

## Aa

## A, a /eɪ/

the first letter of the alphabet

**a** (also **an**) weak /ə/ strong /eɪ/ **determiner**

**1** **A1** used before a noun to mean one thing or person: *I need a car.* ◦ *Can I have an apple?*

**2** **A1** every or each: *Take one tablet three times a day.*

**3** **A1** used to say what job someone does: *She's a mechanic.*

**Common mistake: a or an?**

Remember to use **an** in front of words that begin with a vowel sound. These are words that start with the letters a, e, i, o, or u, or with a sound like those letters.

**a car, an orange, an hour**

**A&E** /ˈeɪəndˈiː/ **noun** [no plural] UK (US **emergency room**)

the part of a hospital where people go when they need treatment quickly: *She was taken to A&E.*

**abandon** /əˈbændən/ **verb**

**1** to leave someone or something somewhere: *Dad had to abandon the car by the side of the road.*

**2** to stop doing something before it is finished: *We abandoned the picnic when it started to rain.*

**abbey** /ˈæbi/ **noun**

a group of buildings that includes a large Christian church, where religious men or women once lived: *Westminster Abbey*

**abbreviation** /əˈbrɪːviːeɪʃən/ **noun**

a shorter form of a word or phrase, especially used in writing: *'St' is an abbreviation of the word 'street'.*

**ability** /əˈbɪləti/ **noun** (plural **abilities**)

**B1** the skill or qualities that you need to do something: *He had the ability to explain things clearly.*

**able** /ˈeɪbl/ **adj**

**A2** If you are able to do something, you can do it: *He'll be able to help you.*

**abnormal** /æbˈnɔːməl/ **adj**

not normal: *abnormal behaviour*

**aboard** /əˈbɔːd/ **adv, preposition**

on or onto a plane, ship, bus, or train: *Welcome aboard flight 109 to Paris.*

**abolish** /əˈbɒlɪʃ/ **verb**

to end a law or system: *Slavery was abolished in the US in 1865.*

**about<sup>1</sup>** /əˈbaʊt/ **preposition**

**1** **A1** relating to a particular subject: *What was she talking about?*

**2** UK to different parts of a place: *We wandered about the town.*

**3** **what/how about...?** **A2** used to suggest something: *How about a coffee?*

**4** **what/how about...?** **B1** used to ask for someone's opinion on a particular subject: *What about Ava – is she nice?*

**about<sup>2</sup>** /əˈbaʊt/ **adv**

**1** **A1** close to a particular number or time, although not exactly that number or time: *It happened about two months ago.*

**2** UK to or in different parts of a place: *She just leaves her clothes lying about.*

**3** **about to do something** going to do something very soon: *I'm about to leave.*

**above** /əˈbʌv/ **adv, preposition**

**1** **A1** in a higher position than something else: *Look on the shelf above your head.*

**2** **A2** more than an amount or level: *This toy is for children aged four and above.*

**3** **B1** higher on the page: *Please send the articles to the address shown above.*

**4** **above all** **B1** most important of everything: *Above all, I'd like to thank my family.*

**abroad** /əˈbrɔːd/ **adv**

**B1** in or to a different country: *Are you going abroad this summer?*

**abrupt** /əˈbrʌpt/ **adj**

sudden: *The conversation came to an abrupt end.*

**absence** /ˈæbsəns/ **noun**

**1** a time when you are not in a place: *His absence was noticed.*

**2** [no plural] the fact that something does not exist: *the absence of proof*

**absent** /ˈæbsənt/ **adj**

**B1** not in a place, especially school or

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work: *He has been **absent from** school all week.*

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**absolute** /'æbsəlu:t/ **adj**

complete: *Our trip to Rome was an **absolute disaster**.*

c

**absolutely** /,æbsə'lu:tli/ **adv**

**1** **B1** completely: *The food was **absolutely delicious**.*

e

**2** used to strongly agree with someone: *'Do you agree?' 'Absolutely.'*

f

**absorb** /əb'zɔ:b/ **verb**

**1** to take in liquid, gas, or heat and hold it: *Cook the rice until all the liquid has been **absorbed**.*

h

**2** to understand and remember something: *It's hard to **absorb** so much information.*

j

**abstract** /'æbstrækt/ **adj**

**1** relating to ideas and not real things: *Truth and beauty are **abstract concepts**.*

k

**2** abstract art involves shapes and colours and not images of real things or people: *abstract paintings*

m

**absurd** /əb'zɜ:d/ **adj**

very silly: *Your argument is completely **absurd**.*

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o

**abuse**<sup>1</sup> /ə'bju:s/ **noun**

**1** the act of using something for the wrong purpose in a way that is bad: *alcohol **abuse***

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**2** [no plural] the act of being violent or cruel to another person: *child **abuse***

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**3** [no plural] rude words said to someone: *The crowds were shouting **abuse** at him.*

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**abuse**<sup>2</sup> /ə'bju:z/ **verb** (**abusing**, **abused**)

**1** to be cruel and violent with someone: *Some of the women were **abused** by their husbands.*

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**2** to use something for the wrong purpose in a way that is bad: *He **abused** alcohol all his life.*

v

**3** to say rude words to someone: *The crowd started **abusing** him.*

w

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y

**abusive** /ə'bju:sɪv/ **adj**

using rude language or violence to be cruel to someone: *an **abusive** phone call*

z

**academic** /,ækə'demɪk/ **adj**

related to education, schools, universities, etc.: *academic standards*

**accelerate** /æk'seləreɪt/ **verb**

to start to move or drive faster: *I **accelerated** to pass the bus.*

**accelerator** /æk'seləreɪtə/ **noun**

the part of a car that you push with your foot to make it go faster  
 → See **Car** on page C3

**accent** /'æksənt/ **noun**

**1** **B1** the way that someone speaks, showing where they come from: *an American **accent** • a French **accent***

**2** a mark written or printed over a letter to show you how to pronounce it: *There's an **accent** on the 'e' of 'café'.*

**accept** /æk'sept/ **verb**

**1** **B1** to take something that someone offers you: *He **accepted** the job. • He won't **accept** advice from anyone.*

**2** to say that something is true, often something bad: *He **refuses** to **accept** that he made a mistake.*

**3** **accept responsibility/blame** to admit that you caused something bad that happened: *I **accept** full responsibility for the accident.*

**acceptable** /æk'septəbl/ **adj**

**B1** good enough: *Is her work of an **acceptable** standard?*

**access**<sup>1</sup> /'ækses/ **noun** [no plural]

**1** **B1** the fact of being able to use or see something: *Do you have **access** to a computer? • Internet **access***

**2** **B1** the way that you reach or go into a place: *The only **access** to the island is by boat.*

**access**<sup>2</sup> /'ækses/ **verb**

to be able to find and see information, especially using a computer: *You will need a password to **access** those files.*

**accessory** /æk'sesəri/ **noun** [usually plural] (plural **accessories**)

something added to something else to make it more attractive or useful: *camera **accessories***

**accident** /'æksɪdənt/ **noun**

**1** **A2** something bad that happens that is not wanted or planned, and that hurts someone or damages some-

thing: *a car accident* • *She had an accident in the kitchen.*

**2 by accident** (B1) without wanting to or planning to: *I deleted the wrong file by accident.*

**accidental** /æksɪ'dentəl/ **adj**  
happening without being wanted or planned: *accidental damage*

**accidentally** /æksɪ'dentəli/ **adv**  
If you do something bad accidentally, you do it without wanting to or planning to: *I accidentally knocked over a glass of water.*

**accommodation** /ə,kɒmə'deɪʃən/ **noun** [no plural] UK (US **accommodations** [plural noun])  
(B1) a place where you live or stay: *rented accommodation*

**accompany** /ə'kʌmpəni/ **verb** (**accompanying, accompanied**)  
**1** (B1) formal to go to a place with someone: *All children must be accompanied by an adult.*

**2** (B1) to be sold or supplied with something else: *The book is accompanied by a DVD.*

**3** to play a musical instrument with someone else who is playing or singing

**accord** /ə'kɔ:d/ **noun** [no plural]  
**of your own accord** because you decide to, and not because someone tells you to: *She left of her own accord.*

**according to** /ə'kɔ:dn̩ tu:/ **preposition**  
**1** (B1) as said by someone or as shown by something: *According to Susie, he was alone last night.*

**2** based on a particular system or plan: *Students are put in groups according to their ability.*

**account<sup>1</sup>** /ə'kaʊnt/ **noun**  
**1** (A1) an arrangement with a bank to keep your money there: *I paid the money into my account.*  
**2** a description of something that happened: *They gave different accounts of the event.*

**3 take something into account/take account of something** to think about something when judging a situation: *They took his age into account when*

*judging his performance.* • *A good architect takes account of the building's surroundings.*

**4 on no account** not for any reason: *On no account must these records be changed.*

**account<sup>2</sup>** /ə'kaʊnt/ **verb**  
**account for something** phrasal verb to explain something: *Can she account for the missing money?*

**accountancy** /ə'kaʊntənsi/ **noun** [no plural] UK (US **accounting** /ə'kaʊntɪŋ/) the job of being an accountant: *She works in accountancy.*

**accountant** /ə'kaʊntənt/ **noun** (B1) someone whose job is keeping records of all the money that people or companies spend and earn

**accounts** /ə'kaʊnts/ **plural noun**  
a set of official records of all the money a company spends and earns

**accurate** /ækjərət/ **adj** (B1) correct or exact: *accurate information*  
→ Opposite **inaccurate** **adj**  
• **accurately** **adv**

**accusation** /ækju'zeɪʃən/ **noun**  
a statement that you think someone has done something bad: *Her manager made a number of accusations against her.*

**accuse** /ə'kju:z/ **verb** (**accusing, accused**)  
to say that you think someone has done something bad: *She accused him of stealing from her.*

**accustomed** /ə'kʌstəmd/ **adj**  
**be accustomed to something** to have done something so often or have had it so long that it is normal or comfortable for you: *He was accustomed to speaking in public.*

**ace** /eɪs/ **noun**  
a playing card with one symbol on it, which has the highest or lowest value in many card games: *the ace of hearts*

**ache<sup>1</sup>** /eɪk/ **noun** (B1) pain that continues for a long time: *I've got stomach ache.*

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**ache**<sup>2</sup> /eɪk/ verb (**aching**, **ached**)to hurt continuously: *My legs are aching after all that exercise.*

b

**achieve** /ə'tʃi:v/ verb (**achieving**, **achieved**)**B1** to succeed in doing something difficult: *We finally achieved our goal of buying a house.*

d

**achievement** /ə'tʃi:vmənt/ noun**B1** something good that you have done that was difficult: *This movie is his greatest achievement.*

f

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**acid** /'æsid/ nouna liquid that burns or dissolves things: *hydrochloric acid*

h

i

**acne** /'ækni/ noun [no plural]

a skin problem that causes a lot of red spots on the face

j

**acquaintance** /ə'kwəɪntəns/ nounsomeone that you have met, but do not know well: *He's a business acquaintance.*

l

**acquainted** /ə'kwəɪntɪd/ adj formalIf you are acquainted with someone, you have met them but do not know them well: *I'd like to get better acquainted with her.*

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n

**acquire** /ə'kwəɪə/ verb (**acquiring**, **acquired**) formal**1** to get something: *My grandfather acquired several valuable paintings.***2** to learn something: *I've acquired some useful skills in this job.*

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**acre** /'eɪkə/ noun

a unit for measuring area, equal to 4,047 square metres

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**across** /ə'krɒs/ adv, preposition**1** **A2** from one side to the other: *I walked across the road.***2** **A2** on the opposite side of: *There's a bank just across the street.* ◦ *The library is across from the school.*

u

v

**act**<sup>1</sup> /ækt/ verb**1** **B1** to behave in a particular way, usually a bad way: *Stop acting like a child!***2** **B1** to perform in a play or movie**3** to do something to stop a problem: *We have to act now to stop the spread of this disease.*

y

z

**act as something** phrasal verbto do a job for a short time: *He acted as an adviser on the project.***act**<sup>2</sup> /ækt/ noun**1** **B1** one of the parts in a play**2** something that someone does: *an act of kindness***3** a law made by a government: *an act of Parliament***4** a way of behaving in which someone pretends to be or feel something: *She's not really upset – it's just an act.***acting** /'æktɪŋ/ noun [no plural]

the job of performing in plays and movies

**action** /'æksjən/ noun**1** **B1** [no plural] exciting or important things that are happening: *He likes movies with a lot of action.***2** something that you do: *We must take action before the problem gets worse.***3** **out of action** damaged or hurt and not able to operate or move: *My car's out of action.***active** /'æktɪv/ adj**1** **B1** busy doing a lot of things: *She's still very active, even at the age of 87.***2** **B1** In an active verb or sentence, the subject of the verb is the person or thing doing the action. For example, 'Andy drove the car' is an active sentence.**3** very involved in an organization or planned activity: *He is an active member of the local drama club.***actively** /'æktɪvli/ advin a way that involves intentional effort: *I've been actively looking for a job for six months.***activity** /æk'tɪvəti/ noun**1** **A2** (plural **activities**) something that you do, especially for enjoyment: *Activities on offer include swimming and tennis.***2** [no plural] the actions of people when they are moving around and doing things: *There was no sign of activity outside.***actor** /'æktə/ noun**A2** someone who performs in plays, in movies, or on television

[More information](#)**actress** /'æk-trəs/ noun

a woman who performs in plays, in movies, or on television

**actual** /'æktʃuəl/ adj**1** real, not guessed or imagined: *We were expecting about fifty people, but the actual number was higher.***2** **in actual fact** used to show what is really true, or to give more information: *I thought she was Portuguese, but in actual fact she's Brazilian.***Common mistake: actual or current?****Actual** means 'real'. It does not mean 'happening now'.*His friends call him Jo-Jo, but his actual name is John.*Use **current** to talk about things that are happening or that exist now.*She started her current job two years ago.***actually** /'æktʃuəli/ adv**1** **A2** used when you are saying what is true about a situation: *He didn't actually say anything important.* ◦ *So what actually happened?***2** **B1** used when you are emphasizing something surprising: *A friend of mine was actually at the same concert – I hadn't seen her for years!***3** used when you are disagreeing with someone or saying no to them: *'You never told me.' 'Actually, I did.'***acute** /ə'kju:t/ adjAn acute problem is very bad: *There's an acute shortage of doctors in the area.***ad** /æd/ noun

short form of advertisement

**AD** /eɪ'di:/used to show that a particular year came after the birth of Jesus Christ: *1066 AD***adapt** /ə'dæpt/ verb**1** to change something to fit a different use or situation: *The original book has been adapted for television.***2** to change the way that you behave or think to fit a new situation: *It took time to adapt to my new boss.***adaptable** /ə'dæptəbl/ adjable to change for a different situation or use: *Frogs are highly adaptable and live in many environments.***adapter** /ə'dæptə/ noun UK

something that is used for connecting two or more pieces of electrical equipment to the same electrical supply

**add** /æd/ verb**1** **A2** to put something together with something else, making the whole thing bigger: *Mix the sugar and butter, then add the eggs.* ◦ *Do you have anything to add to the list?***2** **A2** to put two or more numbers together to get a total: *Don't forget to add the cost of postage.***3** **B1** to say another thing: *She said she liked him but added that he was difficult to work with.***add something up** phrasal verb**B1** to put two or more numbers together to get a total: *Have you added up all the figures?***addict** /'ædɪkt/ nounsomeone who cannot stop taking a drug or doing something as a habit: *a drug addict***addicted** /ə'dɪktɪd/ adjnot able to stop taking a drug or doing something as a habit: *Sam is addicted to computer games.***addition** /ə'dɪʃn/ noun**1** **in addition (to something)** **B1** added to what already exists, happens, or is true: *In addition to teaching, she works in a restaurant in the summer.***2** [no plural] the act of adding numbers together to get a total**3** a new or extra thing that is added to something: *Baby Eva is the latest addition to the family.***additional** /ə'dɪʃnəl/ adjextra: *We need additional information.*◦ **additionally** adv *Additionally, we request a deposit of £200 in advance.***address<sup>1</sup>** /ə'dres/ noun**1** **A1** the number of a building and the name of the street, city, etc. where it is**2** **A1** a group of letters and signs used to send email to someone or to find information on the Internet: *an email address* ◦ *a Web address***address<sup>2</sup>** /ə'dres/ verb**1** to write a name or address on an

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- a** envelope or parcel: *A parcel arrived **addressed to** Emma.*
- b** **2** to do something in order to stop a problem: *We have to **address** the problem now.*
- c** **address book** /ə'dres bʊk/ **noun**  
a book or electronic file in which you keep a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers: *She put his new phone number in her address book.*
- d**
- e** **adequate** /'ædɪkwət/ **adj**  
**1** enough: *I didn't have adequate time to prepare.*  
**2** good enough, but not very good: *The sound quality is **adequate for** everyday use.*  
• **adequately** **adv**
- f**
- g** **adjective** /'ædʒɪktɪv/ **noun**  
**A2** a word that describes a noun or pronoun. The words 'big', 'boring', and 'blue' are all adjectives.
- h**
- i** **adjust** /ə'dʒʌst/ **verb**  
**1** to change something slightly to make it fit or work better: *You can **adjust** the heat with this switch.*  
**2** to change the way you behave or think and become comfortable in a new situation: *They found it difficult to **adjust to** life in a new country.*
- j**
- k** **adjustment** /ə'dʒʌstmənt/ **noun**  
a small change that you make to something so that it works better, fits better, or is more suitable: *We've **made** a few adjustments to the **schedule**.*
- l**
- m** **administration** /əd,mɪnɪ'streɪʃən/ **noun** [no plural]  
the things that you have to do to manage the work of an organization
- n**
- o** **admiration** /,ædmə'reɪʃən/ **noun** [no plural]  
the feeling of liking something or of liking and respecting someone for the good qualities that he, she, or it has: *I have great **admiration for** my teacher.*
- p**
- q** **admire** /əd'maɪə/ **verb** (**admiring, admired**)  
**1** **B1** to look at something or someone and think that he, she, or it is attractive: *I was just **admiring** your shirt.*  
**2** to like something or to like and respect someone for the good qualities that he, she, or it has: *I **admire** him **for** being so determined.*
- r**
- s** **admission** /əd'mɪʃən/ **noun**  
**1** **B1** [no plural] the money that you pay to enter a place: *The museum doesn't **charge admission** for children.*  
**2** the act of agreeing that you did something bad: *Her departure was seen by many as an **admission of** guilt.*
- t** **admit** /əd'mɪt/ **verb** (**admitting, admitted**)  
**1** **B1** to agree that you did something bad, or that something bad is true: *Both men **admitted to** taking illegal drugs. • I was wrong – I **admit** it.*  
**2** to allow someone to enter a place: *It says on the ticket 'admits 2'.*
- u** **adolescence** /,ædəl'esəns/ **noun** [no plural]  
the period of time in someone's life between being a child and being an adult
- v** **adolescent** /,ædəl'esənt/ **noun**  
a young person who is between being a child and being an adult
- w** **adopt** /ə'dɒpt/ **verb**  
**1** to take someone else's child into your family and legally become the parent of that child: *He was **adopted as** a baby.*  
**2** to start doing or using something new: *We've **adopted** a different approach to solving the problem.*
- x** **adopted** /ə'dɒptɪd/ **adj**  
An adopted child has legally become part of another family: *They have two **adopted children**.*
- y** **adoption** /əd'ɒpʃən/ **noun**  
the process of legally becoming the parents of someone else's child: *They couldn't have children, so they were **considering adoption**.*
- z** **adore** /ə'dɔː/ **verb** (**adoring, adored**)  
to love someone or something very much: *Sarah **adored** her father.*
- adult**<sup>1</sup> /'ædʌlt/ **noun**  
**A1** a person or animal that has finished growing and is not now a child
- adult**<sup>2</sup> /'ædʌlt/ **adj**  
**1** having finished growing: *an **adult male rat***

**2** **A2** for adults or relating to adults:  
*adult education*

**advance**<sup>1</sup> /əd'vɑ:ns/ **noun**

**1** **in advance** **B1** before a particular time: *We booked our tickets in advance.*  
**2** new discoveries and inventions:  
*scientific advances*

**advance**<sup>2</sup> /əd'vɑ:ns/ **verb** (**advancing, advanced**)

**1** to develop or progress, or to make something develop or progress:  
*Research has advanced our understanding of the virus.*  
**2** to move forward, especially while fighting

**advanced** /əd'vɑ:nst/ **adj**

**1** **A2** at a higher, more difficult level:  
*an advanced English course*  
**2** **B1** having developed to a more modern stage: *advanced technology*

**advantage** /əd'vɑ:ntɪdʒ/ **noun**

**1** **B1** something good that helps you:  
*One advantage of living in town is having the shops so near.*  
**2** **take advantage of something** **B1** to use the things that are good or that can help you in a situation: *Take advantage of the sports facilities while you're here.*  
**3** **take advantage of someone/something** to treat someone or something badly in order to get what you want: *I think she takes advantage of his generous nature.*

**adventure** /əd'ventʃə/ **noun**

**A2** an exciting and sometimes dangerous experience: *They had quite a few adventures on their travels.*

**adventurous** /əd'ventʃərəs/ **adj**

An adventurous person likes to try new or difficult things: *I'm going to be more adventurous with my cooking.*

**adverb** /'ædvɜ:b/ **noun**

**A2** a word that gives more information about a verb, adjective, phrase, or other adverb. In the sentence 'He ate quickly', 'quickly' is an adverb.

**advert** /'ædvɜ:t/ **noun** UK  
 short form of advertisement

**advertise** /'ædvətaɪz/ **verb** (**advertising, advertised**)

**1** **B1** to tell people about a product or service, on television, on the Internet, in newspapers, etc., so that people will buy it: *Companies are not allowed to advertise cigarettes on television.*  
**2** **B1** to put information in a newspaper, on the Internet, etc., asking for someone or something that you need: *The school is advertising for teachers.*

**advertisement** /əd'vɜ:tɪsmənt/ **noun**

**A2** a picture, short film, etc. that is designed to persuade people to buy something: *a newspaper/television/online advertisement*

**advertising** /'ædvətaɪzɪŋ/ **noun** [no plural]

the business of persuading people to buy products or services: *Sarah works in advertising.*

**advice** /əd'vaɪs/ **noun** [no plural]

**A2** suggestions about what you think someone should do: *This book gives advice on saving money.* ◦ *I took your advice and went home early.* ◦ *Can I give you a piece of advice?*

**Common mistake: advice**

Remember that this word is not countable.

*I need some advice.*

*I need an advice.*

To make **advice** singular, say **a piece of advice**.

**Common mistake: advice or advise?**

Be careful not to confuse the noun **advice** with the verb **advise**.

*I advise you to see a lawyer.*

*I advice you to see a lawyer.*

**advise** /əd'vaɪz/ **verb** (**advising, advised**)

**B1** to tell someone that they should do something: *I would advise him to see a doctor.*

**adviser** /əd'vaɪzə/ **noun** (also **advisor**)

someone whose job is to give advice about a subject: *a financial adviser*

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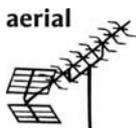
y

z

a

**aerial** /'eəriəl/ noun

UK (US **antenna**)  
a piece of metal that  
is used for receiving  
television or radio  
signals



b

c

d

**aerobics** /eə'reübiks/ noun [no plural]

physical exercises that you do to  
music, especially in a class

e

f

**aeroplane** /'eərəplem/ noun UK (US **airplane**)

**A2** a vehicle that flies and has an  
engine and wings

→ See picture at **plane**

g

h

**aerosol** /'eərəsəl/ noun

a metal container  
that forces liquid out  
in small drops when  
you press a button



i

j

k

**affair** /ə'feə/ noun

**1** a sexual relation-  
ship between two  
people when one or both of them is  
married to someone else: *He had an  
affair with a woman at work.*  
**2** a situation, especially a bad one: *The  
government's handling of the affair has  
been widely criticized.*

l

m

n

o

**affairs** /ə'feəz/ plural noun

situations or subjects that involve you:  
*He refused to discuss his financial  
affairs.*

p

q

r

**affect** /ə'fekt/ verb

**1** to cause a change in someone or  
something: *How will the new road  
affect the community?*  
**2** If an illness affects someone, the  
person becomes ill: *The disease affects  
older people.*  
**3** to cause a strong emotion, espe-  
cially sadness: *Try not to let her criti-  
cism affect you.*

s

t

u

v

w

x

**affection** /ə'fekʃən/ noun [no plural]  
a feeling of liking or loving someone,  
or the things you do to show this:  
*Mum gave us lots of love and affection.*

y

z

**affectionate** /ə'fekʃənət/ adj  
often showing that you like or love  
someone: *an affectionate little girl*  
• **affectionately** adv

**afford** /ə'fɔ:d/ verb

**B1** to have enough money to buy  
something or enough time to do  
something: *Can we afford a new car?*  
• *I can't afford to wait.*

**afraid** /ə'freɪd/ adj

**1** **A2** feeling fear or worry: *I'm afraid  
of big dogs.* • *They were afraid that  
their son would get hurt.*  
**2** *I'm afraid* **A2** used to politely tell  
someone something bad or to politely  
disagree with someone: *I'm afraid  
that we can't come to your party.*

**African American** /æ'frɪkən  
ə'merɪkən/ noun

an American person whose family  
came from Africa in the past  
• **African-American** adj *the African-  
American community*

**after**<sup>1</sup> /'ɑ:ftə/ preposition

**1** **A1** following something that has  
happened: *We went swimming after  
lunch.*  
**2** **A2** following in order: *H comes after  
G in the alphabet.*  
**3** **A2** once you have gone past a par-  
ticular place: *Turn left after the hotel.*  
**4** **B1** following someone or some-  
thing: *We ran after him.*  
**5** despite: *I can't believe he was so rude  
to you after all the help you've given  
him!*  
**6** because of something that hap-  
pened: *I'll never trust her again after  
what she did to me.*  
**7** US used to say how many minutes  
past the hour it is: *It's five after three.*  
**8** **after all** **B1** used to add an explana-  
tion to something that you have just  
said: *You can't expect to be perfect –  
after all, it was only your first lesson.*  
**9** **day after day, year after year, etc.**  
**B1** happening every day, year, etc.  
over a long period: *We went to France  
for our holidays year after year.*  
**10** **be after something** to be trying to  
get something: *What type of job are  
you after?*

**after**<sup>2</sup> /'ɑ:ftə/ conjunction

**B1** at a later time than something else  
happens: *We arrived after the game had  
started.*

**after**<sup>3</sup> /'ɑ:ftə/ adv

**A2** later than someone or something else: *Hilary got here at midday and Matt arrived soon after.*

**afternoon** /,ɑ:ftə'nu:n/ noun

**A1** the time between the middle of the day and the evening: *I played tennis on Saturday afternoon.*

**Common mistake: afternoon**

If you talk about what happens during the afternoon, use the preposition **in**.

*In the afternoon I phoned my girlfriend.*

*At the afternoon I phoned my girlfriend.*

If you say a day of the week before **afternoon**, use the preposition **on**.

*I'm going to the dentist on Tuesday afternoon.*

**afterwards** /'ɑ:ftəwədz/ adv mainly UK (US usually **afterward**)

**A2** at a later time, after something else has happened: *I did my homework and went swimming afterwards.*

**again** /ə'geɪn/ adv

**1 A1** once more: *Ask her again.*

**2 A2** as before: *Get some rest and you'll feel better again soon.*

**3 again and again B1** many times: *He played the same song again and again.*

**4 all over again** repeated from the beginning: *I'm not starting my story all over again.*

**5 yet again** another time after something has happened or been done many times before: *The bus was late yet again.*

**against** /ə'geɪnst/ preposition

**1 A2** competing with someone or something: *Liverpool are playing against AC Milan.*

**2 A2** touching something: *Push the bed against the wall.*

**3** disagreeing with a plan or activity: *Andrew wants to buy a motorcycle, but I'm against it.*

**4 against the law/the rules** not allowed by a law or rule: *It's against the law to sell alcohol to teenagers.*

**age** /eɪdʒ/ noun

**1 A1** the number of years that someone has lived, or that something has existed: *Mozart died at the age of*

*35.* ◦ a child **under/over the age of five** ◦ *Their son is your age* (= as old as you are).

**2 B1** a period of history: *the Ice Age*

**3** [no plural] the state of being old: *Some wines improve with age.*

**aged** /eɪdʒd/ adj

**A2** having a particular age: *They have one daughter, aged three.*

**agency** /'eɪdʒənsi/ noun (plural **agencies**)

**B1** a business that provides a service: an advertising agency

**agenda** /ə'dʒendə/ noun

a list of subjects that people will discuss at a meeting: *There are several items on the agenda.*

**agent** /'eɪdʒənt/ noun

**1** someone whose job is to deal with business for someone else: *Please contact our agent in Spain for more information.*

**2** someone who tries to find out secret information, especially about another country: a **secret agent**

**ages** /'eɪdʒɪz/ plural noun informal

**B1** a very long time: *I've been waiting here for ages.*

**aggressive** /ə'gresɪv/ adj

angry and violent towards another person: *aggressive behaviour*

• **aggressively** adv *These dogs sometimes behave aggressively.*

**ago** /ə'gəʊ/ adv

**A2** in the past: *It happened a long time ago.*

**agony** /'æɡəni/ noun (plural **agonies**)

very bad pain: *She was in agony after her operation.*

**agree** /ə'ɡri:/ verb (**agreeing, agreed**)

**1 A2** to have the same opinion as someone: *I agree with you.* ◦ *We all agreed that mistakes had been made.* ◦ *They have finally agreed on a name for their new dog.*

**2 B1** to decide something with someone: *They agreed to meet on Sunday.*

**3** to say you will do something that someone asks you to do: *She agreed to help him.*

**agree with something** phrasal verb

to think that something is morally right: *I don't agree with hunting.*

**agreement** /ə'gri:mənt/ noun

**1** a promise or decision made between two or more people: *The company and the union reached an agreement.*

**2** [no plural] a situation in which all the people involved in something have the same opinion: *Not everyone was in agreement.*

**agriculture** /'ægrɪkʌltʃə/ noun [no plural]

the work of growing plants and taking care of animals that are used for food  
• **agricultural** /'ægrɪ'kʌltʃərə/ adj *agricultural machinery*

**ahead** /ə'hed/ adj, adv

**1** **B1** in front: *She walked ahead of us.*

**2** **B1** in the future: *He has a difficult time ahead of him.*

**3** with more points than someone else in a competition: *Barcelona were ahead after ten minutes.*

**4** **go ahead** informal said to allow someone to do something: *'Can I use your phone?' 'Sure, go ahead.'*

**aid** /eid/ noun

**1** help, or something such as food or equipment that gives help: *Emergency aid was sent to the flood victims.*  
◦ *teaching aids*

**2** **in aid of someone/something** UK in order to get money for a group of people who need it: *There's a concert in aid of famine relief.*

**AIDS** (also **Aids**) /eidz/ noun [no plural]

a serious illness that stops the body from fighting other illnesses

**aim<sup>1</sup>** /eim/ noun

**B1** a result that you try to achieve: *The aim of the movie was to make people laugh.*

**aim<sup>2</sup>** /eim/ verb

**1** **B1** to try to do something: *We're aiming for a 10% increase in sales.*

**2** to point a weapon towards someone or something: *He aimed the gun at the target.*

**3** **be aimed at someone** to be intended to influence a particular person or group: *These advertisements are aimed at young people.*

**air** /eə/ noun

**1** **A2** [no plural] the mixture of gases around the Earth that we breathe: *I love the smell of the air in the mountains.*

**2** **A2** [no plural] used especially before another noun about activities that involve planes: *air travel*

**3** **the air** the space above and around things: *He fired his gun into the air.*

**air conditioning** /,eə kən'diʃənɪŋ/ noun [no plural]

**B1** a system that keeps the air cool in a building or car

**aircraft** /'eəkrɑ:ft/ noun (plural **aircraft**)

a vehicle that can fly

**air force** /'eə ,fɔ:s/ noun

**B1** the part of a country's military organization that uses planes

**airline** /'eəlaɪn/ noun

**B1** a company that takes people and things to places in planes

**airmail** /'eəmeɪl/ noun [no plural]

the system of sending letters or parcels by plane

**airplane** /'eəpleɪn/ noun US (UK **aeroplane**)

a vehicle that flies and has an engine and wings

**airport** /'eəpɔ:t/ noun

**A2** a place where planes take off and land

**aisle** /aɪl/ noun

**1** a passage between the lines of seats in a plane, church, theatre, etc.

**2** a passage between the shelves in a supermarket

**alarm<sup>1</sup>** /ə'lɑ:m/ noun

**1** **B1** a loud noise that tells you there is danger: *a fire alarm*

**2** **B1** a clock that makes a noise to wake you: *The alarm went off at 5.30.*

**3** [no plural] a sudden feeling of fear that something bad might happen: *There's no need for alarm – we're safe.*

**alarm<sup>2</sup>** /ə'lɑ:m/ verb

to worry someone: *I didn't want to alarm him by saying that she was ill.*