun** /herɪtɪdʒ/

the history, traditions and qualities important to a society or country

*Europe is known for its rich cultural heritage.***heroin****noun** /herəʊɪn/

a strong addictive drug made from morphine

*Customs officials arrested a man and recovered six kilograms of heroin from him.***herringbone****noun** /herɪŋbəʊn/

a pattern used in stitching consisting of V-shaped lines that are parallel to each other

*The napkin was embroidered in herringbone.***heterogeneous****adjective** /ˌhetərə'dʒiːniəs/

formed of parts of different kinds

*The population is a heterogeneous mixture of various races and ethnic groups.***hiccup****noun** /hɪkʌp/

a sharp, usually repeated sound like a cough when the breath is briefly interrupted

*She gave a loud hiccup in class.***hideous****adjective** /'hɪdiəs/

frightful, very unpleasant

*The whole experience seemed like some hideous nightmare.***hierarchical****adjective** /ˌhaɪə'rɑːkɪkl/

related to a system of status or authority ranked one above another

*The new manager got rid of the company's complicated hierarchical structure.*

12 to 14  
age group

H

**hierarchy****noun** /ˈhaɪərəːki/

organisation with grades or classes ranked one above another

*She is quite high up in the management hierarchy.***hieroglyphics****noun** /ˌhaɪərəˈɡlɪfɪks/

a system of writing using a picture to represent a word or sound

*Some Egyptian hieroglyphics are beautiful works of art.***hilarious****adjective** /hɪˈleəriəs/

extremely funny

*The hilarious situation made everyone laugh.***hindrance****noun** /ˈhɪndrəns/

an obstruction or obstacle

*Stalled cars along the highway are a hindrance to traffic.***hippopotamus****noun** /ˌhɪpəˈpɒtəməs/

a large African animal with a thick skin, found in swampy areas, lakes and rivers

**holocaust****noun** /ˈhɒləkɔːst/

a large scale destruction

*We saw a documentary about the nuclear holocaust in Japan.***homeostasis****noun** /ˌhɒmɪəʊsteɪsɪs/

the self regulating maintenance of the metabolic process

*Homeostatis is essential for survival.***homicide****noun** /ˈhɒmɪsaɪd/

murder

*In the United Kingdom, the punishment for homicide is life imprisonment.***hominidae****noun** /ˈhɒmɪnɪd/

modern man and his extinct predecessors

*Chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans and humans fall in the category of hominidae.***homogeneous****adjective** /ˌhɒməˈdʒiːniəs/

formed of parts of the same kind

*The town caters well for the similar needs of its homogeneous population.***horde****noun** /hɔːd/

a large group or crowd

*A horde of spectators rushed onto the football field.***horrendous****adjective** /hɒˈrendəs/

extremely shocking and unpleasant

*We saw a horrendous car accident on the motorway.***horrible****adjective** /ˈhɒrəbl/

very bad or unpleasant

*The horrible weather at the hill station spoiled their vacation.***hostess****noun** /ˈhəʊstəs/

a woman who invites guests to a meal, and looks after them

*Mary was always the perfect hostess.***hullabaloo****noun** /ˌhʌləbæˈluː/

a lot of loud noise, an uproar

*The protestors created a hullabaloo outside Parliament House.***humanitarian****noun** /ˌhjuːməniˈteəriən/

person concerned with human welfare

*He is the consummate humanitarian and lives to serve people in need.*

## H

12 to 14  
age group**husbandry****noun** /ˈhʌzbændri/

farming

*He is engaged in animal husbandry.***hybrid****noun** /ˈhaɪbrɪd/

a plant or animal produced by combining two different species or varieties

*The scientist announced that the odd-looking plant was a hybrid.***hydraulic****adjective** /haɪˈdrɔːlɪk/

involving the movement of water or oil through pipes under pressure

*The hydraulic pump stopped working due to low voltage.***hydrophone****noun** /ˈhaɪdrəfəʊn/a microphone that detects sound waves under water  
*A hydrophone can detect submarines by the noise of their engines.***hyena****noun** /haɪˈiːnə/

a wild animal that looks like a wolf and makes shrieking sounds

**hygiene****noun** /ˈhaɪdʒiːn/

rules for the prevention of disease through cleanliness

*In the interests of hygiene, children must be made to wash their hands before eating.***hymn****noun** /hɪm/

a religious song

*As soon as she started singing the hymn the entire hall fell silent.***hypnosis****noun** /hɪpˈnəʊsɪs/

an artificially produced state like deep sleep

*Many people use hypnosis to cure bad habits such as smoking.***hypnotic****adjective** /hɪpˈnɒtɪk/

inducing a trance-like sleep

*His voice had an almost hypnotic effect on me.***hypocrisy****noun** /hɪˈpɒkrəsi/

false virtue or goodness

*He condemned the hypocrisy of those politicians who say one thing and do another.***hypocrite****noun** /hɪˈpɒkraɪt/

one who pretends to be good and virtuous

*She was a hypocrite who pretended to be very righteous and honest.***hypothesis****noun** /haɪˈpɒθəʊsɪs/

a theory

*The scientist wanted to perform a series of experiments to test his hypothesis.***hypothetical****adjective** /ˌhaɪpəˈθetɪkəl/

based on an imagined or possible situation rather than fact

*I wasn't asking about anybody in particular; it was a hypothetical question.***hysterical****adjective** /hɪˈsterɪkəl/

uncontrollably emotional

*She broke into a hysterical giggle after listening to the joke.*

**ideology****noun** /aɪdi'ɒlədʒi/

a system of ideas and principles forming the basis of an economic or political theory

*The constitution of Pakistan is based on the ideology of Islam.*

**idiosyncrasy****noun** /ɪdiə'sɪŋkrəsi/

a person's particular way of behaving, thinking especially when it is unusual

*It is her idiosyncrasy to wear a raincoat on a hot day.*

**igneous****adjective** /ɪɡniəs/

relating to rocks formed by action from volcanoes

*Sarah carried out an in-depth research on igneous rock formation as part of her geology course.*

**ignition****noun** /ɪɡ'nɪʃn/

the electrical system of a vehicle that makes the fuel begin to burn to start the engine

*The car's ignition needs to be repaired.*

**ignorant****adjective** /ɪɡnərənt/

lacking knowledge or awareness

*Her ignorant attitude irritated the class teacher.*

**illiterate****adjective** /ɪ'lɪtərət/

unable to read or write

*A large number of the illiterate population was a hindrance in the growth of the country.*

**illustration****noun** /ɪlə'streɪʃn/

drawing or picture

*The illustration on the cover of the book was made by a famous artist.*

**imbecile****noun** /ɪmbəsi:l/

a rude way to describe a person one believes to be stupid

*He behaved like an imbecile at the party last night.*

**imbue****verb** /ɪm'bju:/

to fill somebody with strong feelings, opinions or values

*The leader gave an inspirational speech in an effort to imbue the workers with a new spirit.*

**imitation****noun** /ɪmɪ'teɪʃn/

a copy

*The thief stole an imitation of Van Gogh's painting, thinking it was the original.*

**immaculate****adjective** /ɪ'mækjələt/

completely clean, without faults

*The car is in immaculate condition.*

**immature****adjective** /ɪmə'tjʊə[r]/

behaving in a way that is not sensible and is typical of people who are much younger

*The teenage girl's immature behaviour was a cause of concern for her parents.*

**immense****adjective** /ɪ'mens/

huge

*There is still an immense amount of work to be done.*

**immerse****verb** /ɪ'mɜ:s/

to put something in a liquid so that it is covered

*I told him not to immerse his head in the cold water of the swimming pool but he did not listen.*

**immiscible****adjective** /ɪ'mɪsəbl/

cannot be mixed together

*Oil and water are immiscible liquids.*

**immutable****adjective** /ɪ'mju:təbl/

unchangeable

*Death is an immutable fact of life.*

## 12 to 14 age group

### impairment

**noun** /ɪm'peɪmənt/  
a physical or a mental weakness  
*His physical impairment did not stop him from excelling in his work.*

### impale

**verb** /ɪm'peɪl/  
to pierce with a sharp, pointed object  
*He picked up a skewer to impale the meat and barbecue it.*

### impeach

**verb** /ɪm'pi:tʃ/  
to accuse an important public figure of a serious crime  
*They wanted to impeach the president but were forced to abandon their plan.*

### impeccable

**adjective** /ɪm'pekəbl/  
faultless or flawless  
*His impeccable manners impressed his employer.*

### impede

**verb** /ɪm'pi:d/  
to obstruct or hinder  
*Failure to pass this exam will impede your academic progress.*

### impediment

**noun** /ɪm'pedɪmənt/  
obstruction  
*Lack of funds is a serious impediment to scientific progress.*

### impenetrable

**adjective** /ɪm'penɪtrəbl/  
that cannot be entered or passed through  
*The castle has strong, impenetrable walls.*

### impenitent

**adjective** /ɪm'penɪtənt/  
not sorry for having done wrong  
*The impenitent thief was not afraid of punishment.*

### imperious

**adjective** /ɪm'pɪəriəs/  
domineering  
*I cannot tolerate his imperious demands any more.*

### impermeable

**adjective** /ɪm'pɜːmiəbl/  
not allowing fluid to pass through  
*Metal is an impermeable substance.*

### impetuous

**adjective** /ɪm'petʃuəs/  
acting without thinking about the results  
*She made an impetuous decision which she regretted later.*

### implacable

**adjective** /ɪm'plækəbl/  
that cannot be appeased  
*He is Ted's implacable enemy.*

### implementation

**noun** /ɪm'plɪmən'teɪʃn/  
carrying out of a plan  
*Very little has been achieved in the implementation of the peace agreement signed last year.*

### importunate

**adjective** /ɪm'pɔːtʃənət/  
persistent  
*I tried to get rid of the importunate beggar but he kept following me.*

### impostor

**noun** /ɪm'pɒstə[r]/  
one who pretends to be somebody else  
*The impostor made his way carefully to the bank vault dressed as a security guard.*

### imprint

**noun** /ɪm'prɪnt/  
a mark made by pressing or stamping something onto a surface  
*The blow made a sharp imprint on the skin.*

**impromptu**

**adjective** /ɪmˈprɒmptjuː/  
unplanned or unrehearsed  
*He was asked to give an impromptu speech after dinner.*

**improvident**

**adjective** /ɪmˈprɒvɪdənt/  
wasteful and not caring about future needs  
*I warned him to mend his improvident ways and to begin saving for his future.*

**improvise**

**verb** /ɪmˈprɒvaɪz/  
to make or do something using whatever is available  
*I will improvise a costume for myself out of an old blue dress.*

**impulse**

**noun** /ɪmˈpʌls/  
a sudden desire to do something without thinking about the results  
*She felt an irresistible impulse to buy the expensive shoes.*

**inadequate**

**adjective** /ɪnˈædɪkwət/  
not enough or not good enough  
*The inadequate food supplies could not meet the needs of the hungry refugees.*

**inauspicious**

**adjective** /ɪnɔːˈspɪʃəs/  
not favourable or promising, unlucky  
*Riots in the country lead to an inauspicious beginning of the new year.*

**inborn**

**adjective** /ɪnˈbɔːn/  
a quality that you are born with  
*He has an inborn talent for music.*

**incandescent**

**adjective** /ɪnkændesnt/  
glowing as a result of being heated  
*The incandescent lamps created a beautiful ambience.*

**incapacitate**

**verb** /ɪnkəˈpæsɪteɪt/  
to disable or make a person unfit for work  
*The sickness was going to eventually incapacitate the old man.*

**incarcerate**

**verb** /ɪnˈkɑːsəreɪt/  
to imprison  
*They decided to incarcerate him in the dungeon of the old castle.*

**incarnate**

**adjective** /ɪnˈkɑːnət/  
in human form  
*The leader seemed the devil incarnate.*

**incinerate**

**verb** /ɪnˈsɪnəreɪt/  
to consume by fire  
*The hospital must incinerate all waste on a daily basis.*

**incipient**

**adjective** /ɪnˈsɪpiənt/  
at an early stage  
*The ruler could see the signs of incipient unrest.*

**incision**

**noun** /ɪnˈsɪʒn/  
a sharp cut  
*The surgeon made an incision below the patient's ribs.*

**incite**

**verb** /ɪnˈsaɪt/  
to encourage someone to do something violent, illegal or unpleasant  
*His poetry has the potential to incite the public to rebel.*

**incontrovertible**

**adjective** /ɪnkɒntrəˈvɜːtəbl/  
something that is true and cannot be disputed  
*The lawyer was able to present incontrovertible evidence in favour of his client.*

## 12 to 14 age group

### incorporeal

**adjective** /ɪnˈkɔːpəəriəl/  
without a material body or form  
*Ghosts are supposed to be incorporeal beings.*

### incorrigible

**adjective** /ɪnˈkɔrɪdʒəbəl/  
incurably bad  
*Her husband is an incorrigible flirt.*

### indebted

**adjective** /ɪnˈdetɪd/  
owing gratitude  
*I am deeply indebted to my family for all their help.*

### indecipherable

**adjective** /ɪndɪˈsaɪfrəbəl/  
not able to be read or understood  
*There was an indecipherable message on the notepad by the telephone.*

### indiscriminate

**adjective** /ɪndɪˈskrɪmɪnət/  
making no distinction  
*Terrorist gunmen engaged in indiscriminate firing last night.*

### indisputable

**adjective** /ɪndɪˈspjuːtəbəl/  
unquestionable  
*The indisputable evidence made it easy for the jury to come to a unanimous decision.*

### indissoluble

**adjective** /ɪndɪˈsɒljəbəl/  
lasting  
*They were linked in an indissoluble bond of friendship.*

### inductive

**adjective** /ɪnˈdʌktɪv/  
using particular facts and examples to form general rules and principles  
*She used the results of her experiments as inductive reasoning for her theory.*

### indulgent

**adjective** /ɪnˈdʌldʒənt/  
tending to allow somebody to have or do whatever they want; ready to overlook faults  
*Mariah is always getting her way with her indulgent parents.*

### inevitable

**adjective** /ɪnˈevɪtəbəl/  
unavoidable  
*It was an inevitable consequence of the decision.*

### inexorable

**adjective** /ɪnˈeksərəbəl/  
relentless  
*The inexorable rise in crime is a result of the high levels of unemployment.*

### infallible

**adjective** /ɪnˈfæləbəl/  
never making mistakes or being wrong  
*The professor always gave infallible advice to his students.*

### infectious

**adjective** /ɪnˈfekʃəs/  
likely to spread  
*Influenza is a highly infectious disease.*

### inference

**noun** /ɪnfərəns/  
deduction  
*The clear inference from this data is that the universe is expanding.*

### infiltrate

**verb** /ɪnˈfɪltreɪt/  
to enter gradually and imperceptibly  
*Enemy spies are planning to infiltrate the army headquarters.*

### infinitesimal

**adjective** /ɪnˈfɪnɪˈtesɪməl/  
extremely small  
*The infinitesimal granules were barely visible to the naked eye.*

**inflammable**

**adjective** /ɪnˈflæməbəl/  
burning quickly and easily  
*Parachutes are made of inflammable material.*

**inflammatory**

**adjective** /ɪnˈflæmətri/  
causing very strong feelings  
*The boss's inflammatory remarks angered the workers.*

**inflexible**

**adjective** /ɪnˈfleksəbəl/  
rigid, unbending  
*Her inflexible attitude may be the reason why nobody likes her.*

**infringe**

**verb** /ɪnˈfrɪndʒ/  
to violate  
*One should not infringe upon the rights of other people.*

**infuriate**

**verb** /ɪnˈfjuəriət/  
to make someone extremely angry  
*Their constant criticism will infuriate him.*

**ingredient**

**noun** /ɪnˈɡriːdiənt/  
one of the things from which something is made, especially one of the foods that are used together to prepare a particular dish  
*The pasta did not taste very good because she forgot to add the key ingredient.*

**initial**

**adjective** /ɪˈniʃl/  
of or at the beginning  
*My initial reaction was to refuse the offer.*

**injudicious**

**adjective** /ɪˌɪndʒuˈdɪʃəs/  
showing poor judgement; unwise  
*Spending all that money on something so useless was an injudicious act.*

**injunction**

**noun** /ɪnˈdʒʌŋkʃn/  
an official order from a court of law to do/not do something  
*The court granted an injunction against the defendants.*

**innocuous**

**adjective** /ɪˈnɒkjʊəs/  
not intending or causing any harm  
*It seemed to be a perfectly innocuous remark.*

**inquire**

**verb** /ɪnˈkwaɪə[r]/  
to ask  
*The inspector started to inquire about the events of the night in order to find the culprit.*

**insatiable**

**adjective** /ɪnˈseɪjəbəl/  
cannot be satisfied  
*There seems to be an insatiable demand for more powerful computers.*

**insidious**

**adjective** /ɪnˈsɪdiəs/  
progressing secretly or subtly  
*The whole village suffers from the insidious effects of a polluted water supply.*

**inspire**

**verb** /ɪnˈspaɪə[r]/  
to give somebody the desire, confidence or enthusiasm to do something well  
*The renowned actor visited schools in an effort to inspire students to take up acting.*

**integrity**

**noun** /ɪnˈtegrəti/  
the quality of being honest or moral  
*He is known to be a man of integrity.*

**intercede**

**verb** /ɪˌɪntəˈsiːd/  
to intervene on behalf of another  
*The argument got so heated that I had to intercede.*

## 12 to 14 age group

### intervene

**verb** /ɪntə'veɪn/

to interfere

*The government had to intervene to prevent fighting between the tribes.*

### intimidation

**noun** /ɪn'tɪmɪ'deɪʃn/

threatening or frightening behaviour

*There was an inquiry into allegations of intimidation during last week's vote.*

### intolerant

**adjective** /ɪn'tɒlərənt/

not willing to accept ideas or behaviour different from your own

*Her intolerant attitude towards other people's religious beliefs will cause a lot of suffering.*

### intractable

**adjective** /ɪn'træktəbl/

very difficult to deal with

*The country is facing intractable economic problems.*

### intrinsic

**adjective** /ɪn'trɪnsɪk/

existing within, what is essential and natural

*These tasks were lengthy, repetitive and lacking any intrinsic interest.*

### introspection

**noun** /ɪntrə'spekʃn/

examination of one's own feelings and thoughts

*He was lost in introspection.*

### intruder

**noun** /ɪn'truːdə[r]/

a person who enters a place without permission

*Thankfully, the intruder did not steal anything.*

### invincible

**adjective** /ɪn'vɪnsəbl/

too strong to be overcome or defeated

*His invincible belief in his own ability made him successful in life.*

### inviolable

**adjective** /ɪn'vɪələbl/

to be kept sacred

*The area around the mosque was declared an inviolable territory.*

### invulnerable

**adjective** /ɪn'vʌlnərəbl/

impossible to harm or damage

*The invulnerable submarine survived the attacks from the enemy.*

### iodine

**noun** /aɪədiːn/

a chemical substance used as an antiseptic

*Iodine is used in making medicines.*

### iridescent

**adjective** /ɪrɪ'desnt/

showing bright colours that seem to change when seen from different angles

*The hummingbird had iridescent blue feathers.*

### irrelevant

**adjective** /ɪ'reləvənt/

not connected to a given situation

*She has a habit of making irrelevant comments.*

### irreverent

**adjective** /ɪ'revərənt/

lacking respect for sacred things

*The comedy displayed the film-maker's irreverent view.*

### irrevocable

**adjective** /ɪ'revəkəbl/

unalterable

*The judge passed an irrevocable legal decision in her favour.*

### itinerary

**noun** /aɪ'tɪnəri/

a planned route or journey

*Visits to four different countries are included in your itinerary.*

**Jacuzzi****proper noun** /dʒə'ku:zi/

a large bath with jets of water to massage the body  
*A long soak in the Jacuzzi is the most relaxing way to spend an hour.*

**jaundice****noun** /'dʒɔ:ndɪs/

a medical condition in which one's skin and the white portion of the eyes becomes yellow  
*I have never had jaundice in my life.*

**jealous****adjective** /'dʒeləs/

envious  
*The man was jealous of his brother's success..*

**jeopardy****noun** /'dʒepədi/

danger  
*He put his life in jeopardy by trying to attack the thief.*

**jettison****verb** /'dʒetɪsn/

to throw something out of a moving aircraft or ship to make it lighter  
*The cabin crew decided to jettison extra luggage from the aircraft for fear of losing altitude.*

**jingle****noun** /'dʒɪŋɡl/

a metallic ringing sound like small bells  
*The jingle of the wind chimes was very soothing.*

**jocund****adjective** /'dʒɒkənd/

cheerful and light-hearted  
*He always has a jocund remark up his sleeve.*

**journalism****noun** /'dʒɜ:nəlizəm/

the work of writing for, editing or publishing newspapers, magazines  
*She hopes to have a career in journalism.*

**jovial****adjective** /'dʒəʊviəl/

cheerful and friendly  
*He is a jovial and likeable person.*

**jubilant****noun** /,dʒu:bɪ'leɪʃn/

great happiness because of a success  
*His graduation gave his family reason for jubilation.*

**judgement****noun** /'dʒʌdʒmənt/

ability to discern  
*Her poor judgement was reflected in all aspects of her life.*

**judicial****adjective** /dʒu'diʃl/

connected to a court of law, a judge or legal judgement  
*The judicial system in our country needs massive improvement.*

**judicious****adjective** /dʒu'diʃəs/

wise, showing or having good sense  
*She made a judicious decision which proved very beneficial to her.*

**juggle****verb** /'dʒʌɡl/

to do tricks or perform with balls, plates thrown into the air  
*The clown seemed to be able to juggle almost anything.*

**jugular****adjective** /'dʒʌgʒələ[r]/

of the neck or throat  
*The jugular vein carries blood from the head to the heart.*

## J

12 to 14  
age group**junction****noun** /ˈdʒʌŋktʃən/

a particular point or stage in an activity or series of events

*Mary should think carefully before proceeding at this critical juncture.***jurisprudence****noun** /ˌdʒʊəriˈpruːdn̩s/

the science and philosophy of law

*He was a student of jurisprudence rather than a practitioner of law.***justifiable****adjective** /ˈdʒʌstɪfəɪəbl̩/

able to be shown to be right or reasonable

*It was a justifiable act to hit out in self defence.***juvenile****adjective** /ˈdʒuːvənəl/

of or suitable for young people

*The juvenile court has been extremely successful in decreasing the number of young offenders.***juxtapose****verb** /ˌdʒʌkstəˈpəʊz/

to place side by side

*I am planning to juxtapose the photographs with the poems in my book.*

**kaleidoscope****noun** /kə'laɪdəskəʊp/

a tube that you look through to see brightly coloured patterns which change as you turn the end of the tube

*Children found the ever-changing patterns in the kaleidoscope fascinating.*

**kamikaze****adjective** /ˌkæmɪ'kɑːzi/

a Japanese word used to describe the way soldiers attack the enemy knowing that they too will be killed

*World War II saw a large number of kamikaze attacks.*

**kangaroo****noun** /ˌkæŋɡə'ruː/

an Australian animal that moves by jumping on its hind legs and carries its young in a pocket of skin on its belly

**kidnap****verb** /'kɪdnæp/

to take somebody away by force and keep them as a prisoner

*They decided to kidnap the child from his school.*

**kindergarten****noun** /'kɪndəɡɑːtɪn/

a school for very young children

*It is essential for young children to attend kindergarten.*

**kinetic****adjective** /kɪ'netɪk/

to do with or produced by movement

*The car gained kinetic energy as it accelerated.*

**kingfisher****noun** /'kɪŋfɪʃə[r]/

a small brightly coloured bird with a long beak, that catches fish

**kiosk****noun** /'kiːɒsk/

a small open fronted hut or stall where newspapers, sweets are sold

*An old widow runs the kiosk in the nearby village.*

**kleptomania****noun** /ˌkleptə'meɪniə/

recurring urge to steal

*Winona Ryder's kleptomania became headline news.*

**knead****verb** /niːd/

to press and squeeze a mixture of flour and water to make a firm paste

*She would always knead the bread dough early in the morning.*

**kneel****verb** /niːl/

to be or get yourself in a position on your knees

*He was asked to kneel in front of the king in order to beg for forgiveness.*

**knowledgeable****adjective** /'nɒlɪdʒəbəl/

well informed

*Her father is a very knowledgeable person and is capable of winning any quiz contest.*

**kookaburra****noun** /kʊkə'brʌrə/

an Australian bird with a strange laughing cry

**krill****noun** /krɪl/

a very small shellfish that lives in the Antarctic and is eaten by whales



## 12 to 14 age group

### labyrinth

**noun** /'læbərɪnθ/

a maze; a series of intricate passageways and blind alleys

*She had to find her way out of a labyrinth to win the grand prize.*

### laceration

**noun** /,læsə'reɪʃn/

tear or deep cut

*Falling off the bike resulted in a deep laceration on his knee.*

### lackadaisical

**adjective** /,lækə'deɪzɪkəl/

lacking enthusiasm and thoroughness

*Her lackadaisical attitude towards work will get her in trouble.*

### lacklustre

**adjective** /'lækklʌstə[r]/

dull

*His lacklustre performance received hardly any applause.*

### ladder

**noun** /'lædə[r]/

two lengths of wood or metal joined together by steps and used for climbing up or down the side of a wall or building.

*The gardener used a ladder to climb up to the roof.*

### laggard

**noun** /'læɡəd/

a slow and lazy person or organisation

*Tim is such a laggard that everyone in the village calls him Lazy Tim.*

### lahar

**noun** /'lɑ:hɑ/

a landslide of wet volcanic debris on the side of a volcano

*A lahar can bulldoze through virtually any structure in its path.*

### lament

**verb** /lə'ment/

to feel or express great sadness or regret about something

*It is natural to lament the loss of a loved one.*

### languid

**adjective** /'læŋɡwɪd/

slow, lacking energy

*She waved them away with a languid movement of her arm.*

### languor

**noun** /'læŋɡə[r]/

laziness, inertia

*In the heat of the day an atmosphere of languor hung over the city streets.*

### lapse

**noun** /læps/

a slight mistake, especially one caused by inattention or carelessness

*His temporary lapse in concentration meant that he could not follow the rest of the lecture.*

### laryngitis

**noun** /,lærɪn'dʒaɪtɪs/

a mild inflammation of the throat that makes it difficult to speak

*She could not participate in the debating contest because she had laryngitis.*

### lateral

**adjective** /'lætərəl/

from the side

*The plant takes up water through its lateral roots.*

### lattice

**noun** /'lætɪs/

a structure of strips of wood or metal that cross or interlace with diamond-shaped spaces between them.

*The rose was trained to climb up the lattice.*

**laudable****adjective** /'lɔ:dəbl/

deserving praise or admiration

*Her laudable work on the charity project earned her a lot of respect.***laugh****verb** /lɑ:f/

to make the sounds that show one finds something funny

*The comedy was so funny that even the grumpy old man had to laugh.***laundry****noun** /'lɔ:ndri/

clothes or sheets that need washing, are being washed, or have just been washed

*She has to do at least two loads of laundry today.***lavatory****noun** /'lævətəri/

a toilet

*He asked for directions to the lavatory.***lavish****adjective** /'lævɪʃ/

large in amount, and usually costing a lot of money

*It was very difficult for her to give up her lavish lifestyle when her family was going through financial difficulties.***league****noun** /li:g/

a group of people or nations who agree to work together for a common purpose

*The superheroes decided to form a league in order to fight against injustice around the globe.***lease****noun** /li:s/

a legal agreement that allows you to use a room, building or land for a fixed period of time, usually in return for rent

*The lease on the apartment was for six months.***ledger****noun** /'ledʒə[r]/

a book or collection of financial accounts

*The accountant regularly updated the ledger with new information.***leech****noun** /li:tʃ/

a blood-sucking worm that lives in water

**legerdemain****noun** /'ledʒədəmeɪn/

skilful movements of the hands that other people cannot see

*The magician demonstrated his renowned legerdemain by making a bag of coins disappear into thin air.***legible****adjective** /'ledʒəbl/

readable

*She was very weak and could barely write the letter in a legible handwriting.***legislature****noun** /'ledʒɪsleɪtʃə[r]/

the law-making body of a state

*The public is calling out for a democratically elected legislature.***leisure****noun** /'leɪʒə[r]/

free time for relaxation or enjoyment

*The long weekend gave us ample time for leisure.***lenient****adjective** /'li:niənt/

not as strict as expected

*The lenient attitude of the teacher caused indiscipline in class.***leopard****noun** /'lepəd/

a large lion-like spotted wild animal, also called a panther

## L

12 to 14  
age group**lepton****noun** /'leptɒn/

group of fundamental particles with half integral spin which does not have any internal structure  
*The first charged lepton, the electron, was theorized in the mid-19th century by several scientists.*

**lethargic****adjective** /lə'thɑ:dʒɪk/

lacking energy or enthusiasm  
*Her lethargic behaviour was caused by the hot weather.*

**leukaemia****noun** /lu:'ki:miə/

serious disease in which too many white blood cells are produced, causing weakness and sometimes death  
*She was diagnosed with leukaemia and had to undergo treatment.*

**liaise****verb** /li'eɪz/

to work closely and exchange information with  
*He had to liaise directly with the police while writing the report.*

**libation****noun** /laɪ'beɪʃn/

an act of pouring a liquid as a sacrifice (usually to a god)  
*Hindus perform libation during worship.*

**lieutenant****noun** /lef'tenənt/

an officer of middle rank in the army, navy or air force  
*The lieutenant led the platoon on the battlefield.*

**limpet****noun** /'lɪmpɪt/

a small shellfish that attaches itself firmly to rocks

**lineaments****noun** /'lɪniəmənts/

distinctive features  
*The creature's lineaments suggested that it might be a relative of the common toad.*

**linguistic****adjective** /lɪŋ'gwɪstɪk/

pertaining to language  
*Linguistic skills are valuable in the pursuit of almost any career.*

**liquidate****verb** /'lɪkwɪdeɪt/

to sell everything one owns in order to pay off debts  
*He had to liquidate the business in order to pay off his loans.*

**liquorice****noun** /'lɪkərɪʃ/

a black substance with a strong flavour a gummy or rubbery used in medicines and sweets  
*Liquorice was one of the most widely known medicines in ancient history.*

**litigious****adjective** /lɪ'tɪdʒəs/

having a tendency to go to the law to settle disputes  
*He was a litigious person and was frequently in court.*

**llama****noun** /'lɑ:mə/

animal with a fleecy wool related to the camel family, found in South America

**loam****noun** /ləʊm/

soil composed of a mixture of sand, clay, silt, and organic matter  
*Loam is considered as a good quality soil ideal for gardening and agricultural purposes.*

**locust****noun** /'ləʊkəst/

a kind of grasshopper that travels in large swarms and eats all the plants in the area

**longevity****noun** /lɒn'dʒevəti/

a long duration of individual life

*That family is known for its longevity, with at least three members living well into their nineties.***longitudinal****adjective** /lɒŋgɪ'tjuːdɪnəl/

extending lengthwise

*The surveyor measured the longitudinal distance between the two points.***loquacious****adjective** /lə'kwɛɪʃəs/

talkative

*I got tired of listening to the tales of the loquacious old man.***lozenge****noun** /'lɒzɪndʒ/

small, sweet tablet

*She had a lozenge to ease her sore throat.***lucrative****adjective** /'luːkrətɪv/

making a large profit

*He has a lucrative business, allowing him to accommodate his expensive hobbies.***ludicrous****adjective** /'luːdɪkrəs/

ridiculous and unreasonable

*The ludicrous plan was rejected by the board members.***luggage****noun** /'lʌgɪdʒ/

bags, suitcases that contain your clothes and things when you are travelling

*You are only allowed one piece of hand luggage on the plane.***luminous****adjective** /'luːmɪnəs/

shining in the dark

*The luminous stars on her ceiling looked soothing at night.***luscious****adjective** /'lʌʃəs/

having a rich, sweet taste

*The luscious chocolate cake made her mouth water.***lustre****noun** /'lʌstə[r]/

a soft glow or shine

*The polish gave the car a new lustre.***luxurious****adjective** /lʌg'ʒʊəriəs/

very comfortable, elegant, and expensive

*I stayed at a luxurious hotel when I went to Spain.*

## M

12 to 14  
age group**macadamia****noun** /ˌmækəˈdeɪmiə/

the edible nut of an Australian tree

*She roasted the macadamia and seasoned it with salt before serving it.***macaroni****noun** /ˌmækəˈrəʊni/

pasta in the shape of hollow tubes

*She wanted to have macaroni for lunch.***machiavellian****adjective** /ˌmækiəˈvelɪən/

using crafty means to achieve what you want

*The people were tired of the government's Machiavellian tactics.***machismo****noun** /məˈtʃɪzməʊ/

strong or aggressive male pride

*Steve McQueen was famous for his machismo.***macrofossil****noun** /ˌmɑkrəʊˈfɒsəl/

a fossil large enough to be examined without a microscope

*Leaf, cone, and stem debris are examples of a plant's macrofossil.***maelstrom****noun** /ˌmeɪlstrəm/

a situation of confusion or upheaval

*We were all caught up in the maelstrom following the boss's sudden resignation.***maggot****noun** /ˈmæɡət/

the larva of the housefly and blowfly found commonly in decaying organic matter

**magnanimous****adjective** /ˌmæɡˈnæniməs/

noble and generous

*The king's magnanimous nature has ensured that he is beloved of his subjects.***magnificent****adjective** /ˌmæɡˈnɪfɪsnt/

splendid and impressive

*The Taj Mahal is a magnificent building.***magniloquent****adjective** /ˌmæɡˈnɪləkwənt/

boastful; lofty in style

*In their articles on the trial, the reporters ridiculed the magniloquent speech of the defence attorney.***maisonette****noun** /ˌmeɪzəˈnet/

a flat with rooms on two floors within a building

*My father just bought a maisonette where he spends most of his time.***malapropism****noun** /ˌmæləˈprɒpɪzəm/

the usually unintentional and humorous misuse or distortion of a word or phrase

*This line will be rather difficult to translate because it contains a malapropism.***malarkey****noun** /məˈlɑːki/

nonsense

*I have no time for his malarkey.***malevolent****adjective** /məˈlevələnt/

wishing evil on others

*That club did not allow people with malevolent attitudes to become members.***malice****noun** /ˈmæɪs/

a desire to do harm

*That man is so full of malice that nobody wants to be around him.***malicious****adjective** /məˈlɪʃəs/

having or showing hatred and a desire to harm somebody

*Malicious gossip ruined her chances of being elected as the class rep.*

**malign****verb** /mə'laɪn/

to speak ill of

*The press is doing its best to malign his character.***malleable****adjective** /'mæliəbl/

able to be hammered or pressed into shape without breaking or cracking

*Plasticine's malleable quality makes it a child's favourite plaything.***malodorous****adjective** /'mæl'əʊdəərəs/

having an unpleasant smell

*The malodorous heap was a nuisance for the restaurant.***mammal****noun** /'mæml/

a vertebrate animal whose female suckles its young

*Many people think of the whale as a fish and do not realise that it is actually a mammal.***mammoth****adjective** /'mæməθ/

extremely large

*To try to memorise every word in this vocabulary list would be a mammoth task.***mandatory****adjective** /'mændətəri/

required by law

*The offence carries a mandatory life sentence.***mandrel****noun** /'mandrəl/

a shaft that supports or holds any object to be rotated

*Exhaust pipes in automobiles are frequently bent, using a mandrel, during manufacture.***manifest****adjective** /'mænɪfest/

easy to see or understand; clear

*The key economic indicators reveal the manifest misery of the people in the country.***manipulate****verb** /mə'nɪpjuleɪt/

to control or use in a skilful way

*He claims to be able to manipulate people to do what he wants.***mannequin****noun** /'mæniːkɪn/

a model of a human body, used for displaying clothes in shops

*The dress looked beautiful on the mannequin, but not as good when she tried it on.***manoeuvrable****adjective** /mə'nu:vərəbl/

able to be moved or steered easily

*I have to drive a highly manoeuvrable vehicle for my new delivery job.***manoeuvre****noun** /mə'nu:və[r]/

a movement performed with care and skill

*She had to manoeuvre the car into the garage.***marauding****adjective** /mə'rɔ:diŋ/

plundering

*The marauding invaders were seen prowling in the dark looking for anything they could steal.***marionette****noun** /'mæriə'net/

a puppet worked by strings

*The marionette was 2 feet tall and was awe inspiring in its movement.***marmalade****noun** /'mɑ:mələɪd/

a preserve or jam made from oranges

*Dad loves marmalade with his morning toast.***marrow****noun** /'mærəʊ/

a large vegetable with green skin that is white inside

*She will serve marrow with rice for dinner.*

## M

12 to 14  
age group**marsh****noun** /mɑːʃ/

an area of low land that is always soft and wet  
*He looked as if he had fallen face-forward into a deep muddy marsh.*

**marsupial****noun** /mɑː'suːpiəl/

any mammal that carries its young in a pocket of skin or pouch  
*The marsupial is found only in Australia.*

**martyr****noun** /'mɑːtə[r]/

a person who is killed because of his political or religious beliefs  
*A martyr is given a very high position in Islam.*

**marzipan****noun** /'mɑːzɪpæn/

a sweet paste of ground almonds, sugar and egg whites  
*The cake was iced with marzipan.*

**mascot****noun** /'mæskət/

a person, animal or thing that is thought to bring good luck  
*The poodle was the soccer team's mascot.*

**masculinity****noun** /,mæskju'linəti/

manly  
*People are impressed by Sylvester Stallone's masculinity.*

**masquerade****noun** /,mæskə'reɪd/

a false show; pretence  
*Her cheerful appearance is just a masquerade to conceal her sorrow.*

**masseuse****noun** /mæ'sɜːzɪs/

a woman whose job is to massage people  
*The masseuse did an excellent job on the athlete after her track event was over.*

**mastodon****noun** /'mæstədɒn/

extinct elephant-like mammal

**maternal****adjective** /mæ'tɜːnl/

concerned with being a mother  
*She didn't have any maternal aunts.*

**matrimony****noun** /'mætrɪməni/

marriage  
*They were joined in matrimony by a priest.*

**matrix****noun** /'meɪtrɪks/

a situation or surrounding substance within which something else originates, develops, or is contained  
*Freedom of expression is the matrix for almost every other kind of freedom.*

**maul****verb** /mɔːl/

to handle roughly  
*The savage dog doesn't miss any opportunity to grab and maul the neighbour's cat.*

**mauve****noun** /məʊv/

pale purple  
*She painted the walls of her room in mauve.*

**maxim****noun** /'mæksɪm/

a phrase that expresses a commonly held belief  
*"If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well", was our new CEO's maxim.*

**mayhem****noun** /'meɪhem/

uncontrolled and violent situation  
*There was absolute mayhem when the police sprayed the protesters with tear gas.*

12 to 14  
age group

M

**meagre****adjective** /'mi:gə[r]/

barely enough

*He has somehow managed to bring up two children on his meagre salary.***meagreness****noun** /'mi:gə[r]nəs/

small in quantity

*The meagreness of their offering was lamentable.***measles****noun** /'mi:zlz/

an infectious disease that causes fever and small red spots on the skin

*Our child was forced to take a month off from school because he had measles.***measurement****noun** /'me:ʒəmənt/

the action of measuring

*Accurate measurement is very important in science.***meddlesome****adjective** /'medlsəm/

interfering

*Her meddlesome behaviour has caused enough trouble already.***mediocre****adjective** /,mi:di'əʊkə[r]/

ordinary; of only average standard

*We were disappointed because he gave a rather mediocre performance this time.***Mediterranean****adjective** /,medɪtə'reɪniən/

the name of a large sea between southern Europe and northern Africa

*They spent their holiday in a Mediterranean resort.***melange****noun** /meɪ'lɑ:nʒ/

a mixture

*There was a melange of different cultures at the international cultural festival.***melanism****noun** /'melə'nɪzəm/

excessive amounts of black or dark pigment in the skin, hair and eyes

*Melanism is often the result of genetic mutation.***mellifluous****adjective** /me'lɪfluəs/

pleasingly smooth and musical to hear

*She had a very mellifluous speaking voice.***memorabilia****plural noun** /,memərə'bɪliə/

objects kept or collected because of their associations with memorable events

*Memorabilia from the 1966 World Cup are still lapped up by nostalgic Englishmen everywhere.***mercantile****adjective** /'mɜ:kəntaɪl/

relating to trade or commerce

*As industry in Pakistan grows, mercantile law becomes a popular career option.***merciful****adjective** /'mɜ:sɪfl/

ready to forgive people and show them kindness

*We must ask for forgiveness from the merciful Allah Almighty.***meringue****noun** /mə'reɪŋ/

a sweet white mixture made from beaten egg whites and sugar baked until crisp

*She enjoyed the meringue in the lemon cake.***mermaid****noun** /'mɜ:mɛɪd/

a mythical woman who has the tail of a fish instead of legs, and who lives in the sea

*The little girl wished she was a mermaid so that she could swim to the bottom of the ocean.*

## M

12 to 14  
age group**mesquite****noun** /me'ski:t/

a North American tree, often used for making charcoal for grilling food  
*In India, plantation of mesquite has been stopped.*

**messiah****noun** /mə'saɪə/

a liberator or saviour of oppressed people  
*He is seen by many as a political messiah.*

**metabolism****noun** /mə'tæbəlɪzəm/

a chemical process in living things that changes food into energy  
*An athlete has a faster metabolism than an ordinary person.*

**metaphorically****adverb** /ˌmetə'fɔːrɪkli/

not literally  
*I hope you are speaking metaphorically.*

**meteorology****noun** /ˌmi:tɪə'ɒlədʒi/

the study of conditions in the atmosphere, and for weather forecasting  
*She spent three years at university studying meteorology.*

**meticulous****adjective** /mə'tɪkjələs/

very careful about minute detail  
*Their room had been prepared with meticulous care.*

**microfiche****noun** /ˌmaɪkrəʊfiːʃ/

a piece of film with written information on it in print of very small size  
*He used a special machine to read the small print of the microfiche.*

**migraine****noun** /ˈmiːgreɪn/

a very severe type of headache that often makes a person feel sick and have difficulty seeing  
*My father gets a migraine whenever he is depressed.*

**milieu****noun** /mi:'ljʊː/

a person's social environment  
*Moving to the city offered him a completely different urban milieu.*

**millennium****noun** /mɪ'lenɪəm/

a period of 1000 years  
*I wish I could travel forward in time and visit the next millennium.*

**mimicry****noun** /ˈmɪmɪkri/

the action or skill of being able to copy the voice, actions, movements of others  
*He has a real talent for mimicry.*

**mince****verb** /mɪns/

to cut or grind into very small pieces  
*We had to mince the meat in order to prepare patties.*

**minuscule****adjective** /ˈmɪnəskjuːl/

extremely small  
*The minuscule ant was carrying a piece of food five times its own weight.*

**minute****adjective** /maɪ'njuːt/

extremely small  
*Minute objects have to be studied under the microscope.*

**miraculous****adjective** /mɪ'rækjələs/

supernaturally surprising and welcome  
*She's made a miraculous recovery.*

**mischievous****adjective** /ˈmɪstʃɪvəs/

enjoying playing tricks and annoying people  
*Ali was a mischievous little child who enjoyed making other children cry.*

**moccasin****noun** /'mɒkəsɪn/

a type of shoe made of soft leather  
*A moccasin is a type of shoe originally worn by native Americans.*

**monologue****noun** /'mɒnələʊg/

a long speech spoken by one actor  
*The monologue in Hamlet is very famous.*

**monstrous****adjective** /'mɒnstrəs/

very large or ugly or frightening  
*The children were frightened to see monstrous creatures appearing on the cinema screen.*

**mortgage****noun** /'mɔːgɪdʒ/

the amount of money lent to a person for buying a house, which has to be paid back over a particular number of years  
*One job alone was not enough for him to be able to pay his mortgage every month.*

**mosquito****noun** /mə'skiːtəʊ/

a small flying insect that bites people or animals to drink their blood

**moth****noun** /mɒθ/

an insect with a stout body and large wings that usually flies at night

**mozzarella****noun** /ˌmɒtsə'relə/

a firm white Italian cheese made from buffalo's or cow's milk  
*She sprinkled a handful of mozzarella on the pizza before baking it.*

**multifarious****adjective** /ˌmʌltɪ'feəriəs/

having great variety  
*We have to accommodate the multifarious needs of all the citizens.*

**multiplicity****noun** /ˌmʌltɪ'plɪsəti/

a great number or variety  
*He was overwhelmed by the multiplicity of things he had to do before setting out on his adventure.*

**munificent****adjective** /mjuː'nɪfɪsnt/

very generous  
*The munificent gift was presented to the bride by her uncle.*

**mussel****noun** /'mʌsl/

a small shellfish that can be eaten

**mutation****noun** /mjuː'teɪʃn/

a change in the form or structure  
*The process of mutation is necessary in order for species to evolve.*

**mutinous****adjective** /'mjuːtənəs/

refusing to obey the orders of someone in authority  
*The captain had to use force to silence his mutinous crew.*

**myopic****adjective** /maɪ'əʊpɪk/

short-sighted  
*The myopic view of the businessman hampered the growth of his business.*

**myriad****noun** /'mɪrɪəd/

a very large number  
*The sky looks beautiful on clear nights as it is filled with a myriad of stars.*

**mysterious****adjective** /mɪ'stɪəriəs/

difficult to understand or explain  
*His mysterious behaviour made his wife anxious.*

## N

12 to 14  
age group**nascent****adjective** /'næsnt/

just coming into existence and beginning to develop  
*Financial help was provided to support the country's nascent industries.*

**nausea****noun** /'nɔ:ziə/

a feeling of sickness or disgust  
*The graphic account of his accident induced a feeling of nausea in me.*

**nauseous****adjective** /'nɔ:ziəs/

offensive to taste or smell  
*The nauseous smell in the bus made her sick.*

**nautical****adjective** /'nɔ:tɪkl/

connected with ships, sailors or sailing  
*We had to travel 300 nautical miles to get to our destination.*

**nautilus****noun** /'nɔ:tɪləs/

ocean animal living in a beautiful spiral shell

**nebulous****adjective** /'nebjələs/

vague; hazy; cloudy  
*The moon was surrounded by a nebulous glow.*

**nectarine****noun** /'nektəri:n/

a variety of the peach  
*The nectarine is best eaten when it is slightly soft.*

**nefarious****adjective** /nɪ'feəriəs/

evil; flagrantly wicked  
*The convicted murderer had committed several nefarious acts.*

**negate****verb** /nɪ'geɪt/

to stop something from having any effect  
*A sudden surge of adrenaline can negate the effects of fatigue.*

**negligence****noun** /'neglɪdʒəns/

the failure to give enough care or attention to something or someone  
*This accident was a result of negligence on the driver's part.*

**neighbourhood****noun** /'neɪbəhʊd/

the surrounding area  
*This is a quiet and safe neighbourhood.*

**neologism****noun** /nɪ'blɒdʒɪzəm/

a new word or expression  
*This new technology will necessitate the coining of another neologism.*

**neoplasia****noun** /,ni:əʊ'pleɪziə/

the process of abnormal and uncontrolled growth of cells  
*Neoplasia results in both cancerous and noncancerous cells.*

**neritic****adjective** /nɪ'rɪtɪk/

relating to the belt or region of shallow water adjoining the seacoast  
*Free-floating creatures like the small fish and shrimp, live in the neritic zone.*

**neural****adjective** /'njuərəl/

pertaining to the nerves or nervous system  
*She is lucky that her accident didn't result in neural damage.*

12 to 14  
age group

N

**neutral****adjective** /'njʊ:trəl/

not supporting either side in a war or quarrel  
*Switzerland remained a neutral country during both world wars.*

**nimble****adjective** /'nɪmbəl/

able to move quickly and easily  
*You need nimble fingers for that job.*

**nocturnal****adjective** /nɒk'tɜ:nəl/

happening during the night  
*Mr. Jones was concerned about nocturnal raids by foxes on his chicken coops.*

**noisome****adjective** /'nɔɪsəm/

extremely unpleasant or offensive  
*The noisome smells emanating from the oil refinery bothered everyone living in the area.*

**nomogram****noun** /'nɒmɒɡrəm/

a chart or diagram representing numerical relationships  
*A nomogram is used to facilitate calculations.*

**nondescript****adjective** /'nɒndɪskrɪpt/

lacking special or interesting features  
*We ate at a nondescript cafe in some small town.*

**northerner****noun** /'nɔ:ðənə[r]/

a person who comes from or lives in the northern part of a country  
*Being a northerner, he has had the opportunity to see many magnificent mountain ranges.*

**nostalgia****noun** /nɒ'stældʒə/

a feeling of sadness mixed with pleasure and affection when thinking of happy times in the past  
*I often find middle-aged couples wallowing in nostalgia.*

**nostalgically****adverb** /nɒ'stældʒɪkli/

with sentimental yearning for the past  
*She looked back nostalgically to her childhood.*

**notation****noun** /nəʊ'teɪʃn/

a system of symbols used to represent information  
*My brother is not very proficient in musical notation.*

**notorious****adjective** /nəʊ'tɔ:riəs/

well-known for being bad  
*The principal expelled the notorious boy from the school.*

**nougat****noun** /'nu:ɡɑ:/

a hard sweet or candy containing nuts  
*I had nougat containing pistachios and almonds.*

**nourish****verb** /'nʌrɪʃ/

to keep alive and well by means of food  
*The mother bird brings dead mice to her nest to nourish her offspring.*

**novelty****noun** /'nɒvlti/

the quality of being new, different or interesting  
*The novelty of her new job soon wore off.*

**novice****noun** /'nɒvɪs/

a person who is new and has little experience in a certain job or situation  
*He is just a novice and should therefore not be expected to deal with the situation himself.*

**nowcast****noun** /'nou,kast/

a short-term weather forecast, usually for the next few hours  
*The nowcast for Islamabad is predicting rain.*

## N

12 to 14  
age group**noxious****adjective** /ˈnɒksjəs/

harmful, offensive, poisonous

*Due to the noxious gases produced in our laboratory, we have to wear face masks.***numeral****noun** /ˈnjuːməɹəl/

a sign or symbol that represents a number

*The numeral seven occurs frequently in mythology.***nutraceutical****noun** /ˌnjuːtrəˈsuːtɪkəl/

A food or dietary supplement that is believed to provide health benefits

*Many botanical and herbal extracts have been marketed by the nutraceutical industry.***nutrient****noun** /ˈnjuːtriənt/

a substance that is needed to keep a living thing alive and to help it to grow

*Calcium is an essential nutrient for the growth and maintenance of strong bones.*

12 to 14  
age group**oasis****noun** /əʊ'eɪsɪs/

a place in the desert where there is water and where plants grow

*The weary traveller was relieved when he stumbled across an oasis.*

**obdurate****adjective** /'ɒbdjəɹət/

stubborn

*He is the most obdurate person I have ever met.*

**obedient****adjective** /ə'bi:diənt/

doing what one is told to do

*The obedient child was appreciated by his teachers.*

**obese****adjective** /əʊ'bi:s/

very fat, in a way that is not healthy

*Our obese friend needs to cut down on his food intake.*

**obituary****noun** /ə'bitʃuəri/

an article about a person's life and achievements that is printed in a newspaper soon after his/her death

*I felt really sad after reading my uncle's obituary in the paper.*

**objurgation****noun** /'ɒbdʒuərdʒeɪʃn/

severe rebuke; scolding

*Objurgation and the threat of punishment did not deter the young hoodlums from harassing people.*

**oblique****adjective** /ə'blɪ:k/

indirect

*Her oblique references to literature make it very difficult for her students to understand her.*

**obliterate****verb** /ə'blɪtəreɪt/

destroy completely so that all signs of something are removed

*We did not expect the tidal wave to obliterate the entire village.*

**oblivion****noun** /ə'blɪvɪən/

the state of having been forgotten

*His work faded into oblivion after his death.*

**oblivious****adjective** /ə'blɪvɪəs/

not aware of what is happening around one

*They sang and danced the night away oblivious to the approaching thunderstorm.*

**obscene****adjective** /əb'si:n/

indecent in a very offensive way

*One should not use obscene language.*

**obscurantism****noun** /'ɒbskjʊ'ræntɪzəm/

deliberately concealing

*His obscurantism has led to the misinterpretation of important information.*

**obscure****adjective** /əb'skjʊə[r]/

not well known, not easily seen or understood

*'Titus Andronicus' is one of Shakespeare's most obscure plays.*

**obsequious****adjective** /əb'si:kwiəs/

obedient or respectful to an excessive degree

*The waiter greeted us with an obsequious smile.*

**observatory****noun** /əb'zɜ:vətəri/

a building designed for systematic astronomical studies

*The telescope is kept in the observatory.*

## O

12 to 14  
age group**obsolescence****noun** /ɒbsəˈlesns/

falling into disuse

*Atari video games have achieved obsolescence due to the advent of virtual reality games.***obsolete****adjective** /ˈɒbsəli:t/

no longer practised, used or accepted

*The obsolete system of printing was discarded to adopt the latest technology.***obstacle****noun** /ˈɒbstækəl/

a situation or event that makes it difficult for you to achieve something

*Lack of qualification can be a major obstacle in finding a job.***obstinate****adjective** /ˈɒbstɪnət/

stubborn

*The obstinate stain on the tablecloth was impossible to remove.***obstruction****noun** /əbˈstrʌkʃn/

an obstacle or blockage

*The train had to stop because there was an obstruction on the track.***occupation****noun** /ɒkjuˈpeɪʃn/

a job or a profession

*His occupation as a professor earned him a lot of respect.***oceanic****adjective** /iˌəʊʃiˈænik/

connected with the sea

*Oceanic winds blow over the land resulting in a low range of temperature.***octagon****noun** /ˈɒktəɡən/

a flat shape with eight sides and angles

*He had a lot of trouble calculating the area of an octagon in his maths test.***octopus****noun** /ˈɒktəpəs/

a sea creature living at the bottom of the sea and having eight long tentacles and a soft oval body

**oddy****noun** /ˈɒdəti/

a person or thing that is strange or unusual

*I was puzzled by the oddity of her remark.***odious****adjective** /ˈəʊdiəs/

hateful; extremely unpleasant

*His odious behaviour changed her feelings toward him.***odyssey****noun** /ˈɒdəsi/

long, eventful journey

*The refugee's odyssey from Cambodia to the USA was a terrifying experience for him.***offend****verb** /əˈfend/

to hurt someone's feelings

*We did not want to offend her by asking her to leave.***ohm****noun** /əʊm/

a unit for measuring electrical resistance

*One ohm is equal to one volt per ampere.***oleaginous****adjective** /iˌəʊliˈædʒɪnəs/

oily or greasy

*Germany exports oleaginous fruits to Pakistan.*

12 to 14  
age group**oligarchy****noun** /'ɒlɪgɑːki/

a small group of people having control of a state  
*The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an example of an oligarchy.*

**ominous****adjective** /'ɒmɪnəs/

suggesting that something bad is going to happen  
*There were ominous dark clouds gathering overhead.*

**omnivorous****adjective** /ɒm'nɪvərəs/

eating both plant and animal food  
*Omnivorous humans eat both meat and vegetables.*

**onomatopoeia****noun** /,ɒnə,mætə'piːə/

use of words that sound similar to the noises they describe  
*'Splash', 'wow', and 'gush' are all examples of onomatopoeia*

**opalescent****adjective** /,ɒpə'lesnt/

iridescent; changing colour  
*The ancient mariner was always fascinated by the opalescent ocean.*

**opaque****adjective** /əu'peɪk/

not able to be seen through  
*Opaque pencil cases were not allowed during the examination.*

**opera****noun** /'ɒprə/

a dramatic work in which all or most of the words are sung to music  
*We went to see an opera by Verdi.*

**oppressive****adjective** /ə'presɪv/

cruel or unfair  
*The citizens protested against the general's oppressive regime.*

**opprobrious****adjective** /ə'prɒbrɪəs/

critical, scornful  
*I am tired of your opprobrious remarks and will suspend you.*

**optimum****adjective** /'ɒptɪmə/

most favourable  
*There is an optimum temperature for each enzyme reaction.*

**optometrist****noun** /ɒp'tɒmətɪst/

one whose job is to examine eyes and fit glasses to remedy visual defects  
*Her vision is becoming blurry, so she is making an appointment with her optometrist.*

**opulent****adjective** /'ɒpjələnt/

luxurious  
*The palace was embellished with opulent furnishings.*

**oratory****noun** /'ɒrətəri/

powerful and effective public speaking  
*The crowd was entranced by her oratory.*

**orchestra****noun** /'ɔːkɪstrə/

a large group of musicians who play different musical instruments together, led by a conductor  
*The Philharmonic Orchestra is performing tonight.*

**orchestral****adjective** /ɔː'kestrəl/

pertaining to a large group of musicians trained to play together  
*His orchestral work is a lot better than his solo recordings.*

**ordeal****noun** /ɔː'diːl/

a difficult or unpleasant experience  
*They were spared the ordeal of having to talk about their torture.*

## O

12 to 14  
age group**organelle****noun** /ɔːgəˈneɪl/

a specialized part within a cell having some specific function

*A large organelle is easily visible with a light microscope.***oriental****adjective** /ɔːriˈentl/

connected with the eastern part of the world, especially China and Japan

*She was always interested in learning different oriental languages.***originate****verb** /əˈrɪdʒɪneɪt/

to happen or appear for the first time

*My immediate family members originate from a small town in Africa.***orphanage****noun** /ˈɔːfənɪdʒ/

a home which cares for children whose parents are dead

*The little boy was brought to the orphanage after his parents died.***orthodox****adjective** /ˈɔːθədɒks/

generally accepted or approved of

*She always sticks to her orthodox beliefs.***orthologs****noun** /ˈɔːθələdʒz/

genes found in two or more species that can be traced to a common ancestor

*The beta globin chain genes in humans and chimpanzees are examples of orthologs.***oscillate****verb** /ˈɒsɪleɪt/

to move to and fro between two points

*He was so bored that he began watching the pendulum of the clock oscillate back and forth for entertainment.***oscilloscope****noun** /əˈsɪləskəʊp/

a piece of equipment that shows changes in electrical current as waves in a line, on a screen

*Electronic engineers use the oscilloscope to study wave patterns.***ostentatious****adjective** /ɒstenˈteɪʃəs/

expensive or noticeable in a way intended to impress people

*The bride's mother was dressed in a very ostentatious style.***ostracise****verb** /ˈɒstrəsaɪz/

to isolate socially

*Upset by his behaviour, they decided to ostracise him until he apologised.***outrageous****adjective** /aʊtˈreɪdʒəs/

very shocking and unacceptable

*They spent an outrageous amount of money on the mansion.***overwrought****adjective** /ˌəʊvəˈrɔːt/

over excited or agitated

*The overwrought children were unable to sleep.***oxygenate****verb** /ˈɒksɪdʒəneɪt/

to supply with oxygen

*Deforestation is a cause for concern, given that trees significantly oxygenate the environment.***oyster****noun** /ˈɔɪstə[r]/

shellfish that can be eaten and sometimes produces precious pearls

**pacifism****noun** /'pæsɪfɪzəm/

the belief that war and violence are always wrong  
*Pacifism is normally considered a good attitude but people have to defend their nation and rights.*

**pacify****verb** /'pæsɪfaɪ/

to make someone who is angry or upset become quiet or calm  
*The mother tried to pacify her baby by giving her a doll but she just would not stop crying.*

**paddock****noun** /'pædək/

a small field where horses are kept  
*Most homes in northern Pakistan have a paddock.*

**pageant****noun** /'pædʒənt/

a public entertainment in which people dress in historical costumes and give performances from scenes in history  
*Each year they have a pageant that portrays the American Revolution.*

**pageantry****noun** /'pædʒəntri/

elaborate display or ceremony  
*The march-past was one full of pomp and pageantry.*

**painstaking****adjective** /'peɪnzteɪkɪŋ/

needing a lot of care, effort and attention to detail  
*Painting miniatures is painstaking work requiring considerable care.*

**palate****noun** /'pælət/

the top part of the inside of the mouth  
*The doctor prescribed several medicines for the infection on his palate.*

**palette****noun** /'pælət/

the range of colours used by an artist  
*The artist took his easel and palette to the beach and started painting a sea-scape.*

**palpable****adjective** /'pælpəbl/

that can be felt or touched  
*After the examination, she heaved a palpable sense of relief.*

**palpitate****verb** /'pælpɪteɪt/

to beat rapidly and/or irregularly  
*His heart began to palpitate when he spotted a shadowy figure standing in the alley.*

**pamphlet****noun** /'pæmflet/

a very thin book with a paper cover containing information about a particular subject  
*A pamphlet outlining his vision has recently been published.*

**panache****noun** /pə'næʃ/

impressive confidence or stylishly attractive manner  
*He wore his designer clothes with great panache.*

**pancreas****noun** /'pæŋkriəs/

an organ near the stomach that produces insulin and a liquid to help digest food  
*The doctor's report said that there was a problem with his pancreas.*

**panda****noun** /'pændə/

a large herbivorous bear-like black and white animal that lives in the bamboo forests of China

**panorama****noun** /,pænə'rɑ:mə/

a view of a wide area of land  
*Tourists never forget the first impact of the panorama of the Grand Canyon.*

## P

12 to 14  
age group**pantomime**

**noun** /ˈpæntəmaɪm/  
theatrical entertainment involving music, jokes, and slapstick comedy  
*Television and other forms of entertainment are undermining the tradition of pantomime in Britain.*

**paparazzo**

**noun** /ˌpæpəˈrætsəʊ/  
a freelance photographer who pursues celebrities to take photographs of them  
*The paparazzo hid in the bushes to get better shots of the sunbathing actor.*

**parachute**

**noun** /ˈpærəʃuːt/  
a cloth canopy which allows a person or heavy object attached to it to descend slowly when dropped from a high position  
*Aeroplanes dropped supplies by parachute.*

**paradigm**

**noun** /ˈpærədəɪm/  
a typical example or pattern of something  
*The computer is a popular paradigm for how the brain works.*

**parallelogram**

**noun** /ˌpærəˈleləgræm/  
flat shape with four straight sides, the opposite sides being parallel and equal to each other  
*It is hard to draw an accurate parallelogram by hand.*

**paranoia**

**noun** /ˌpærəˈniə/  
chronic form of mental illness marked by delusions of grandeur or persecution  
*The psychiatrists diagnosed him with paranoia when he claimed that everyone hated him.*

**paranoid**

**adjective** /ˈpærənɔɪd/  
wrongly believing that other people are trying to harm you  
*He has paranoid delusions that his neighbour is going to kill him.*

**parapet**

**noun** /ˈpærəpɪt/  
a low protective wall along the edge of a roof, bridge or balcony  
*The tourists had their photos taken standing on the parapet of the bridge.*

**paraphernalia**

**noun** /ˌpærəfəˈneɪliə/  
miscellaneous equipment  
*We shall require a kettle and all the other paraphernalia to make and serve tea.*

**paraphrase**

**verb** /ˈpærəfreɪz/  
to express what somebody has said or written using different words  
*He tried to paraphrase the question before he answered it.*

**paraplegia**

**noun** /ˌpærəˈpliːdʒiə/  
paralysis of the legs and lower body  
*Paraplegia restricts him to a wheelchair.*

**parasite**

**noun** /ˈpærəsaɪt/  
plant or animal that lives in or on another plant or animal and gets its food from it  
*The mosquito is a blood sucking parasite.*

**parentage**

**noun** /ˈpeərəntɪdʒ/  
the identity and origins of one's father and mother  
*He is of mixed parentage.*

**parliamentarian**

**noun** /ˌpɑːləməntˈeəriən/  
a member of parliament  
*He is a veteran parliamentarian whose views enjoy wide spread respect.*

**parmesan**

**noun** /ˈpɑːmɪzæn/  
a hard, dry Italian cheese used chiefly in grated form  
*She used grated parmesan to make the sauce.*

**parsimonious**

**adjective** /ˌpɑːsɪˈmɒniəs /  
extremely unwilling to spend money;  
*His parsimonious nature did not permit him to enjoy any luxuries.*

**partial**

**adjective** /ˈpɑːʃl /  
not complete or whole  
*He only offered a partial solution to the problem.*

**particular**

**adjective** /pəˈtɪkjələ[r] /  
referring to one individual person, thing, or type of thing and not to others  
*The court did not agree with any particular opinion.*

**parvenu**

**noun** /ˈpɑːvənjuː /  
a person from a humble background who has recently become wealthy or famous  
*She rejected Mark saying that he was a parvenu with no social graces.*

**pastoral**

**adjective** /ˈpɑːstərəl /  
expressive of the life of country people especially in an idealised and conventionalised manner  
*When I am in the city I long for the quiet pastoral lifestyle.*

**patera**

**noun** /ˈpɑtərə /  
a saucer like vessel of earthenware or metal  
*The patera was used by the Greeks and Romans during their libations and sacrifices.*

**paternalism**

**noun** /pəˈtɜːnəlɪzəm /  
father-like behaviour  
*The company president's paternalism made some of his employees happy and some of them angry.*

**patriarch**

**noun** /ˈpeɪtriɑːk /  
the male head of a family or community  
*On his father's death he became the patriarch of his family*

**patriarchal**

**adjective** /ˌpeɪtriˈɑːkl /  
ruled or controlled by men  
*In the past decade, changes in our patriarchal society have resulted from greater awareness of gender equality.*

**paunch**

**noun** /pɔːntʃ /  
a stomach that is large and sticks out  
*His paunch was quite obvious, even in loose clothes.*

**pauper**

**noun** /ˈpɔːpə[r] /  
a very poor person  
*Being a pauper, he seldom gets to eat a hearty meal.*

**pavilion**

**noun** /pəˈvɪliən /  
a temporary building used at public events and exhibitions  
*The workers put up a pavilion for the wedding party.*

**pawnbroker**

**noun** /ˈpɔːnbrəʊkə[r] /  
a person who lends money in exchange for articles left with him  
*When he had used up all his income he was forced to take his wife's wedding ring to a pawnbroker.*

**peacock**

**noun** /ˈpiːkɒk /  
a male bird with long brightly coloured feathers that it can spread out like a tail

**pear**

**noun** /peə[r] /  
a yellowish-green or brownish-green edible fruit, narrow at the stalk and wider towards the tip  
*She was eating a freshly peeled pear.*

## P

12 to 14  
age group**pebble****noun** /ˈpebl/

a smooth round stone that is found in or near water  
*She bent down to shake a pebble out of her shoe.*

**peculiar****adjective** /pɪˈkjuːliə[r]/

unusual or strange  
*His peculiar manner needs to be monitored closely as he may be a danger to his colleagues.*

**peculiarity****noun** /pɪˈkjuːliˈærəti/

an unusual or distinctive feature or habit  
*A sharp ringing in the ears is a peculiarity of the disease.*

**pedantic****adjective** /pɪˈdæntɪk/

obsessed by book learning and theory  
*His pedantic nature makes him incapable of thinking out of the box.*

**pedestrian****noun** /pəˈdestriən/

one who journeys on foot  
*A pedestrian was injured when the car skidded.*

**peerless****adjective** /ˈpiələs/

better than all others; unrivalled  
*The audience gave the singer a standing ovation for his peerless performance.*

**pellucid****adjective** /pəˈluːsɪd/

transparent; extremely clear  
*They drank the pure and pellucid water from the spring.*

**penance****noun** /ˈpenəns/

an act performed to show regret at having done wrong  
*I must perform some penance for treating my mother so cruelly.*

**pendulous****adjective** /ˈpendjələs/

hanging down loosely and swinging freely  
*Pendulous branches of fruit look beautiful in the summer sun.*

**pendulum****noun** /ˈpendjələm/

a body suspended from a fixed point so as to swing freely to and fro, and commonly used to regulate movements  
*He was almost hypnotised by the back-and-forth motion of the pendulum.*

**penguin****noun** /ˈpeŋɡwɪn/

an Antarctic sea bird that cannot fly but uses its wings as flippers for swimming

**penicillin****noun** /ˌpenɪˈsɪlɪn/

an antibiotic  
*The discovery of penicillin was hailed as one of the greatest medical breakthroughs in the 19th century.*

**peninsula****noun** /pəˈnɪnsjələ/

a piece of land almost surrounded by water but joined to a larger piece of land  
*The Arabian peninsula has become a hub of trade and commerce in the past five years.*

**pension****noun** /ˈpenʃn/

a regular payment made by the state or a company to retired people and to some widows and disabled people  
*His pension is not even enough to cover the cost of his utility bills.*

**penultimate****adjective** /penˈʌltɪmət/

last but one; second last  
*They scored a boundary off the penultimate delivery.*

**peon****noun** /'pi:ən/

an unskilled worker

*The peon at our office is very organised and efficient.***peppercorn****noun** /'pepəkɔ:n/

a dried berry from a tropical plant, that is crushed to make pepper

*She used grated peppercorn to season the soup.***perceive****verb** /pə'si:v/

to notice or become aware of something

*She could perceive that something was wrong.***percussion****noun** /pə'kʌʃn/

a group of musical instruments that are played by striking them with the hand or a stick

*The track features Joey Langton on percussion.***peregrination****noun** /,perəgrɪ'neɪʃn/

a journey, especially a long slow one

*His peregrination across South America brought him into contact with a number of different cultures.***peremptory****adjective** /pə'remptəri/

insisting on immediate attention or obedience

*She dreaded his peremptory orders.***perfunctory****adjective** /pə'fʌŋktəri/

done as a duty or habit, without real interest, attention or feeling

*He was greeted at the door by a perfunctory hello from his mother.***periapsis****noun** /,perɪ'apsɪs/

the point at which an orbiting object is closest to the body it is orbiting

*An object is at its greatest velocity at the periapsis.***perilous****adjective** /'perələs/

full of danger or risk

*Travelling to Hunza by road is a perilous journey.***peripheral****adjective** /pə'rɪfərəl/

marginal

*Matters of peripheral concern never bothered her.***perjury****noun** /'pɜ:dʒəri/

the offence of deliberately telling a lie in court when under oath

*He is expected to be charged with perjury.***permeate****verb** /'pɜ:miert/

to spread to every part of an object or a place

*If you do not open the window the smell of cooking will permeate the entire house.***permissible****adjective** /pə'mɪsəbl/

allowable

*The tube-well water contained permissible levels of nitrates.***perpetual****adjective** /pə'petʃuəl/

continuing for ever

*They have a perpetual fear of losing their jobs.***perplex****verb** /pə'pleks/

to bewilder or puzzle

*His strange behaviour could perplex anyone.***perplexity****noun** /pə'pleksəti/

puzzlement

*Her perplexity on hearing the news was obvious.*

## P

12 to 14  
age group**persona****noun** /pə'səʊnə/

the aspect of a person's character that is presented to others

*One should never be misled by a politician's public persona.***perspicacity****noun** /ˌpɜːspɪ'kæsəti/

quality of being astute

*He was respected for his perspicacity and wisdom.***perspicuity****noun** /pə'spɪkʊɪti/

clearness of expression; freedom from ambiguity

*His speech was praised for its perspicuity.***persuasion****noun** /pə'sweɪʒn/

the action of causing someone to believe something through reasoning or argument

*I doubt my attempts at persuasion would work on him.***pertinacious****adjective** /ˌpɜːtɪ'neɪʃəs/

determined

*He is bound to succeed because of his pertinacious nature.***pervade****verb** /pə'veɪd/

spread through or be noticeable in every part of something

*A mood of fear was seen to pervade the camp following the blast.***pervasive****adjective** /pə'veɪsɪv/

existing in all parts of a place or thing

*She could not rid her clothes of the pervasive odour of mothballs even after washing them.***perversion****noun** /pə'veɜːʃn/

changing something that is good or right into something that is bad or wrong

*We must prevent this perversion of the law.***pesticide****noun** /'pestɪsaɪd/

a chemical used for killing pests, especially insects

*Too much pesticide can be harmful for the crops.***pestilence****noun** /'pestɪləns/

a deadly epidemic disease

*Many died during the outbreak of pestilence.***petrify****verb** /'petrɪfaɪ/

to paralyse with fear

*If you want to petrify him, just tell him there is a spider in the room.***petulant****adjective** /'petjələnt/

childishly sulky or bad-tempered

*He behaved like a petulant child and refused to cooperate.***pharisaical****adjective** /fɑːrɪ'seɪnkəl/

marked by hypocritical self-righteousness

*Our society is plagued with hypocritical insincerity and pharisaical pride.***pharmaceutical****adjective** /ˌfɑːmə'suːtɪkəl/

relating to medicinal drugs

*Pharmaceutical companies should reduce the cost of drugs in poorer countries.***pharmacist****noun** /'fɑːməsɪst/

one who prepares and sells medicines

*We had to wait for the pharmacist to find the prescribed medicine.*

**phenomenal****adjective** /fə'nomɪnəl/

outstanding

*Her phenomenal performance received rave reviews.***phenomenon****noun** /fə'nomɪnən/

a fact or an event in nature or society, especially one that is not fully understood

*The total eclipse of the sun is a rare phenomenon.***philosophy****noun** /fɪ'lɒsəfi/

the study of the nature and meaning of the universe and of human life

*He is a professor of philosophy at King Edward's College.***phlegm****noun** /flem/

thick mucus which forms in the nose and throat, especially when one has a cold

*He was advised to take steam inhalations to cure his phlegm.***phlegmatic****adjective** /fleg'mætɪk/

not easily made angry or upset

*The cadets had phlegmatic temperaments.***Phobos****noun** /'fəʊbɒs/

inner and larger of the two satellites of Mars

*Phobos was discovered by Hall in 1877.***phoenix****noun** /'fiːnɪks/

a mythical bird that lives for several hundred years before burning itself and then rising again from its own ashes

**photomontage****noun** /,fəʊtəʊmɒn'tɑːʒ/

a picture consisting of photographs placed together or overlapping

*She did her own photomontage to join the photos in a panoramic folder.***physics****noun** /'fɪzɪks/

a science that deals with matter and energy and their interactions

*His PhD. Thesis in physics will be published soon.***physiognomy****noun** /,fɪzi'ɒgnəmi/

the shape and features of a person's face

*He was proud of his ability to analyse a person's character by studying their physiognomy.***physiological****adjective** /,fɪziə'lɒdʒɪkəl/

pertaining to the science of the normal functions of living organisms

*To understand this disease fully, we must examine not only its physiological aspects but also its emotional effects.***physique****noun** /fɪ'ziːk/

the size and shape of a person's body

*He has the physique of a rugby player.***phytosanitary****adjective** /,fɪtə'θəʊ'sanɪtəri/

relating to the health of plants, with respect to import and export

*The plant nursery was to abide by phytosanitary regulations.***piccolo****noun** /'pɪkələʊ/

a small flute

*He is learning how to play the piccolo.*

## P

12 to 14  
age group**pierce****verb** /pɪəs/

to make a small hole in something with a sharp object  
*I think this needle is so sharp that it could pierce anything.*

**piety****noun** /ˈpaɪəti/

religious devotion  
*The priest was renowned for his piety.*

**pillage****noun** /ˈpɪlɪdʒ/

robbing or stealing with violence especially in a war  
*The soldiers returned from the war with stories of murder and pillage.*

**pious****adjective** /ˈpaɪəs/

having or showing deep respect for God and religion  
*The old woman is known for her pious acts.*

**pipsqueak****noun** /ˈpɪpskwɪ:k/

an unimportant person  
*The pipsqueak always receives rough treatment in films.*

**piquancy****noun** /ˈpi:kənsi/

strong or spicy taste  
*I liked the soup because of its slight piquancy.*

**piranha****noun** /pɪˈrɑ:nə/

fresh water fish with very sharp teeth that attack and eat living animals

**pirouette****noun** /ˌpɪruˈet/

spinning on one foot  
*The ballerina's pirouette was flawless in form.*

**piste****noun** /pɪst/

a track of firm snow prepared for skiing  
*She skilfully skied down the piste.*

**pitiful****adjective** /ˈpɪtɪfl/

deserving or arousing pity  
*The beggar on the street was a pitiful sight.*

**pivotal****adjective** /ˈpɪvətəl/

crucial  
*Saeed Anwar played a pivotal role in the team's victory.*

**placebo****noun** /pləˈsi:bəʊ/

a dummy medicine prescribed for the mental benefit of the patient or as a control in an experiment  
*The doctor prescribed a placebo to the patient.*

**plagiarise****verb** /ˈplɛɪdʒəraɪz/

take the work of someone else and pretend it is one's own  
*The student was warned by the teacher not to plagiarise.*

**plagiarism****noun** /ˈplɛɪdʒərɪzəm/

copying or stealing another person's ideas, words or work and pretending they are your own  
*The designer was accused of plagiarism because his creations displayed a suspicious resemblance to those of his rival.*

**plague****noun** /pleɪɡ/

a dangerous illness that spreads very quickly  
*A lot of children died during the outbreak of plague in the city.*

**plaintiff****noun** /'pleɪntɪf/

a person who makes a formal complaint against somebody in court

*The plaintiff demanded compensation for the damage to his house.***plankton****noun** /'plæŋktən/

tiny organisms living in the sea or fresh water

**plasticine****noun** /'plæstəsɪn/

a soft modelling material

*Plasticine was my favourite plaything as a child.***plateau****noun** /'plætəʊ/

an area of flat land that is higher than the land around it

*The Baluchistan Plateau is the most sparsely populated region in Pakistan.***platinum****noun** /'plætɪnəm/

a silver grey precious metal that is often used for making expensive jewellery

*She ordered a bracelet of platinum and silver.***platypus****noun** /'plætɪpəs/

an amphibious egg-laying Australian mammal with a duck-like bill and webbed feet

**plea****noun** /pli:/a request made in an urgent and emotional way  
*Her plea fell on deaf ears.***pleasantries****noun** /'plezntrɪz/

unimportant remarks made as part of a polite conversation

*After exchanging pleasantries, they got down to serious discussion.***plebiscite****noun** /'plebɪsɪt/

direct vote by all electors of a state on an important issue

*The plebiscite has not yet been held.***plectrum****noun** /'plektrəm/

thin flat piece of plastic, metal used to pluck the strings of a guitar

*He dropped his plectrum but continued using only his fingers.***pliable****adjective** /'plɪəbəl/

easy to bend

*Plasticine is a very pliable material.***plough****verb** /pləʊ/

to dig and turn over a field or area of land

*It took them a week to plough the large field.***plume****noun** /plu:m/

a long, soft feather or set of feathers

*She wore a black hat with a red plume.***plunge****verb** /plʌndʒ/

to move or jump suddenly forwards and downwards

*She was about to plunge into the swimming pool when her mother called her.***pneumonia****noun** /nju:'məʊniə/

a serious illness affecting one or both lungs that makes breathing difficult

*The doctor revealed that the cause of his death was pneumonia.***podium****noun** /'pəʊdiəm/

a small platform that a person stands on when giving a speech or conducting an orchestra

*His legs started shaking in nervous excitement as he made his way to the podium.*

## P

12 to 14  
age group**poignant****adjective** /'pɔɪnjənt/

painfully sharp

*She was so lost in poignant memories that her grief showed on her face.***polyglot****adjective** /'pɒlɪglɒt/

containing or using several languages

*Switzerland is a polyglot nation.***polystyrene****noun** /'pɒli'staɪrɪn/

a synthetic resin which is a polymer of styrene

*She bought some cups made of polystyrene.***ponderous****adjective** /'pɒndərəs/

serious and dull

*His ponderous nature has ensured that he is never the life of the party.***pontiff****noun** /'pɒntɪf/

chief priest; the Pope

*The new pontiff has a challenging task ahead of him.***porcupine****noun** /'pɔːkjʊpaɪn/

an animal covered with long thin sharp needles

**porpoise****noun** /'pɔːpɔːs/

a sea animal or dolphin having a blunt snout and many teeth

**porridge****noun** /'pɒrɪdʒ/

a type of soft thick white food made by boiling oats in milk or water

*He often has porridge for breakfast.***posse****noun** /'pɒsi/

a group of people summoned by a sheriff to enforce the law or help him catch a criminal

*The posse tracked the missing man after a long search.***posthumous****adjective** /'pɒstjʊməs/

occurring after a person has died

*A posthumous collection of her work has just been published.***posture****noun** /'pɒstʃə[r]/

the position in which you hold your body when standing or sitting

*Her graceful posture is the result of years of ballet training.***potassium****noun** /pə'tæsiəm/

a soft silver-white metal that exists mainly in compounds which is used in industry and farming

*A small amount of potassium is essential to our diet.***pout****verb** /paʊt/

to push one's lip forward to show you are annoyed

*The man began to pout his lips in anger.***prawn****noun** /'prɔːn/

a small edible shrimp-like shellfish

**precarious****adjective** /prɪ'keəriəs/

not secure

*The precarious path down to the beach worsened after rain.***precedence****noun** /'presɪdəns/

priority in time or importance

*His desire for power took precedence over everything else.*

**preciosity**

**noun** /ˌpreʃiˈbsɪti/  
extreme meticulousness or over refinement  
*His greatest flaw as a writer is his tendency toward preciosity.*

**precious**

**adjective** /ˈpreʃəs/  
having great value  
*The crown was set with precious jewels.*

**precise**

**adjective** /prɪˈsɪs/  
exact and accurate  
*He gave a precise answer to my question.*

**precision**

**noun** /prɪˈsɪʒn/  
extreme accuracy  
*Neurosurgery requires a great deal of precision.*

**precocious**

**adjective** /prɪˈkəʊʃəs/  
prematurely developed  
*Little Timothy displayed a precocious talent for most sports from an early age.*

**predatory**

**adjective** /ˈpredətəri/  
living by killing and eating other animals  
*The hawk is a predatory bird.*

**predecessor**

**noun** /ˈpriːdɪsəsə[r]/  
a person who did a job before somebody else  
*The new director reversed many of the policies of his predecessor.*

**predictable**

**adjective** /prɪˈdɪktəbl/  
behaving as expected  
*The disease follows a highly predictable pattern.*

**prehensile**

**adjective** /prɪˈhensəl/  
adapted for seizing or grasping by wrapping around  
*Monkeys use not only their arms and legs but also their prehensile tails when climbing trees.*

**prejudice**

**noun** /ˈpredʒudɪs/  
an unreasonable dislike of or preference for a person, group, custom  
*He was a tireless opponent of racial prejudice.*

**preliminary**

**adjective** /prɪˈlɪmɪnəri/  
happening before a more important action or event  
*He is going to announce the preliminary results.*

**premier**

**adjective** /ˈpremiə[r]/  
most important, famous or successful  
*He is one of France's premier chefs.*

**premonition**

**noun** /ˌpriːməˈnɪʃn/  
a forewarning  
*The lawyer had a premonition that the judge would dismiss the case.*

**preponderance**

**noun** /prɪˈpɒndərəns/  
a superiority in number, weight, power, importance, or strength  
*The rebels sought to overcome the preponderance of government forces by engaging in guerrilla tactics.*

**prerequisite**

**noun** /ˌpriːˈrekwəzɪt/  
something required as a previous condition  
*A bachelor's degree is a prerequisite for this position.*

**prescient**

**adjective** /ˈpresɪənt/  
having foreknowledge or foresight  
*The seer chronicled his prescient visions regularly.*

## P

12 to 14  
age group**preternatural****adjective** /ˌpri:tə'nætʃrəl/

inexplicable by natural laws

*He has a preternatural gift for knowing what others are thinking.***prior****adjective** /'praɪə[r]/

happening or existing before something else or before a particular time

*The information must not be disclosed without prior written consent.***priority****noun** /praɪ'ɒrəti/

being put first

*Priority was given to David as he was a senior citizen.***privilege****noun** /'prɪvəlɪdʒ/

a special right or advantage given to a particular person or group

*Education should be a universal right and not a privilege.***probabilistic****adjective** /ˌprɒbəbɪ'lɪstɪk/

based on probability

*The probabilistic risk involved in the experiment was minimal.***probes****noun** /prəʊbz/

unmanned spacecrafts that are sent to collect data from space

*Some of the probes launched by NASA are not meant to return to Earth.***procure****verb** /prə'kjʊə[r]/

to obtain something, especially with difficulty

*She managed to procure a ticket for the concert.***prodigious****adjective** /prə'dɪdʒəs/

impressively large

*Laser discs can store prodigious amounts of information.***prognathous****adjective** /prɒɡnəθəs/

having the jaws projecting beyond the upper part of the face

*His prognathous jaw made him seem more determined to succeed than he actually was.***prognosis****noun** /prɒɡ'nəʊsɪs/

a prediction of the likely development of a disease or illness

*If the doctor's prognosis is correct, the patient will be in a coma for at least twenty-four hours.***prognosticate****verb** /prɒɡ,nɒstɪ'keɪt/

to predict

*I prognosticate disaster unless we change our wasteful ways.***prohibit****verb** /prə'hɪbɪt/

to forbid

*The university has decided to prohibit smoking on campus.***proliferation****noun** /prə'lɪfə'reɪʃn/

sudden increase

*Smoking triggers off cell proliferation.***promontory****noun** /'prɒməntri/

a long narrow area of high land that goes out into the sea

*We crowded onto the promontory in order to catch a glimpse of the battle ship.*

**prompt****adjective** /ˈprɒmpt/

without delay

*We need a prompt reply to our question.***promulgate****verb** /ˈprɒmlɪɡeɪt/

to proclaim

*We should promulgate these objectives within the organisation.***prophecy****noun** /ˈprɒfəsi/

a statement about what is going to happen in the future

*The prophecy has yet to come true.***propinquity****noun** /prəˈpɪŋkwətɪ/

nearness

*His office's propinquity to his home means that he can walk to work.***prosaic****adjective** /prəˈzeɪk/

ordinary and showing no imagination

*He has a prosaic writing style.***prosperous****adjective** /ˈprɒspərəs/

rich and successful

*We want Pakistan to be amongst the prosperous countries of the world.***protein****noun** /ˈprəʊtiːn/

a natural substance found in foods like meat and eggs, and an essential part of the human and animal diet

*As I am a vegetarian, I eat lots of lentils to ensure I am getting enough protein.***protestant****noun** /ˈprɒtɪstənt/

a member of a part of the Western Christian Church that separated from the Roman Catholic Church

*The majority of the population of this town is Protestant.***protist****noun** /ˈprəʊtɪst/

a large grouping that comprises mostly single celled organisms with animal and plant characteristics

*A protist can live in almost any environment that contains water, such as a fungus.***protocol****noun** /ˈprəʊtəkɒl/

the accepted code of formal behaviour used at official meetings or between governments

*The senior official was given a high level of protocol.***provision****noun** /prəˈvɪʒn/

supply

*The government is responsible for the provision of health care to its citizens.***proWess****noun** /ˈprəʊəs/

great skill

*We admire her proWess in athletics.***prudent****adjective** /ˈpruːdnt/

sensible and careful in making judgements and decisions

*The prudent businessman consulted his associates before going ahead with the plan.***pseudonym****noun** /ˈsuːdənɪm/

a false name, especially one used by an author

*Most writers write under a pseudonym to protect their real identities.*

## P

12 to 14  
age group**psychedelic****adjective** /ˌsaɪkəˈdelɪk/having intensely vivid colours  
*His psychedelic clothes attracted a lot of attention.***psychic****adjective** /ˈsaɪkɪk/connected with strange powers of the mind not explainable by natural laws  
*He claimed he could use his psychic powers to communicate with spirits.***psychology****noun** /saɪˈkɒlədʒi/the scientific study of the mind and how it influences behaviour  
*Discoveries in child psychology have influenced the way we bring up our children.***puerile****adjective** /ˈpjʊərəɪl/childishly silly  
*Puerile behaviour only makes one look idiotic.***pugnacious****adjective** /pʌɡˈneɪʃəs/eager or quick to argue or fight  
*He remained friendless due to his pugnacious nature.***pursuit****noun** /pəˈsju:t/following with the intent to capture  
*She travelled the world in pursuit of her dreams.***pustule****noun** /ˈpʌstju:l/small blister or pimple on the skin containing pus  
*She refused to go to the party because she had a pustule on her face.***putrescent****adjective** /pju:tresənt/rotting  
*It was a path lined with putrescent carcasses.***pyjamas****plural noun** /pəˈdʒɑ:məz/a suit of long trousers and jacket worn for sleeping in  
*My blue pyjamas are the most comfortable clothes I own.***python****noun** /ˈpaɪθən/

a large snake that kills its prey by coiling round and crushing it

**qualia****noun** /'kwɛliə/

a quality considered as an independent entity  
*The pain of a headache, the aroma of certain food, and the sight of snow are examples of qualia.*

**qualm****noun** /'kwɑ:m/

a feeling of doubt or worry about whether what you are doing is right  
*He had been working very hard so he had no qualm about taking a day off.*

**quantity****noun** /'kwɒntəti/

an amount or a number of something  
*She asked her to add a small quantity of salt to the soup.*

**quark****noun** /'kwɑ:k/

a soft creamy acid-cured cheese of central Europe made from whole milk  
*Quark usually has much lower fat content than cream cheese.*

**quarrelsome****adjective** /'kwɒrəlsəm/

argumentative  
*Her quarrelsome nature has made her many enemies.*

**quarterly****adjective** /'kwɔ:təli/

occurring or made four times a year  
*He could not attend the quarterly meeting of the board.*

**quasar****noun** /'kwɛɪzɑ:/

blue celestial object having the appearance of a star when viewed through a telescope  
*A quasar is believed to be the most distant and most luminous object in the universe.*

**quay****noun** /ki:/

a platform in a harbour where boats load and unload  
*A crowd was waiting on the quay, eager to see the latest shipment of goods.*

**queasy****adjective** /'kwɪ:zi/

feeling sick; wanting to vomit  
*Travelling by boat gave me a queasy feeling.*

**querulous****adjective** /'kwɛrələs/

habitually complaining  
*My grandmother has become rather querulous since her illness.*

**query****noun** /'kwɪəri/

a question, especially one asking for information  
*I have a query regarding the seating arrangements.*

**quest****noun** /'kwɛst/

a long search  
*His quest for knowledge has been the driving force of his life.*

**questionnaire****noun** /'kwɛstʃə'neɪ[r]/

a set of questions produced for a survey  
*The questionnaire wasn't too long so she answered it during her break.*

**queue****noun** /kju:/

a line of people, cars waiting for something  
*We were asked to stand in an orderly queue to buy tickets.*

**quibble****verb** /'kwɪbl/

to argue about a small matter  
*I was told not to quibble over who got the last slice of pizza.*

## Q

12 to 14  
age group**quiche****noun** /ki:tʃ/

an open pie filled with a mixture of eggs and milk with meat, vegetables, cheese

*Her mother made a spinach quiche for dinner.***quiescent****adjective** /kwi:'esnt/

inactive; inert

*The quiescent sea shone dark in the moonlight.***quill****noun** /kwɪl/

the hollow stem of a feather

*Pens made from quills were used during the middle ages.***quintessence****noun** /kwɪn'tesns/

the perfect or most typical example

*It was the quintessence of an English manor house.***quisling****noun** /'kwɪzɪŋ/

a person who helps an enemy that has taken control of his or her country

*The quisling leaked all the state secrets.***quiver****verb** /'kwɪvə[r]/

to shake slightly

*An attack of nerves caused her hands to quiver.***quixotic****adjective** /kwɪk'sɒtɪk/

enthusiastic but usually not practical

*Her quixotic nature made her an unsuitable head of state.***quote****verb** /kwəʊt/

to repeat the exact words that another person has said or written

*He is planning to quote the president at the end of his speech.***quotient****noun** /kwəʊʃnt/

the number resulting from the division of one number by another

*The quotient is too high given the value of the denominator.*

**racism****noun** /ˈreɪsɪzəm/

the unfair treatment of people who belong to another race

*Everyone appreciated the director for making a film which condemned racism.***raconteur****noun** /ˌrækɒnˈtɜː[r]/

a person who tells stories in an interesting way

*He is very popular at dinner parties because he is such a skilled raconteur.***radiate****verb** /reɪdiət/

to send out light, heat or other energy in rays

*An electric light bulb will radiate both light and heat.***radium****noun** /reɪdiəm/

a white, radioactive metal used in the treatment of diseases like cancer

*Radium was discovered by Mary Curie.***raisin****noun** /ˈreɪzn/

a dried grape

*He choked on the pip of the raisin.***rancour****noun** /ˈræŋkə[r]/

bitter feelings

*She accepted the decision without rancour, even though it was unfair.***ransom****noun** /ˈrænsəm/

the money demanded by kidnapers to free someone they are keeping prisoner

*The kidnapers demanded a ransom of \$500,000 for the boy's release.***rapacious****adjective** /rəˈpeɪʃəs/

grasping; predatory

*He is an unpopular member of the business community because of his rapacious approach.***rapport****noun** /rəˈpɔː[r]/

a relation marked by harmony, conformity, or affinity

*The rapport between them was obvious to all who met them.***ration****noun** /ˈræʃn/

a fixed amount of food, fuel

*The soldiers collected their daily ration from the mess.***rational****adjective** /ræʃnəl/

based on reason rather than emotion

*The culprit was not able to give a rational reason for committing the crime.***rattlesnake****noun** /ˈrætlɪsneɪk/

a poisonous American snake that makes a rattling noise by moving the end of its tail

**raucous****adjective** /ˈrɔːkəs/

sounding rough and loud

*We could hear the sound of raucous laughter coming from across the street.***ravenous****adjective** /ˈrævənəs/

very hungry

*Piranhas are ferocious hunters with a ravenous appetite for animal flesh.***realm****noun** /reɪlm/

a field of activity, interest or knowledge

*He seemed to drift into a realm of fantasy towards the end of his speech.*

## R

12 to 14  
age group**reasonable**

**adjective** /ˈriːznəbl/

practical and sensible; fair  
*We finally reached a reasonable solution.*

**rebuff**

**noun** /rɪˈbʌf/

an abrupt or unkind refusal  
*Her offer of help was met with a sharp rebuff.*

**rebuke**

**verb** /rɪˈbjuːk/

to speak severely to a person for doing something wrong  
*You should rebuke him for sleeping when he should be working.*

**recalcitrant**

**adjective** /rɪˈkælsɪtrənt/

unwilling to cooperate; disobedient  
*A recalcitrant child usually grows up to be a fiercely independent individual.*

**receipt**

**noun** /rɪˈsiːt/

a piece of paper showing that goods or services have been paid for  
*Make sure you get a receipt for your expenses.*

**receive**

**verb** /rɪˈsiːv/

to take or accept something sent or given to you  
*It is always really exciting to receive a gift from someone.*

**reciprocal**

**adjective** /rɪˈsɪprəkl/

in return; mutual  
*The two nations signed a reciprocal trade agreement.*

**recital**

**noun** /rɪˈsɪtəl/

a concert given by an individual musician or dancer  
*Her piano recital was so successful that she received a standing ovation.*

**reckon**

**verb** /ˈrekən/

to calculate  
*They reckon it should take five hours to get to their destination.*

**recluse**

**noun** /rɪˈkluːs/

a person who lives alone and avoids other people  
*After his daughter's death he began to lead the life of a recluse.*

**reconciliation**

**noun** /ˌrɛkənsɪliˈeɪʃn/

the end of a disagreement and the return to friendly relations  
*Their change of policy brought about a reconciliation with Britain.*

**reconvene**

**verb** /ˌrɛkənˈviːn/

meet again  
*The meeting was to reconvene after lunch.*

**recruit**

**noun** /rɪˈkrʊːt/

a person who has just joined the military or another organisation  
*The sergeant ordered the recruit to follow all rules strictly.*

**rectify**

**verb** /ˈrektɪfaɪ/

to put right something that is wrong  
*If he promises to rectify his mistakes, she might consider forgiving him.*

**redolent**

**adjective** /ˈredələnt/

strongly reminiscent or suggestive of something  
*The flag was redolent of the regiment's history.*

**redundancy**

**noun** /rɪˈdʌndənsi/

dismissal from employment because no work is available  
*Many factory workers are facing redundancy.*

**referee****noun** /ˌrɛfəˈriː/

a person who controls matches and judges games  
*The referee blew the final whistle, bringing the match to an end.*

**referendum****noun** /ˌrɛfəˈrɛndəm/

a vote by all voters on an important issue  
*He became the president after a nation-wide referendum.*

**regalia****noun** /rɪˈɡeɪliə/

the distinctive clothing and objects of an order, rank, or office, worn at formal occasions  
*They unveiled a portrait of the queen in her full coronation regalia.*

**regime****noun** /rɛɪˈʒiːm/

a method or system of government  
*When a Frenchman mentions the old regime, he refers to the monarchy before the revolution.*

**regolith****noun** /ˈrɛɡəlɪθ/

layer of loose rock resting on bedrock, constituting the surface of most land  
*Regolith is another name for mantle rock.*

**rehearsal****noun** /rɪˈhɜːsəl/

a practice in preparation for a public performance  
*The rehearsal went so well that we were given the next three days off.*

**reign****noun** /rɛɪn/

the period during which a king or queen rules  
*Queen Victoria's reign was very long.*

**reimburse****verb** /ˌrɪɪmˈbɜːs/

to pay back money  
*He was told that the firm would reimburse his travel expenses.*

**reindeer****noun** /ˈreɪndiə[r]/

a kind of deer with large antlers that lives in the Arctic regions  
*Eskimos hunt and kill reindeer for its meat and skin.*

**reinforce****verb** /ˌrɪɪnˈfɔːs/

to make something stronger  
*Such jokes tend to reinforce racial stereotypes.*

**reiterate****verb** /rɪˈɪtəreɪt/

to say again  
*Let me reiterate that we are fully committed to this policy.*

**relic****noun** /ˈrɛlɪk/

an object, tradition that has survived from a previous era  
*This building is the last remaining relic of the town's cotton industry.*

**remission****noun** /rɪˈmɪʃn/

lessening of force, effect or degree  
*Her illness went into remission following treatment with the latest wonder drug.*

**remorse****noun** /rɪˈmɔːs/

deep regret  
*I felt guilty and full of remorse for the way I treated her.*

## R

12 to 14  
age group**remunerative****adjective** /rɪ'mju:nərətɪv/

paying a lot of money

*She is lucky to have a remunerative job which is also spiritually satisfying.***renegade****noun** /'renɛɪd/

an individual who rejects lawful or conventional behaviour

*In his youth he was a bit of a renegade, and was frequently in trouble with the police.***renovate****verb** /'renəveɪt/

to restore to good condition

*We had to spend a lot of money to renovate our house.***renunciation****noun** /rɪ'nʌnsi'eɪʃn/

giving up of something

*The King's renunciation of the throne sent shockwaves through the entire country.***repartee****noun** /,rɛpɑ:'ti:/

quick, witty comments or replies

*The compere is known for his repartee and quick wit.***repatriate****verb** /,rɪ:'pætriət/

to return to native country

*We will try to repatriate the refugees now that a peace settlement has been reached.***repetition****noun** /,rɛpə'tɪʃn/

doing or saying the same thing more than once

*There is a lot of repetition of the same phrase in this essay.***replica****noun** /'rɛplɪkə/

an exact copy of something

*We are going to hang a replica of the Declaration of Independence in our classroom.***reprimand****verb** /'rɛprɪmɑ:nd/

to tell someone officially that you do not approve of them or their actions

*Every time Ali made a mistake in class, he was afraid that Mrs Hassan would reprimand him.***reprisal****noun** /rɪ'praɪz/

an act of revenge

*They did not want to give any evidence for fear of a reprisal.***reptile****noun** /'rɛptal/

any animal that has cold blood and skin covered in scales, that lays eggs, and has very short legs or no legs at all

*A lizard is a reptile.***repugnance****noun** /rɪ'pʌgnəns/

a feeling of strong disgust or dislike

*The sight of his severed finger filled her with repugnance.***requiem****noun** /'rɛkwɪəm/

a solemn chant or dirge for the repose of the dead

*The requiem for the late Pope was televised live in almost every country.***researcher****noun** /rɛ'sɜ:tʃə[r]/

a person who makes careful study of a subject in order to discover new information about it

*The researcher had to go all the way to Brazil to get a sample of the rare plant.***resolution****noun** /,rɛzə'lju:ʃn/

formal statement of an opinion agreed on by a committee, especially by means of a vote

*The Pakistan resolution was passed in 1940.*

**resonance**

**noun** /ˈrezənəns/  
echo, sympathetic vibration  
*The resonance of the sound of church bells in the Alpine Valley added to the magic of the moment.*

**responsiveness**

**noun** /rɪˈspɒnsɪvənəs/  
quick and positive reaction  
*They showed a lack of responsiveness to client needs.*

**restitution**

**noun** /ˌrestɪˈtjuːʃn/  
restoration to the rightful owner; compensation  
*The man had to make a restitution of \$1,000 for the damage that he did.*

**restraint**

**noun** /rɪˈstreɪnt/  
calm and controlled behaviour  
*His ability to show restraint in the face of insults was admirable.*

**resumption**

**noun** /rɪˈzʌmpʃn/  
beginning again  
*The resumption of building work will start early next week.*

**reticence**

**noun** /ˈretɪsns/  
reserve in speech  
*Sadaf did not mind his reticence; in fact she liked it.*

**retort**

**noun** /rɪˈtɔːt/  
a quick, angry or humorous reply  
*I had to bite my tongue to refrain from making a sharp retort.*

**retribution**

**noun** /ˌreɪtrɪˈbjʊːʃn/  
vengeance  
*He feared divine retribution for his sins.*

**reverberate**

**verb** /rɪˈvɜːbəreɪt /  
(of a sound) to be repeated several times as it is reflected off different surfaces  
*The entire valley will soon reverberate with the sound of church bells.*

**revere**

**verb** /rɪˈvɪə[r]/  
to feel great respect or admiration for  
*The students revere their teacher.*

**reverie**

**noun** /ˈrevəri/  
a daydream  
*She was jolted out of her reverie as the door opened.*

**revulsion**

**noun** /rɪˈvʌlʃn/  
a strong feeling of disgust or horror  
*We can only react to such ghastly acts with revulsion.*

**rhinoceros**

**noun** /raɪˈnɒsərəs/  
a large animal with a thick skin with one or two horns on its nose  
*There is a reserve for rhinoceros in India.*

**rhythm**

**noun** /ˈrɪðəm/  
a regular pattern of beats, sounds or movements  
*Although we dislike the lyrics, we loved the rhythm of his music.*

**rickety**

**adjective** /ˈrɪkəti/  
not strong or well made; likely to break  
*The hermit lived in a rickety shack that looked like it would fall over in a strong wind.*

**ricochet**

**verb** /ˈrɪkəʃeɪ/  
rebound off a surface  
*It's funny how bullets never seem to hit or ricochet in action films.*

## R

12 to 14  
age group**righteous**

**adjective** /ˈraɪtʃəs/  
morally right and good  
*Righteous deeds will get you to heaven.*

**rigorous**

**adjective** /ˈrɪɡərəs/  
strictly applied  
*They had to go through a rigorous search at the airport.*

**riparian**

**adjective** /rɪˈpɛɪriən/  
related to or situated on the banks of a river  
*All the riparian states must sign an agreement.*

**rivulet**

**noun** /ˈrɪvjələt/  
a very small stream  
*The rivulet joins the river at this point.*

**rodent**

**noun** /ˈrəʊdnt/  
a type of small animal, such as rat, rabbit or squirrel with sharp teeth  
*The beaver is also a kind of rodent.*

**rooster**

**noun** /ˈrəʊstə[r]/  
an adult male chicken

**roseate**

**adjective** /ˈrəʊziət/  
rose-coloured or pink  
*The window's roseate tint made everything inside look pink.*

**rostrum**

**noun** /ˈrɒstrəm/  
a platform for public speaking  
*I stood on the rostrum to deliver the speech.*

**rouse**

**verb** /raʊz/  
to wake someone up, especially when they are sleeping deeply  
*If you want to rouse her, you'll have to rap hard on her bedroom door.*

**rowdy**

**adjective** /ˈraʊdi/  
noisy and likely to cause trouble  
*The children need to be controlled as their rowdy behaviour will not be tolerated.*

**rubicund**

**adjective** /ˈruːbɪkənd/  
having a reddish complexion  
*He has a cheerful rubicund face.*

**rudimentary**

**adjective** /ˌruːdɪˈmentri/  
basic  
*His dancing was limited to a few rudimentary steps.*

**ruffle**

**verb** /ˈrʌfl/  
to make something untidy or no longer smooth  
*I watched the breeze ruffle the previously smooth surface of the lake.*

**rumbustious**

**adjective** /rʌmˈbʌstʃəs/  
high-spirited or difficult to control  
*He has three energetic, rumbustious little boys.*

**ruminant**

**noun** /ruːmɪnənt/  
any animal, such as a cow or sheep, that regurgitates food from its stomach and chews it again  
*A ruminant has a stomach consisting of four compartments.*

12 to 14  
age group

S

**sacrilege**

**noun** /'sækrəlɪdʒ/  
disrespectful treatment of something sacred or highly valued  
*Recent reports of the sacrilege of the holy book has caused outrage.*

**sacrilegious**

**adjective** /'sækrə'lɪdʒəs/  
disrespectful of a sacred place, person, or thing  
*Leading clerics condemned the book as a sacrilegious attack on their faith.*

**sacrosanct**

**adjective** /'sækrəsæŋkt/  
considered too important to change or question  
*I'll work till late in the evening, but cannot sacrifice my sacrosanct weekends.*

**salamander**

**noun** /'sæləmændə[r]/  
a small thin lizard with four legs and a long tail, of the type that lives both on land and water

**salesmanship**

**noun** /'seɪlzmənʃɪp/  
skill of persuading people to buy things  
*The salesperson displayed fantastic salesmanship by setting a company record for selling the most goods.*

**salient**

**adjective** /'seɪliənt/  
most important or most noticeable  
*One of the salient features of the landscape is the escarpment valley.*

**salmon**

**noun** /'sæmən/  
a large edible fish with pink flesh

**salubrious**

**adjective** /sə'lʊ:briəs/  
good for one's health  
*We naturally opted to live in the more salubrious part of town.*

**sanatorium**

**noun** /,sænə'tɔːriəm/  
a residential clinic  
*She contracted tuberculosis and, as a consequence, had to be sent to a sanatorium.*

**sanctuary**

**noun** /'sæŋktʃʊəri/  
safety and protection  
*The government offered sanctuary to 4,000 refugees.*

**sanguine**

**adjective** /'sæŋgwɪn/  
hopeful and confident  
*He has chosen to take a sanguine view of the current situation.*

**sapient**

**adjective** /'seɪpiənt/  
having great knowledge or intelligence  
*My father believes himself to be a sapient man.*

**sapphire**

**noun** /'sæfəɪə[r]/  
a clear, bright blue precious stone  
*He gave her a ring of sapphire for her birthday.*

**sarcophagus**

**noun** /sar'kɒfəgəs/  
a stone coffin  
*The display of the sarcophagus in the art museum was visited by many people.*

**sardonic**

**adjective** /sɑ:'dɒnɪk/  
mocking  
*His sardonic smile was contrary to his words.*

**sarong**

**noun** /sə'rɒŋ/  
a long strip of cotton or silk material tied round the middle of the body like a skirt  
*She bought a Malaysian silk sarong from Kuala Lumpur.*

## S

12 to 14  
age group**satchel****noun** /ˈsætʃəl/

a leather school bag that can be hung over the shoulder or back

*He slung his satchel over his shoulder and made his way to school.***satiate****verb** /ˈseɪʃiət/

to satisfy

*It is impossible to satiate the fat man's appetite.***satisfying****adjective** /ˈsætɪsfaɪɪŋ/

fulfilling; leaving nothing to be desired

*The trip to the hills was a very satisfying experience.***saucer****noun** /ˈsɔːsə[r]/

a small curved dish on which a tea-cup stands

*The metal saucer has turned red due to rust.***sausage****noun** /ˈsɒsɪdʒ/

a short tube of raw minced meat in a skin, that is grilled or fried before eating

*He had a sausage with a roll for lunch.***saviour****noun** /ˈseɪvjə[r]/

a rescuer

*The new manager has been hailed as the saviour of the previously unpopular club.***savoury****adjective** /ˈseɪvəri/

tasting salty not sweet

*He bought delicious savoury snacks for the tea party.***scabbard****noun** /ˈskæbəd/

the cover for a sword or a similar bladed weapon

*The drill master told his student to wipe the blood from his sword before slipping it back into the scabbard.***scabrous****noun** /ˈskæbrəs/

rough and covered with scabs

*His skin was scabrous following years of neglect.***scaffolding****noun** /ˈskæfəldɪŋ/

a temporary structure made of wooden planks and metal poles, used while constructing, repairing, or cleaning a building

*The scaffolding was dismantled because it had been unsteady.***scalpel****noun** /ˈskælpəl/

a knife with a small sharp blade, used by a surgeon

*The nurse handed the surgeon a scalpel as he began to operate on the patient.***scandalous****adjective** /ˈskændələs/

shocking and unacceptable

*His opponents are spreading scandalous stories about the presidential candidate.***scaremonger****noun** /ˈskeər,mʌŋgə[r]/

a person who spreads stories deliberately to make people frightened or nervous

*He dismissed the expert on global warming as nothing but a scaremonger.***scatterbrain****noun** /ˈskætəbreɪn/

one who cannot think in an organised way

*The student was such a scatterbrain that he often forgot his homework and was hardly ever on time.***scavenger****noun** /ˈskævɪndʒə[r]/

one who searches among what is unwanted by others

*The bold raccoon became a scavenger when night fell.*

**scenario****noun** /sə'niəriəʊ/

a description of how things might happen in the future  
*The worst-case scenario will be if I have to get a job as a waitress.*

**sceptic****noun** /'skeptɪk/

one who doubts the truth of a fact or theory  
*One of the reasons I am such a sceptic is because I have been lied to so often.*

**schizophrenia****noun** /,skɪtsə'frɪniə/

a long-term mental disorder whose symptoms include inappropriate actions and feelings and withdrawal from reality into fantasy  
*The patient was diagnosed with schizophrenia.*

**scholastic****adjective** /skə'læstɪk/

pertaining to education or schools  
*His scholastic achievements exceed his extracurricular activities.*

**scintilla****noun** /sɪn'tɪlə/

a tiny trace or amount  
*There is not a scintilla of doubt that he is guilty.*

**scintillate****verb** /'sɪntɪlət/

give off flashes of light; sparkle  
*The substance began to scintillate when we exposed it to the sun.*

**scoff****verb** /skɒf/

to speak in a scornful way  
*I saw him scoff at their immature behaviour.*

**scorpion****noun** /'skɔːpiən/

a small creature, with a poisonous sting

**scramble****verb** /'skræmbəl/

to move quickly, especially with difficulty, using your hands to help you  
*On seeing the two vicious dogs, the robber tried to scramble over the barbed wire fence.*

**scrape****verb** /'skreɪp/

to remove something from a surface by moving a sharp edge across it firmly  
*I will be able to scrape the mud off my shoes with a knife.*

**scribble****verb** /'skɪrɪbl/

to write something quickly and carelessly, especially because you do not have enough time  
*He had to scribble madly in order to take down his professor's lecture.*

**scrimmage****noun** /'skrɪmɪdʒ/

a confused struggle or fight  
*In the scrimmage that ensued, I lost my shoe while he lost a tooth and his wallet.*

**scriptural****adjective** /'skɪptʃərəl/

pertaining to, contained in, or warranted by the holy books of a particular religion  
*He has deep knowledge of the scriptural writings of mediaeval times.*

**scroll****noun** /skrəʊl/

a long roll of paper for writing on  
*This scroll was excavated, along with numerous other artefacts, from the tomb of the young Pharaoh.*

**scruple****noun** /'skruːpl/

a feeling that prevents you from doing something that may be morally wrong  
*She is totally without scruple when it comes to moral values.*

## S

12 to 14  
age group**scrutineer****noun** /ˌskru:tə'nɪə[r]/

a person who ensures that an election is organised correctly

*The scrutineer from European Union monitored the proceedings of the Afghan elections.***scrutinise****verb** /ˈskru:tənəɪz/

to examine closely and carefully

*I need to scrutinise each and every detail of the magazine before sending it off for publication.***scuttle****verb** /ˈskʌtl/

to run quickly with short steps or with the body close to the ground

*The spider tried to scuttle off when I attempted to squash it.***secede****verb** /sɪ'si:d/

to withdraw formally from a federation of states or a political or religious organisation

*Chechnya is trying hard to secede from the Russian federation.***secular****adjective** /ˈsekjələ[r]/

not religious or spiritual

*Ours is not a secular society.***seiche****noun** /seɪʃ/

a temporary disturbance or oscillation in the water of a sea, lake or bay

*A seiche is caused by seismic or unusual atmospheric activity.***senescence****noun** /sɪ'nesns/

the effects of being old

*He did not show any signs of senescence until he was well past seventy.***septuagenarian****noun** /ˌseptʃʊədʒə'neəriən/

a person who is between 70 and 79 years old

*There was not a single septuagenarian in the audience.***serenity****noun** /sə'renəti/

calmness and placidity

*The serenity of the sleepy town was shattered by a tremendous explosion.***serpent****noun** /ˈsɜ:pənt/

a snake

**severity****noun** /sɪ'verəti/

harshness

*I don't think you will be able to bear the severity of the weather there.***shibboleth****noun** /ˈʃɪbələθ/

an old idea or phrase that is no longer accepted by many people as important to modern life

*This notion of the old man's is just a shibboleth.***shimmer****verb** /ˈʃɪmə[r]/

to shine with a soft light that seems to move slightly

*Her black hair seems to shimmer like water in the moonlight.***shingle****noun** /ˈʃɪŋɡl/

a mass of small smooth stones lying on a beach

*He saw tiny turtles on the shingle.***shrimp****noun** /ˈʃrɪmp/

a small sea creature with a shell and many legs

12 to 14  
age group

S

**shroud****noun** /ʃraʊd/

a thing that surrounds or hides something  
*We were engulfed in a shroud of smoke from the campfire.*

**silhouette****noun** /ˌsɪluːet/

the dark shape and outline of someone or something seen against a lighter background  
*The dress is fitted to give you a flattering silhouette.*

**silt****noun** /sɪlt/

earthy matter, fine sand etc carried by moving or running water and deposited as a sediment  
*Silt is sometimes known as "rock flour" or "stone dust".*

**simplistic****adjective** /sɪmˈplɪstɪk/

over-simplified  
*His simplistic approach towards things has complicated his life.*

**simultaneous****adjective** /sɪmɪlˈteɪniəs/

occurring at the same time  
*There were several simultaneous shots fired.*

**siren****noun** /ˈsaɪrən/

a device which makes a long loud noise as a warning  
*The police cars had flashing lights and a siren.*

**sojourn****noun** /ˈsoʊdʒən/

a temporary stay  
*Their sojourn at the hill resort was very relaxing.*

**solace****noun** /ˈsɒləs/

emotional comfort  
*I hope you find solace in the thought that all of us share your loss.*

**soliloquy****noun** /səˈlɪləkwɪ/

a dramatic monologue intended to give the illusion of unspoken reflections  
*She quoted Hamlet's famous soliloquy in the examination paper.*

**solitary****adjective** /ˈsɒlətri/

without other people  
*The Americans kept the prisoners of war in solitary confinement.*

**sonar****noun** /ˈsəʊnɑː/

an equipment or a system for finding objects underwater using sound waves  
*Submarines also use sonar to detect other ships.*

**sonorous****adjective** /ˈsɒnərəs/

sounding deep and full  
*The vocalist of the new rock band has a sonorous voice.*

**sophistication****noun** /səˈfɪstɪˈkeɪʃn/

worldly knowledge about fashion, culture and social etiquette  
*Her sophistication probably stems from the many years she spent travelling around Europe and South America.*

**southerner****noun** /ˈsʌðənə[r]/

a person who comes from or lives in the southern part of a country  
*Mahmud is a southerner since he was born in Karachi.*

**souvenir****noun** /ˌsuːvəˈnɪə[r]/

something bought or kept as a reminder of a time or place  
*On her last day in the Maldives, she bought a souvenir to remind herself of the wonderful time she had.*

## S

12 to 14  
age group**spaghetti****plural noun** /spə'geti/

pasta in long strands

*She makes delicious spaghetti.***speciation****noun** /,spi:ʃi'eɪʃən/

the formation of new and distinct species during the course of evolution

*Genetic drift may be the minor or major contributor to speciation.***spectrograph****noun** /'spektrəʊgrɑ:f/

an instrument that separates an incoming wave into a frequency spectrum

*The plant pigment phytochrome was discovered using a spectrograph.***speculative****adjective** /'spekjələtɪv/

based on theory or guesswork rather than knowledge

*He cast a speculative look at Kate when she refused to tell him why she was upset.***spider****noun** /'spaɪdə[r]/

a small silk-spinning insect with eight legs

**spinach****noun** /'spɪnɪʃ/

a vegetable with large dark-green leaves that are cooked or eaten in salads

*They had spinach for dinner.***spontaneity****noun** /,spɒntə'neɪəti/

lack of forethought or planning

*What I like best about his parties is their spontaneity.***spouse****noun** /spaʊs/

a husband or wife

*I am really nervous about introducing my future spouse to my parents.***spouting****verb** /spaʊtɪŋ/

emitting or discharging forcibly

*The volcano was spouting ash and lava.***squid****noun** /'skwɪd/

a sea animal with ten tentacles

**squirrel****noun** /'skwɪrəl/

a small red or grey animal with a thick tail that lives in trees and eats nuts

**stagnate****verb** /stæg'neɪt/

to stop developing, or making progress

*If you don't want your novel to stagnate, you need to seriously consider modifying the plot.***stallion****noun** /'stæliən/

a male horse

**stanchion****noun** /'stæntʃən/

an upright bar, post, or frame forming a support or barrier

*The ball hit the stanchion behind the goal.***starfish****noun** /'stɑ:fiʃ/

a sea animal shaped like a star

**steak****noun** /steɪk/

a thick slice of any piece of meat

*I would like a beef steak with mushroom sauce.***stipulate****verb** /'stɪpjuleɪt/

to say exactly and officially what must be done

*The law is supposed to stipulate how often schools have to be inspected.*

12 to 14  
age group

S

**stochastic**

**adjective** /stəˈkæstɪk/  
relating to skilful conjecturing  
*The result of a stochastic process in statistics can only be verified once the figures have been computed.*

**stoical**

**adjective** /stəʊɪkəl/  
enduring pain and hardship without showing one's feelings or complaining  
*The doctor was amazed at his stoical acceptance of death.*

**strategy**

**noun** /ˈstrætədʒi/  
a plan  
*The company must devise a new strategy to beat the competition.*

**stubborn**

**adjective** /ˈstʌbən/  
unreasonably obstinate  
*She has inherited her mother's stubborn streak.*

**suave**

**adjective** /sʊɑːv/  
confident, smooth and elegant  
*His suave manner impressed everyone at the party.*

**sublime**

**adjective** /səˈblaɪm/  
of extremely high quality and causing great admiration  
*The sublime performance of the musician left the audience spellbound.*

**subliminal**

**adjective** /ˌsʌbˈlɪmɪnəl/  
outside conscious awareness  
*Many people believe that television adverts contain subliminal messages which induce you to buy their products.*

**subsequent**

**adjective** /ˈsʌbsɪkwənt/  
following  
*In subsequent lessons, we shall try solving more difficult problems.*

**subsidiary**

**adjective** /səbˈsɪdiəri/  
connected but less important  
*This information may be used as subsidiary evidence but it is not sufficient by itself to prove your argument.*

**substantiate**

**verb** /səbˈstæʃɪeɪt/  
to prove that something is true  
*I intend to substantiate my statement by producing witnesses.*

**subterranean**

**adjective** /ˌsʌbtəˈreɪniən/  
below ground  
*The "Karez" is a subterranean canal.*

**subtle**

**adjective** /ˈsʌtl/  
so slight or delicate as to be difficult to perceive or describe  
*She took her husband's subtle remarks about her untidy appearance very seriously.*

**succinct**

**adjective** /səkˈsɪŋkt/  
expressed briefly  
*The audience appreciated his succinct speech.*

**succumb**

**verb** /səˈkʌm/  
to give way to  
*I always succumb to the temptation of eating chocolate when I go to the sweet shop.*

**suffice**

**verb** /səˈfaɪs/  
to be enough  
*One coat of paint should suffice.*

## S

12 to 14  
age group**supercilious**

**adjective** /ˌsuːpəˈsɪliəs/  
contemptuous  
*I resent your supercilious and arrogant attitude.*

**surfeit**

**noun** /ˈsɜːfɪt/  
an excessive amount  
*He suffered from indigestion after eating a surfeit of lasagne.*

**surreptitious**

**adjective** /ˌsʌrəpˈtɪʃəs/  
secret  
*The news of their surreptitious meeting gradually leaked out.*

**surveyor**

**noun** /səˈveɪə[r]/  
one who examines and records the details of an area of land  
*He works as a surveyor in the public works department.*

**susceptibility**

**noun** /səˌseptəˈbɪləti/  
ability to be influenced  
*His old age has increased his susceptibility to infection.*

**suspicious**

**adjective** /səˈspɪʃəs/  
feeling that something is wrong without having any proof  
*He has his father's suspicious nature.*

**sustain**

**verb** /səˈsteɪn/  
to support  
*No one is sure whether Mars contains the right conditions to sustain life.*

**svelte**

**adjective** /svelt/  
slender and attractive  
*Her svelte figure was enhanced by the black dress.*

**swathe**

**verb** /ˈswɛɪð/  
to wrap or bind up  
*We should swathe his leg in bandages to prevent his wound from becoming infected.*

**swivel**

**verb** /ˈswɪvəl/  
to turn around a fixed central point  
*She had to swivel the chair in order to see what I was doing.*

**symmetry**

**noun** /ˈsɪmətri/  
the arrangement of parts in such a way that balance is obtained  
*The addition of the second tower will give this edifice the symmetry which it currently lacks.*

**synonym**

**noun** /ˈsɪnənɪm/  
a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word  
*I am having trouble coming up with a synonym for 'shaky'.*

**syntax**

**noun** /ˈsɪntæks/  
the grammatical rules for forming sentences  
*It took her years to become comfortable with the syntax of the English language.*

**syringe**

**noun** /sɪˈrɪndʒ/  
a plastic or glass tube with a long, hollow needle that is used to take out blood or inject medicine into a person's body  
*The little girl started crying the minute she saw a syringe in the nurse's hand.*

**tablecloth****noun** /'tæbklɒθ/

a cloth spread over the top of a table  
*This beautifully embroidered tablecloth was purchased in Hong Kong.*

**tabulate****verb** /'tæbjuleɪt/

to arrange facts or figures in columns or lists  
*DAWN put together a team of experts to tabulate the words for the Spelling Bee.*

**taciturn****adjective** /'tæsɪtɜːn/

not talkative  
*He is a taciturn man who does not make friends easily.*

**talisman****noun** /'tælɪzmən/

an object thought to have magic powers and to bring good luck  
*Joe believed that the pendant he found in Vietnam had served as a talisman.*

**tandem****noun** /'tændəm/

a bicycle for two riders, one behind the other  
*The child was so fascinated by bicycles that he built a tandem.*

**tangerine****noun** /,tændʒə'riːn/

a type of small, sweet orange  
*She put a tangerine in the fruit salad.*

**tantamount****adjective** /'tæntəmaʊnt/

having the same equivalent effect  
*Ignoring their pathetic condition and not lifting a finger to help them is tantamount to murder.*

**taskmaster****noun** /'tɑːskmɑːstə[r]/

a person who sets work for others to do  
*Their teacher was a severe taskmaster.*

**taut****adjective** /tɔːt/

tightly stretched  
*The taut violin strings cut her finger.*

**tavern****noun** /'tævən/

a pub or an inn  
*Their car broke down at the highway and they had to stay the night at the old tavern.*

**taxon****noun** /'taksən/

a category in the classification of living organisms  
*A particular taxon comprises of organisms that have certain genetic characteristics in common.*

**technicality****noun** /,teknɪ'kæləti/

a small detail in a law or set of rules  
*Although his client was guilty, the lawyer managed to get him off on a technicality.*

**technophile****noun** /'teknəʊfəɪl/

a person who is enthusiastic about new technology  
*My son is a true technophile and has to buy every new gadget as soon as possible.*

**tedious****adjective** /'tiːdiəs/

long and boring  
*I was given the tedious job of stamping a thousand papers.*

**tedium****noun** /'tiːdiəm/

boredom  
*She longed for something to relieve the tedium of everyday life.*

**telekinesis****noun** /,telɪkɪ'niːsɪs/

the ability to move objects without touching them, using mental powers  
*The girl used telekinesis to lift a pencil lying on a nearby table.*

## T

12 to 14  
age group**teleprompter****noun** /ˈtelɪprɒmptə[r]/

a device which displays words as they are to be spoken

*When the teleprompter malfunctioned, the newscaster was at a complete loss for words.***tenacious****adjective** /təˈneɪʃəs/

persistent; not letting go

*The woman kept such a tenacious grip on her handbag that the thief was not able to snatch it.***tenant****noun** /ˈtenənt/

a person who pays rent for the use of a room, building, land to the person who owns it

*My tenant is beginning to irritate me as he never pays his rent on time.***tendentious****adjective** /tenˈdɛnʃəs/

having an underlying purpose

*The periodical's readership dropped due to its tendentious editorials.***tendril****noun** /ˈtɛndrəl/a thin curling stem that grows from a climbing plant  
*Each branch of the ivy was attached to the wall by a tendril.***termite****noun** /ˈtɜːmaɪt/

ant-like insect that feeds on wood

**terrific****adjective** /təˈrɪfɪk/

excellent; wonderful

*The officer was commended on the terrific job he had done for the company.***tetanus****noun** /ˈtɛtənəs/

a disease spread by bacteria causing the muscles to stiffen and go into spasms

*She was injected against tetanus.***theatre****noun** /ˈθɪətə[r]/

a building or an outdoor area where plays are performed

*A new theatre has been built in London modelled on Shakespeare's Globe.***theological****adjective** /ˈθiːəˈlɒdʒɪkəl/

relating to the study of religion

*Theological debates should be encouraged in order to acquaint people with a wide range of beliefs.***therapeutic****adjective** /ˈθɛrəˈpiːjuːtɪk/

helpful in treating an illness

*The doctors cannot deny the therapeutic properties of herbs.***thermoelectric****adjective** /ˈθɜːməʊˈlɛktrɪk/

denoting electricity produced by heat

*The thermoelectric method is a more environmentally friendly way to generate power.***thoroughbred****adjective** /ˈθʌrəbrɛd/

an animal of pure breed

*My daughter owns a thoroughbred horse.***thoroughfare****noun** /ˈθʌrəfɛə[r]/

a public street or road used by traffic

*Her house is noisy because she lives close to a busy thoroughfare.***threadbare****adjective** /ˈθrɛdbɛə[r]/

well-worn and therefore thin

*His threadbare coat does little to keep the cold out.***threaten****verb** /ˈθreɪn/

to say that you will cause trouble to somebody if you do not get what you want

*He has the power to threaten his employees with dismissal if they don't work hard enough.*

**thrombosis****noun** /θrɒm'bəʊsɪs/

a serious medical condition caused by a blood clot forming in a blood vessel  
*The patient's heart attack occurred due to a coronary thrombosis.*

**thunder****noun** /'θʌndə[r]/

the loud noise in the sky that you hear after a flash of lightning, during a storm  
*The thunder scared me so much that I hid under the bed.*

**tick****noun** /tɪk/

large mite that feeds on the blood of warm-blooded animals

**timorous****adjective** /'tɪmərəs/

nervous and easily frightened  
*A squirrel is a timorous animal.*

**tirade****noun** /taɪ'reɪd/

a long speech of angry criticism  
*She launched into a tirade of abuse against politicians.*

**toad****noun** /təʊd/

a frog-like animal that lives mainly on land but also in water

**tolerant****adjective** /'tɒlərənt/

accepting of other people's ideas or actions even when not agreeing with them  
*He has a very tolerant attitude towards other religions.*

**topography****noun** /tə'pɒgrəfi/

the physical features of an area of land  
*Before the generals gave the order to attack, they ordered a complete study of the topography of the region.*

**torment****verb** /'tɔːmənt/

to tease excessively  
*He likes to torment his sister as she is too young to stand up for herself.*

**torrential****adjective** /tə'reɪnʃl/

pouring heavily  
*Nobody expected such a torrential downpour last night.*

**tortilla****noun** /tɔː'tɪ:lə/

(in Mexican cooking) a thin, flat maize pancake  
*She served delicious tortilla with minced beef, beans and cheese for lunch.*

**tortoise****noun** /'tɔːtɔːs/

a slow-moving animal with a shell over its body

**torture****verb** /'tɔːtʃə[r]/

to use mental or physical pain as a means of persuasion  
*He plans to torture the prisoner until he confesses to the murder.*

**tousle****verb** /'taʊzl/

to handle roughly and make untidy  
*If you tousle my hair one more time I will tickle you.*

**tranquil****adjective** /'træŋkwɪl/

calm and peaceful  
*She led a tranquil life in the countryside with her pet animals.*

## T

12 to 14  
age group**transcend****verb** /træn'send/

to be or go beyond the usual limits

*Judging by the positive responses, this novel will transcend the success of all his previous works.***transcribe****verb** /træn'skraɪb/

to record in written form

*When you transcribe your notes, please send me a copy for my own records.***transgenic****adjective** /tranz'dʒɛnɪk/

(of a plant or animal) having genetic material introduced from another type of plant or animal

*Transgenic fruits never taste the same as the original.***transgress****verb** /trænz'gres/

to go beyond set bounds

*If you continue to transgress the limits of civil behaviour, no one will want to have anything to do with you.***transparent****adjective** /træns'pærənt/

allowing you to see through

*The transparent wings of the insect looked beautiful.***transporter****noun** /træn'spɔ:tə[r]/

a large vehicle, used for carrying heavy objects, e.g. other vehicles

*Due to a mechanical fault, the new cars fell off the transporter.***tremble****verb** /'treɪbl/

to shake involuntarily, especially because you are nervous, frightened or excited

*If you begin to tremble, try to calm yourself by taking deep breaths.***tremulous****adjective** /'tremjələs/

shaking or quivering slightly

*His tremulous voice told me that he was nervous.***tribulation****noun** /,trɪbjʊ'leɪʃn/

great trouble or suffering

*The war was a time of tribulation for all of us.***tribunal****noun** /traɪ'bju:nl/

a type of court with the authority to deal with a particular problem or disagreement

*The tribunal found the defendant guilty of war crimes and sentenced him to life imprisonment.***trigonometry****noun** /,trɪgə'nɒmətri/

a branch of mathematics

*She took trigonometry as an O level subject.***trinket****noun** /'trɪŋkɪt/

an ornament or piece of jewellery that is not worth much money

*This may be just a trinket, but it is of great sentimental value to me.***trivial****adjective** /'trɪvɪəl/

of little importance

*My friend treated my accident as a trivial matter, which really upset me.***truant****noun** /'tru:ənt/

a pupil who stays away from school without permission or explanation

*Mrs. Smith was told that her son had been a truant from school for a whole week.*

**tuberculosis****noun** /ˈtjuːbɜːkjuːləʊsɪs/

an infectious disease transmitted by bacteria  
*He is really weak because he had tuberculosis when he was young.*

**tularemia****noun** /ˈtjuːləˈriːmiə/

a severe infectious bacterial disease  
*Tularemia affects wild animals but can be transmitted to humans through the bite of various insects or contact with infected animals.*

**tumour****noun** /ˈtjuːmə[r]/

a mass of cells growing in or on a part of the body where they should not  
*He was completely shattered when the doctor told him he had a brain tumour.*

**tumultuous****adjective** /tjuːˈmʌltʃuəs/

disorderly, agitated  
*The presidential candidate received a tumultuous welcome from the crowd.*

**tundra****noun** /ˈtʌndrə/

the vast treeless plains of the arctic regions  
*The soil below the surface of tundra is always frozen.*

**turbulence****noun** /ˈtɜːbjələns/

disturbance, irregular variation

*Warned of approaching turbulence in the atmosphere, the pilot asked the passengers to fasten their seat belts.*

**tycoon****noun** /taɪˈkuːn/

a rich and influential business person  
*He was such a successful business tycoon that he made his first million by the age of twenty.*

**tyranny****noun** /ˈtɪrəni/

unfair or cruel use of power or authority  
*Frederick Douglas fought against the tyranny of slavery throughout his life.*

## U

12 to 14  
age group**ubiquitous**

**adjective** /ju:'bɪkwɪtəs/  
seeming to be everywhere  
*She is one of the most ubiquitous media personalities around.*

**ultimate**

**adjective** /'ʌltɪmət/  
final  
*His ultimate academic goal was to graduate from college.*

**unbiased**

**adjective** /ʌn'biəst/  
fair and not influenced by your own or somebody else's opinions, desires  
*Her unbiased nature made her a perfect choice for the judicial appointment.*

**unconscionable**

**adjective** /ʌn'kɒnʃənəbl/  
causing shame  
*His unconscionable actions caused great distress to his family.*

**uncouth**

**adjective** /ʌn'ku:θ/  
rude or socially unacceptable  
*He was not offered the job because of his uncouth behaviour.*

**unearthly**

**adjective** /ʌn'ɜ:θli/  
strange, mysterious and not natural  
*Every night we could hear unearthly screams coming from the old mansion.*

**unicorn**

**noun** /'ju:nɪkɔ:n/  
an imaginary animal that is like a white horse with one long straight horn growing from its forehead  
*Unicorn blood mythically gives eternal life.*

**uniformity**

**noun** /ju:nɪ'fɔ:məti/  
lack of variation  
*They tried to ensure uniformity across the different departments.*

**unimpeachable**

**adjective** /,ʌnɪm'pi:tʃəbl/  
beyond reproach  
*The lawyer obtained evidence in favour of his client from an unimpeachable source.*

**unobtrusive**

**adjective** /,ʌnəb'tru:sɪv/  
not obvious or easily noticeable  
*The unobtrusive behaviour of the bodyguard attracted no attention*

**unprecedented**

**adjective** /ʌn'presɪdntɪd/  
never having happened before  
*The scheme has been hailed as an unprecedented success.*

**uranium**

**noun** /ju'reɪniəm/  
a heavy, silver-white, radioactive metal  
*Uranium is a metal which is used to produce nuclear energy.*

12 to 14  
age group

V

**vaccinate****verb** /'væksineɪt/

to inject a person or animal to protect them against a disease

*It is essential to vaccinate infants against infectious diseases such as measles and hepatitis.***vacuole****noun** /'vækjuəʊl/

a membrane-bound cavity within a cell, often containing a watery liquid or secretion

*The function and importance of a vacuole varies greatly according to the type of cell in which it is present.***vacuum****noun** /'vækjuəm/

a space completely empty of substance or gas

*Light can travel through vacuum but sound cannot.***vagabond****noun** /'vægəbɒnd/

one who has no home or job and travels from place to place

*He roamed around the streets like a carefree vagabond after quitting college.***valet****noun** /'væleɪ/

manservant who looks after his master's clothes, serves his meals or an employee in a hotel with similar duties

*The valet at the hotel was very good at his work.***valve****noun** /vælv/

a device in a pipe or tube which controls the flow of air, liquid or gas

*The valve in the tap is faulty as it's always blocked.***varnish****verb** /'vɑːnɪʃ/

to put a clear liquid onto hard surfaces that gives it a shiny, transparent surface

*I always like to varnish my furniture because it gives it a very nice shine.***vascular****adjective** /'væskjələ[r]/

made up of or containing vessels or ducts through which blood flows

*The doctor diagnosed her with vascular dementia.***vegetarian****adjective** /'vedʒə'teəriən/

eating no meat

*She followed a strict vegetarian diet***vehement****adjective** /'viːəmənt/

showing strong feelings for something

*The vehement protest was a result of the misappropriation of funds in the department.***vehemently****adverb** /'viːəməntli/

with strong feeling

*The charge was vehemently denied.***velocity****noun** /və'lɒsəti/

speed

*Jaguars can move with an astonishing velocity.***venturesome****adjective** /'ventʃəsəm/

bold, daring, willing to take risks

*A group of venturesome women decided to scale Mount Everest.***verbose****adjective** /vɜː'bəʊs/

using too many words

*Her verbose style of writing is disliked by many people.***vertebrate****noun** /'vɜːtɪbrət/

any animal having a backbone

*Any animal that has a spine or a backbone is a vertebrate.*

## V

12 to 14  
age group**veterinarian****noun** /ˌvɛtəriˈneəriən/

person caring for the health of animals  
*She is studying to be a veterinarian.*

**veterinary****adjective** /ˈvɛtrənəri/

connected with the medical treatment of sick or injured animals  
*The cat had to be rushed to a veterinary hospital when it swallowed a coin.*

**viable****adjective** /ˈvaɪəbl/

capable of succeeding  
*It is not a viable option for him to leave the country.*

**vicious****adjective** /ˈviʃəs/

violent and cruel  
*The vicious dog bit my leg.*

**vicissitude****noun** /vɪˈsɪsɪtjuːd/

change of fortune  
*He considered injuring his leg a vicissitude from which he would soon recover.*

**victorious****adjective** /vɪkˈtɔːriəs/

successful in a competitive situation  
*The victorious team was greeted by a large crowd of supporters when they reached their home country.*

**vigilance****noun** /ˈvɪdʒɪləns/

watchfulness  
*She stressed the need for constant vigilance.*

**vigorous****adjective** /ˈvɪgərəs/

strong and active  
*The government launched a vigorous campaign against tax fraud.*

**vindictive****adjective** /vɪnˈdɪktɪv/

tending to seek revenge  
*He is known to have a vindictive nature which is why I always try to avoid him.*

**virtuosity****noun** /ˌvɜːtʃuˈbɪsəti/

a special artistic or musical skill  
*Nikki gave a performance of breathtaking virtuosity at the concert.*

**visibility****noun** /ˌvɪzəˈbɪləti/

range of vision  
*The plane could not take off because of poor visibility.*

**vitreous****adjective** /ˈvɪtriəs/

hard, shiny and transparent like glass  
*The scientist became famous by discovering a vitreous substitute for glass.*

**vivacious****adjective** /vɪˈveɪʃəs/

lively and high-spirited  
*She is a vivacious young girl.*

**viviparous****adjective** /vɪˈvɪpərəs/

(of animals) producing live babies from its body rather than eggs  
*Viviparous offspring require an external food supply once they are born.*

**vixen****noun** /ˈvɪksn/

a female fox

**vogue****noun** /ˈvəʊg/

the current fashion or trend  
*Pointed shoes have gone out of vogue.*



**voltmeter**

**noun** /'vɒltmɪ:tə[r]/

an instrument for measuring voltage

*The electrician used a voltmeter to check the flow of electricity.*

**voluminous**

**adjective** /və'luːmɪnəs/

very bulky and large

*She had trouble walking because of her voluminous skirt.*

**vortex**

**noun** /'vɔːteks/

a mass of air, water that spins round and round and pulls things into its centre

*Sucked into the vortex, Dorothy and Toto were carried from Kansas to Oz.*

**vouch**

**verb** /vaʊtʃ/

to express confidence in and accept responsibility for a person's behaviour

*I am ready to vouch for his character.*

**vulture**

**noun** /'vʌltʃə[r]/

a large bird with no feathers on its head or neck that eats dead animals

## W

12 to 14  
age group**waffle****noun** /ˈwɒfl/

a small cake made of batter and eaten hot  
*She had a waffle with maple syrup for breakfast.*

**waive****verb** /weɪv/

to choose to forgo something to which one has a right  
*He requested the principal of the school to waive his fee as he could not afford it.*

**waltz****noun** /ˈwɔːls/

a slow-moving dance performed with a partner  
*The waltz is one of the most elegant dances.*

**wanderlust****noun** /ˈwɒndəlɪst/

a strong desire to travel  
*His wanderlust was only curtailed by a shrinking bank balance.*

**wangle****verb** /ˈwæŋɡl/

to get something by scheming  
*She managed to wangle an invitation to the reception.*

**wasp****noun** /wɒsp/

a yellow and black insect that flies and can sting people

**wattage****noun** /ˈwɒtɪdʒ/

an amount of electrical power  
*I need a bulb with a higher wattage for my bedside lamp.*

**wearisome****adjective** /ˈwɪərɪsəm/

tiring  
*No one was interested in listening to her wearisome chatter.*

**weigh****verb** /weɪ/

to measure how heavy something is  
*I asked him to weigh his baggage before going to the airport.*

**weighbridge****noun** /ˈweɪbrɪdʒ/

a machine that measures the mass of a vehicle  
*The truck passed over the weighbridge before proceeding.*

**wellington****noun** /ˈwelɪŋtən/

a waterproof boot usually reaching the knee  
*He lost a wellington in the deep puddle.*

**whale****noun** /weɪl/

a large mammal that lives in the sea and looks like a fish

**whaler****noun** /ˈweɪlə/

a person who hunts whales  
*The whaler was hired to track down the killer whale.*

**wheelwright****noun** /ˈwiːlraɪt/

one who makes or repairs wheels  
*John took his donkey cart to the wheelwright to have the spokes of the wheel repaired.*

**whimsical****adjective** /ˈwɪmzɪkl/

unusual in a way that can be either amusing or annoying  
*He has a whimsical sense of humour.*

**whisker****noun** /ˈwɪskə[r]/

the long, stiff hair growing near the mouth of a cat, rat  
*After the fight, not a single whisker was left on the face of the cat.*

**whorl**

**noun** /wɔ:l/

a ring of leaves, flowers, etc. around the stem of a plant

*The new plant in the garden grew a whorl of lilac flowers.*

**widespread**

**adjective** /ˈwaɪdspred/

existing or happening over a large area or among many people

*The plan received widespread support all over the country.*

**wilful**

**adjective** /ˈwɪlf/

deliberately bad or harmful

*They caused wilful damage to her shop while she was away.*

**wince**

**verb** /wɪns/

to suddenly make an expression with your face that shows pain, distress or embarrassment

*The sudden pain in her leg made her wince.*

**wreath**

**noun** /rɪ:θ/

a woven circle of flowers or leaves

*She placed a beautiful wreath of flowers on her grandfather's grave.*

**wrestle**

**verb** /ˈresl/

to fight somebody by holding them and trying force them to the ground

*I watched in fear as he tried to wrestle with the intruder.*

**wrinkle**

**noun** /ˈrɪŋkl/

small fold or line on the surface of something

*Even at the age of fifty, she hardly has a wrinkle on her face.*

# X

**12 to 14**  
age group

## xenophobia

**noun** /ˌzɛnəˈfəʊbiə/

a strong feeling of dislike or fear of people from other countries

*The government has decided to start a campaign against racism and xenophobia.*

## xylophone

**noun** /ˈzaɪləfəʊn/

a musical instrument made of two rows of wooden bars of different lengths that you hit with two small sticks

*The musician played the xylophone really well.*

**yak**

**noun** /jæk/

an animal of the cow family, with long horns and long hair that lives in Central Asia

**yeast**

**noun** /ji:st/

a natural substance that is used to make bread rise  
*She uses yeast for baking pizzas.*

**yield**

**verb** /ji:ld/

to produce as a result  
*The apple trees in our orchard no longer yield fruit.*

**yoghurt**

**noun** /'jɒgət/

a slightly sour, thick liquid food made from milk  
*I love to eat yoghurt with fruit and a little sugar.*

## Z

**12 to 14**  
age group

**zany**

**adjective** /ˈzeɪni/

strange or unusual in an amusing way

*I can watch the twin brothers' zany antics for hours.*

**zealous**

**adjective** /ˈzeləs/

showing great energy and enthusiasm for something

*The leader has earned the reputation of a zealous reformer.*

**zenith**

**noun** /ˈzenɪθ/

the point when something is strongest and most successful

*He has reached the zenith of his career and he is only thirty years old.*

**zest**

**noun** /zest/

extreme interest and enthusiasm

*He had a great zest for life.*

**zodiac**

**noun** /ˈzəʊdiæk/

a circular picture divided into 12 equal periods with names and signs related to the placement of stars and planets

*According to the zodiac, a person born between November 22 and December 21 is called a Sagittarius.*

**zoology**

**noun** /zəʊˈɒlədʒi/

the scientific study of animals

*Zoology was her favourite subject as she loved animals.*