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Learner's Dictionary

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Introduction

Welcome to the new, updated edition of the **Cambridge Learner's Dictionary** (3rd edition). You have in your hand the perfect dictionary for the intermediate and upper-intermediate learner of English, perfect for many reasons:

Clear word meanings (definitions)

You need to know what words mean. Our explanations of words are short, clear and accurate. Our definitions use only simple English that you will understand.

Help with grammar

You want to be able to speak and write English that is correct. Our grammar information is presented in a way that is clear and helpful and will show you how to avoid mistakes.

Natural-sounding examples

You want to know how to use words in a way that sounds natural. This dictionary contains over 27,000 examples. They show the context in which a word is most often said or written and the type of words that are often used with it.

Word partners (collocations)

Words that are often spoken or written together, for example, *a good buy* and *a big decision*, are called *word partners* or *collocations*. Knowing how to put the right words together is probably the most important skill for producing fluent, natural-sounding English. This dictionary has more information on word partners than any other dictionary at this level.

Keywords

You want to know which words are the most important to learn. The 2000 most important words in the English language are shown in blue with a key symbol 🔑 next to them.

New words

English is changing all the time. You can be confident that this dictionary is really up-to-date, with new words from many areas, such as technology, fashion and music.

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Self-study

You want to be able to study English on your own. This dictionary has a centre section of 59 *Extra help pages* with lots of clear, useful information on important topics such as phrasal verbs and spelling. There are also 16 full-colour pages of pictures and photographs to help you increase your vocabulary.

Cambridge International Corpus and Cambridge Learner Corpus

All of the features described above were created using the *Cambridge International Corpus*, a collection of over *one billion* words of English. Only Cambridge dictionaries are produced using this amazing resource. The English in our corpus comes from many places, for example newspapers, best-selling novels, websites, magazines, TV programmes and recordings of people's everyday conversations. We store all this language in a huge database and use it to see how English is really used. The corpus gives us the evidence we need to be sure that what we say in the dictionary is accurate.

Another very valuable tool that we have is the *Cambridge Learner Corpus*, a large collection of exam scripts written by students taking Cambridge ESOL English exams around the world. This learner corpus shows which words cause problems for learners. By looking at it, we can see real problems that real learners have. That means we can add useful information – often in the form of *Common Learner Error Notes* to help you avoid them.

The *Cambridge Learner's Dictionary* is available with or without a CD-ROM. The CD-ROM contains everything that is in the dictionary plus some great extra features, such as spoken pronunciations in British and American accents, and the unique SMART thesaurus which gives synonym or topic lists for every single word in the dictionary and is a fantastic tool for building your vocabulary.

We know you will enjoy using the *Cambridge Learner's Dictionary*. Use it and see your English develop.

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How to use this dictionary

Finding a word

Each entry begins with the base form of the word.

language /ˈlæŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* **1** COMMUNICATION **[U]** communication between people, usually using words *She has done research into how children acquire language.* **2** ENGLISH/SPANISH/JAPANESE ETC **[C]** a type of communication used by the people of a particular country *How many **languages** do you **speak**?* **3** TYPE OF WORDS **[U]** words of a particular type, especially the words used by people in a particular job *legal language* ○ *the language of business* **4** COMPUTERS **[C, U]** a system of instructions that is used to write computer programs ➲See also: **body language, modern languages, second language, sign language.**

Words which are made of two separate words (compounds) are found in alphabetical order. The stress marks (ˈ,) show you which part of the word to say strongly.

ˈlanguage laˌboratory *UK* (*US* **ˈlanguage ˌlaboratory**) *noun* **[C]** a room in a college or school where you can use equipment to help you practise listening to and speaking a foreign language

When a word can be spelled another way, or when there is another word for it, this is shown.

dialogue (*also US* **dialog**) /ˈdaɪəlɒg/ *noun* **[C, U]** **1** the talking in a book, play, or film **2** a formal discussion between countries or groups of people

When two words have the same spelling but different parts of speech (e.g. a noun and a verb), they have separate entries.

interface[1] /ˈɪntəfeɪs/ *noun* **[C]** **1** a connection between two pieces of electronic equipment, or between a person and a computer *a simple **user interface*** **2** a situation, way, or place where two things can come together and have an effect on each other *the **interface between** technology and tradition*

interface[2] /ˌɪntəˈfeɪs/ *verb* **[I, T]** to communicate with people or electronic equipment, or to make people or electronic equipment communicate *We use email to **interface with** our customers.*

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Some words which are formed from the main word are shown at the end of an entry. If a word is not formed with a regular pattern, or if its meaning is not easy to guess, it has its own explanation. See Word Beginnings and Endings on page 830.

fluent /ˈfluːənt/ *adjective* **1** able to use a language naturally without stopping or making mistakes *She is **fluent in** six languages.* **2** produced or done in a smooth, natural style *Hendrik speaks fluent English.* ●**fluency** /ˈfluːənsi/ *noun* [U] ●**fluently** *adverb*

Understanding an entry

Where a word has more than one meaning, the most frequent meaning is shown first.

Words which have several meanings have GUIDEWORDS to help you find the meaning you are looking for.

Example sentences, based on the *Cambridge International Corpus*, show how words are used in typical situations.

voice[1] /vɔɪs/ *noun* **1** SOUNDS [C] the sounds that you make when you speak or sing *I could hear voices in the next room.* ○ *Jessie has a beautiful singing voice.* ○ *Could you please **keep your voices down** (= speak more quietly)?* **2 lose your voice** to become unable to speak, often because of an illness *She had a bad cold and was losing her voice.* **3** OPINION [C] someone's opinion about a particular subject *The programme gives people the opportunity to make their voices heard.* **4** PERSON [no plural] someone who expresses the opinions or wishes of a group of people *It's important that students have a voice on the committee.* ➲See also: **the passive.**

Each word has a part of speech label (e.g. *noun, verb, adj*) For a list of the parts of speech, see inside the front cover.

Grammar labels tell you how a word is used. See grammar labels on page xiii.

say[1] /seɪ/ *verb* [T] **says**, *past* **said** **1** WORDS to speak words *"I'd like to go home," she said.* ○ *I couldn't hear what they were saying.* ○ *How do you say this word?* **2** TELL to tell someone about a fact, thought, or opinion [+ **question word**] *Did she say where she was going?* ○ [+ **(that)**] *The jury said that he was guilty.* **3** INFORMATION to give information in writing, numbers, or signs *My watch says one o'clock.* ○ *What do the papers say about the election?* **4 say sth to yourself** to think something but not speak *"I hope she likes me," he said to himself.*

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This symbol shows very frequent words which are important to learn.

Pronunciations use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). There is a list of these symbols inside the back cover of the dictionary. The most difficult symbols are also explained at the bottom of each page.There is an explanation of the pronunciation system on page xvi.

Irregular inflections of words are clearly shown. There is a list of irregular verb inflections on page 827 and an explanation of regular inflections on page 825.

speak /spiːk/ *verb past tense* **spoke**, *past participle* **spoken** **1** [I] to say something using your voice *to speak loudly/quietly* ○ *There was complete silence - nobody spoke.* **2 speak to sb** *mainly UK* (*mainly US* **speak with sb**) to talk to someone *Could I speak to Mr Davis, please?* ○ *Have you spoken with your new neighbors yet?* **3 speak about/of sth** to talk about something *He refused to speak about the matter in public.* **4 speak English/French/German, etc** to be able to communicate in English/French/German, etc *Do you speak English?* **5** [I] to make a speech to a large group of people *She was invited to speak at a conference in Madrid.* **6 speak for/on behalf of sb** to express the feelings, opinions, etc of another person or of a group of people *I've been chosen to speak on behalf of the whole class.*

These labels show you when a word is used in British English or American English. See explanation of these labels on page xv.

These labels tell you how formal, informal, etc a word is. See explanation of all these labels on page xv.

chat[1] /tʃæt/ *verb* [I] **chatting**, *past* **chatted** to talk with someone in a friendly and informal way *I wanted to* ***chat to*** *you* ***about*** *the party on Saturday.*
chat sb up *UK informal* to talk to someone in a way that shows them that you are sexually attracted to them

Learning more about a word

Cross references show you where you can find related information such as opposites, pictures, study pages, and idioms.

ask /ɑːsk/ *verb* **1** QUESTION [I, T] to say something to someone as a question which you want them to answer [+ **two objects**] *Can I* ***ask*** *you a few* ***questions?*** ○ *I* ***asked*** *him* ***about*** *his hobbies.* ○ [+ **question word**] *I asked why the plane was so late.* ○ *She asked whether I knew what Ian's plans were.* ○ *I asked him what time the party started.* ➲See Common learner error at **question**. **2** WANT SOMETHING [I, T] to say something to someone because you want them to give you something *He's* ***asked for*** *a bike for his birthday.*

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Words which are often used together (*collocations or word partners*) are shown in dark type in examples.

communicate /kə'mju:nɪkeɪt/ *verb* [I, T] **1** to share information with others by speaking, writing, moving your body, or using other signals *We can now* ***communicate*** *instantly* ***with*** *people on the other side of the world.* **2** to talk about your thoughts and feelings, and help other people to understand them *He can't* ***communicate with*** *his parents.*

Some words are used as part of a phrase. This is shown clearly at the start of the definition.

spell[1] /spel/ *verb past* **spelled** *also UK* **spelt** **1** [T] to write down or tell someone the letters which are used to make a word *How do you spell that?* ○ *Her name's spelt S-I-A-N.* **2** [I] If you can spell, you know how to write the words of a language correctly. *My grammar's all right, but I can't spell.* **3 spell disaster/trouble, etc** If something spells disaster, trouble, etc, you think it will cause something bad to happen in the future. *The new regulations could spell disaster for small businesses.*

Phrasal verbs come after the entry for the verb in alphabetical order.

spell sth out to explain something in a very clear way with details *They sent me a letter,* ***spelling out the details*** *of the agreement.*

Some words are used as part of an idiom. These are shown in dark type at the end of the entry.

message[1] /'mesɪdʒ/ *noun* [C] **1** a piece of written or spoken information which one person gives to another *Did you* ***get*** *my* ***message?*** ○ *I* ***left*** *her several* ***messages****, but she hasn't returned my call.* **2** the most important idea of a film, book, etc *The book conveys a complex message.* **3 get the message** *informal* to understand what someone wants you to do by their actions *Don't return any of his calls - he'll soon get the message and leave you alone.*

All our explanations use very simple words. Where we have had to use a more difficult word than usual, that word is explained in brackets.

express[1] /ɪk'spres/ *verb* [T] to show what you think or how you feel using words or actions *I'm simply expressing my opinion.* ○ **[often reflexive]** *You're not expressing yourself* (=saying what you mean) *very clearly.*

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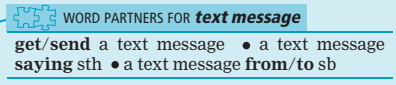
The information in the boxes

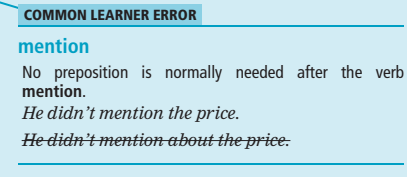
These word partner boxes give you information on words that are often spoken or written together, often called 'collocations' or 'word partners'. There are over 1000 of these boxes in this dictionary.



These thesaurus boxes show you all the different words which have the same or a similar meaning. There are 80 of these boxes in this dictionary.



Common Learner Error notes based on the *Cambridge Learner Corpus* give extra information about words which often cause problems for learners.



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More information on using the dictionary

Grammar labels

When a word must *always* be used in a particular grammatical form, that form is shown at the beginning of the entry or the beginning of the meaning. Patterns which are common and typical, but are not *always* used, are given next to example sentences showing how they are used.

Nouns

C	countable noun	pencil, friend, house
U	uncountable noun, does not have a plural	water, advice, health
C, U	noun which can be countable or uncountable	ability, quantity, exercise ▶ *You should take some **exercise**.* ▶ *I do my **exercises** every morning.*
➲	see also Extra help page **Countable and uncountable nouns**, on page Centre 20	
group	noun which refers to a group of people or things and can be used with either a singular or a plural verb	government, class, team ▶ *The French **team are** European champions.* ▶ *His **team is** top of the league.*
plural	plural noun, used with a plural verb	trousers, scissors, pliers
no plural	noun which can be used with **a** and **an**, but does not have a plural	rush, vicious circle, wait ▶ *Sorry, I'm in **a rush**.*
usually plural	noun usually used in the plural form	statistics, resources, regulations
usually singular	noun usually used in the singular form	mess, range, world

Verbs

I	intransitive verb, does not have an object	sleep, glance, fall ▶ *Anna's **sleeping**.*
T	transitive verb, must have an object	cure, hit, catch ▶ *Fiona **hit** her **sister**.*
I, T	verb that can be intransitive or transitive	sing, explain, drive ▶ *I always **sing** in the bath.* ▶ *He **sang** a love **song**.*
+ two objects	ditransitive verb, that has two objects	give, send, lend ▶ *She **gave me** the **keys**.*

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often passive	verb often used in the passive	allow ► *Smoking **is** not **allowed** in the restaurant.*
often reflexive	verb often used with a reflexive pronoun (myself, yourself, herself, etc)	defend ► *He can **defend** himself.*

If a verb or a meaning of a verb is ***always* passive** (e.g. inundate, demote, affiliate) or ***always* reflexive** (e.g. brace, ingratiate, steel), the whole grammar pattern is shown at the beginning of the entry.

Some verb or meanings of verbs are **always followed by an adverb or preposition** (e.g. creep, flick, trickle) . When this happens, common examples of adverbs and prepositions used are shown at the beginning of the entry or the meaning.

➲ see also Extra help page **Verb patterns**, on page Centre 27

Adjectives

always before noun	attributive adjective, always comes before the noun	major, basic, staunch ► *a **staunch** supporter*
never before noun	predicative adjective, used with verbs such as **be**, **seem**, **feel**	afraid, ready, done ► *She's **afraid** of water.*
always after noun	adjective always used directly after the noun	galore, proper, incarnate ► *the devil **incarnate***

Other grammar patterns

The following patterns can refer to nouns, adjectives, and verbs:

+ that	the word is followed by a **that clause**, and the word **that** must be included	boast, assertion, evident ► *It was **evident** from her voice **that** she was upset.*
+ (that)	the word is followed by a **that clause** but the word **that** does not have to be used	hope, amazed, doubt ► *I **hope that** the bus won't be late.* *I **hope** the bus won't be late.*
+ doing sth	the word is followed by a verb in the –ing form	enjoy, busy, difficulty ► *I **enjoy** go**ing** to the beach.*
+ to do sth	the word is followed by a verb in the infinitive	confidence, careful, decide ► *I didn't have the **confidence to speak up**.*
+ for/of, etc + doing sth	the word is followed by a preposition (e.g. for/of) and then a verb in the –ing form	apologize, idea, guilty ► *She **apologized for** being late.*
+ question word	the word is followed by a question word (e.g. who, what, how)	ask, certain, clue ► *I'm not **certain who** to ask.*
used in questions and negatives	the word is used in questions and negative sentences	mind, much, yet ► *Do you mind if I come in?* *I haven't seen him yet.*

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Usage labels

informal	used when you are speaking, or communicating with people you know but not normally in serious writing	brainy, freebie, goalie
formal	used in serious writing or for communicating with people about things like law or business	examination, moreover, purchase
very informal	used when you are talking to people you know well, and not usually in writing. Some of these words may offend people, and this is explained in the entry.	prat, barf, crap
spoken	a way of writing a word which is used in conversation	yeah, hey, eh
humorous	used in order to be funny or to make a joke	couch potato, snail mail
literary	used in books and poems, not in ordinary conversation	beloved, slumber, weep
old-fashioned	not used in modern English – you might find these words in books, used by older people, or used in order to be funny	gramophone, spectacles, farewell
trademark	the name of a product that is made by one company. Sometimes a trademark is used as a general word	Coke, Hoover, Sellotape

UK/US labels

The spelling used in definitions and examples in this dictionary is British English. However, American English is also explained clearly, and where there is a difference between British and American English, this is shown.

UK	only used in British English	pavement, petrol station
US	only used in American English	sidewalk, gas station
mainly UK	mainly used in British English, but sometimes in American English	lecturer, rubbish, nightdress
mainly US	mainly used in American English, but sometimes in British English	movie, apartment, semester
also UK	another word that can also be used in British English	truck (*also UK* lorry) ■ **truck** is used in Britain and US **lorry** is also used in Britain
also US	another word that can also be used in American English	railway (*also US* railroad) ■ **railway** is used in Britain and US **railroad** is also used in US

➲ see also Extra help page **UK and US English**, on page Centre 38

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Pronunciation

All pronunciations use the International Phonetic Alphabet. There is a complete list of phonetic symbols inside the back cover.

Many phonetic symbols, e.g. /p/, /s/, /k/, sound exactly like the most common pronunciation of the letter they look like. Those that do not are explained at the bottom of every page of the dictionary.

Where more than one pronunciation is shown, the more common one is first, but both are often used.

British and American pronunciation

Most words are given only one pronunciation, which is acceptable in British and American English. There are some regular differences between British and American English which are not shown for every word.

The main ones are:

1 In American English, the **r** in words such as **hard** or **teacher** is pronounced, and in British English it is silent.

2 In American English, **t** and **tt** in words such as **later** and **butter**, are pronounced in a soft way, almost like a /d/ sound.

Where there is a big difference between British and American pronunciation, both forms are shown. The symbol (US) is shown before an American pronunciation, e.g. **schedule** /ˈʃedjuːl (US) ˈskedʒuːl/

Stress patterns

Stress patterns show you which parts of the word you should emphasize when you say them.

/ˈ/ shows the main emphasis on a word. For example, in the word **picture** /ˈpɪktʃəʳ/, you should emphasize the first part, and in the word **deny** /dɪˈnaɪ/ you should emphasize the second part.

/ˌ/ shows the second most important emphasis on the word. For example, in the word **submarine** /ˌsʌbməˈriːn/, the main emphasis is on the last part of the word, but you should also emphasize the first part of the word slightly.

Compound words (words made of two or more separate words) have their stress patterns shown on them. For example in the word **de**ˌ**signer** ˈ**baby**, the main emphasis is on the first part of the second word, but you should also emphasize the first part of the first word slightly.

Strong forms and weak forms

Some common words (e.g. and, them, of) have strong forms and weak forms. The weak forms are more common.

For example, in the sentence '*I saw them leave.*', the weak form /ðəm/ would be used.

The strong form is used when you want to emphasize the word. For instance, in the sentence '*They said they saw me, but I didn't see them.*', the strong form /ðem/ would be used.

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Regular inflections

All inflections (e.g. plurals, past tenses) that are not regular (= are not formed in the usual way) are shown at the entry for the word. The regular way of forming inflections is shown below.

Nouns

Most nouns form their plurals by adding **–s**
▶ *chair, chairs* ▶ *plate, plates*

Nouns which end in **–s**, **–ss**, **–ch**, **–x**, and **–z**, make their plurals by adding **–es**
▶ *mass, masses* ▶ *match, matches*

Nouns which end in a consonant (e.g. m, t, p) + **–y**, form their plurals by taking away the **–y** and adding **–ies**
▶ *baby, babies* ▶ *university, universities*

Adjectives

The comparative form of adjectives is used to show that someone or something has more of a particular quality than someone or something else. To make the regular comparative form, you either add **–er** to the end of the adjective, or use the word **more** before it.

The superlative form of adjectives is used to show that someone or something has more of a particular quality than anyone or anything else. To make the regular superlative form, you either add **–est** to the end of the adjective, or use the word **most** before it.

One-syllable adjectives usually form their comparative and superlative with **–er** and **–est**
▶ *small, smaller, smallest*

Two-syllable adjectives can all form their comparative and superlative with **more** and **most**.
▶ *complex, more complex, most complex*

Some two-syllable adjectives can use **–er** and **–est** too. The most common of these are:
- adjectives ending in **–y** and **–ow**,
  ▶ *happy, noisy, shallow*
- adjectives ending in **–le**,
  ▶ *able, noble, simple*
- some other common two-syllable adjectives,
  ▶ *common, cruel, handsome, pleasant, polite, quiet, solid, wicked*

Three-syllable adjectives usually form their comparative and superlative with **more** and **most**
▶ *beautiful, more beautiful, most beautiful*

When you are using the **–er**, **–est** forms, if the adjective ends in **–e**, take away the **–e** before adding the ending
▶ *pale, paler, palest*

If the adjective ends in **–y**, change this to **–i** before adding the ending
▶ *happy, happier, happiest*

Verbs

Regular verbs add the following endings:

for the **3rd person singular** add **–s**, or **–es** to verbs that end in **–s**, **–ss**, **–ch**, **–x**, and **–z**

for the **present participle** add **–ing**

for the **past tense** and the **past participle** add **–ed**
▶ *pack, packs, packing, packed*

For verbs ending in **–e**, take away the **–e** before adding the present participle, past tense, and past participle endings.
▶ *hate, hates, hating, hated*

For verbs ending in **–y**, for the third person singular take away the **–y** and add **–ies**, and for the past tense and past participle take away the **–y** and add **–ied**.
▶ *cry, cries, crying, cried*

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New words

These three pages contain new words and phrases which have recently appeared in the English language or have recently become more popular. Many of these words and phrases will continue to be used in years to come while some may disappear from the language.

the arsenic hour *noun* [no plural] a busy time of day in a house with young children, especially the time after parents arrive home and before the evening meal *Here are some tips for preparing a meal during the arsenic hour.*

baby hunger *noun* [U] the strong wish to have a baby, especially among older women who have important jobs *Men's baby hunger is often not as great as women's.*

body lift *noun* [C] a medical operation that tightens loose skin on someone's body so that they look younger and more attractive *People sometimes have a body lift after they have lost a lot of weight.*

BOGOF *abbreviation for* buy one get one free: a supermarket offer in which you get two of something but only pay for one of them

caller-ID *noun* [U] a system that makes it possible for a telephone to show the telephone number of the person who is calling *Get caller-ID and then you don't have to answer the phone when he calls.*

Chelsea tractor *noun* [C] *humorous* a large four-wheel-drive (= a car with big wheels for driving on rough ground) which is only driven in a town *the Mums in their Chelsea tractors taking children to school*

chugger *noun* [C] someone who stands on the street on the street and asks people walking past to give money regularly to a charity

citizen journalist *noun* [C] someone who gives news stories to newspapers although it is not their job *Citizen journalists gave their accounts of the explosion.* • **citizen journalism** *noun* [U]

climate-friendly *adjective* Something that is climate-friendly does not cause any damage which will change the Earth's weather patterns. *climate-friendly technology* ○ *climate-friendly farming*

competitive compassion *noun* [U] when people give money to a charity (= an organization that helps people) because they want to seem kinder than other people *It was competitive compassion which led people to give so much money following the floods.*

cyberslacking *noun* [U] when people at work spend time sending emails to their friends and using the Internet for enjoyment instead of working *Cyberslacking is becoming a problem for many employers.* • **cyberslacker** *noun* [C]

data fast *noun* [C] a period of time when you do not use your computer, mobile phone, television, etc *If you want to feel less stressed, try a data fast.*

downtime *noun* [U] time when you relax and do not do very much. *We've had a busy weekend so I'm planning to have some downtime tomorrow.*

earworm *noun* [C] a song or part of a song that you hear again and again in your head *People who get the most earworms tend to listen to music frequently.*

e-dress *noun* [C] an email or website address *Please note the company's change of e-dress.*

ego surfing *noun* [U] searching on the Internet for your own name *Ego surfing is certainly easier if you have an unusual name.*

fat tax *noun* [C] a tax on food that is bad for your body and will make you fat *a fat tax on burgers and chips*

firefighting *noun* [U] when you spend all your time dealing with problems at work that need your immediate attention *I seem to be so busy firefighting that I never have time to do routine jobs.*

flexitarian *noun* [C] someone who does not eat meat or fish usually, but sometimes does *She*

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eats chicken occasionally and describes herself as a flexitarian.

future-proof *verb* [T] to design software, a computer, etc so that it can still be used in the future, even when technology changes *Here are some tips for future-proofing your computer network.*

Googlewhacking *noun* [U] the activity of trying to find a set of words that will only produce one result when you use Google™ (= a computer program that finds information on the Internet) *Like a lot of bored office workers, I've done a bit of Googlewhacking in my time.*
● **Googlewhack** *noun* [C]

granny leave *noun* [U] a period of time when you do not go to work because you are looking after an old or ill parent *Small business owners are worried about the effect that granny leave will have on their businesses.*

greenwash *verb* [T] to make people believe that your company cares more about the environment than it really does *Many shoppers have been greenwashed by products claiming to be "natural" and "kind to the environment".*
● **greenwash** *noun* [C] *The government's latest initiative has been dismissed as a greenwash.*

grief tourist *noun* [C] someone who visits a place because something very bad has happened there *The site where the Twin Towers were in New York is a favourite destination for grief tourists.*

half birthday *noun* [C] the day that is exactly half a year from your birthday *If you need an excuse for a celebration, why not celebrate your half birthday?*

hand-me-up *noun* [C] something that you give to an older person because you no longer use it, or because you now have something better *My mobile phone is a hand-me-up from my son.*

ICE number *noun* [C] *abbreviation for* In Case of Emergency number: a telephone number that you store in your mobile phone under the name 'ICE' so that people know who to call if you are hurt in an accident *The emergency services are urging people to enter an ICE number on their mobile phones.*

infomania *noun* [U] when you cannot think clearly because you are spending too much time sending and reading emails and text messages *The study shows that there is a rise in infomania, with growing numbers of people obsessively checking their email.*

jobspill *noun* [U] when you spend time at home doing things that are part of your job *If your boss calls you at the weekend, that's jobspill.*

kidult *noun* [C] an adult who likes doing or buying things that are intended for children

latte factor *noun* [no plural] small amounts of money that you spend without thinking, which are a lot of money if you add them together *You could save $50 a week if you cut out the latte factor.*

metrosexual *noun* [C] a man who is sexually attracted to women but is also interested in fashion and the way he looks *The typical metrosexual is a young man, living in a city, with money to spend.* ➲Compare **retrosexual.**

milk brain *noun* [U] the tired and confused feeling that many mothers of young babies have *Milk brain is a temporary effect brought on by lack of sleep.*

muffin top *noun* [C] fat on someone's stomach that you can see because it hangs over the top of their trousers *The appearance of muffin tops has increased with the fashion for low-cut trousers and short tops.*

phat *adjective* very good *informal The band had a really phat sound.*

podjacking *noun* [U] **1** when someone takes control of how a podcast (= a radio program stored in digital form) is sent to people so that people think it comes from him or her *There are steps you can take to avoid podjacking.* **2** the act of putting the cord from your MP3 player (= a piece of equipment that plays digital music) into someone else's MP3 player so that you can listen to or copy their music

regifting *noun* [U] when you give someone something which someone else gave to you as a present *Passing on gifts that we don't want or need, or regifting as it's now called, is becoming more acceptable.*

rendition *noun* [U] the practice of sending someone to another country to answer questions about a crime or to be put in prison *Since the terrorist attack of September 11, rendition has been carried out on a greater scale.*

rescue call *noun* [C] a call that you ask someone to make to your mobile phone at a particular time because you might need a reason to leave a place *Nancy was not sure that she would like her date so she arranged for a rescue call at 8pm.*

retrosexual *noun* [C] a man who is sexually attracted to women and is not interested in fashion or the way he looks *Retrosexuals would never use something like hair gel.* ➲Compare **metrosexual.**

saviour sibling *UK* (*US* **savior sibling**) *noun* [C] a child who is born with particular genes

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which scientists have chosen so that he or she will be able to help treat an older brother or sister who has a disease *Baby James is a saviour sibling for his older brother John who has a life-threatening blood disorder.*

season creep *noun* [U] the fact that spring is coming earlier which may be caused by global warming (= the fact that the Earth is becoming warmer)

shouty *adjective* Someone who is shouty shouts a lot because they get angry very easily.

slow food *noun* [U] good food that is grown locally, cooked well, and eaten slowly so you can enjoy it *The slow food movement was created to combat fast food.*

splitter *noun* [C] someone who owns two homes, and spends some time in one home and some time in the other *Are you a splitter with a home in Britain and a home in Spain?*

springspotter *noun* [C] someone who looks for ideas, products, clothes, etc that are becoming fashionable, and tells people in business so they can develop new products *They have a team of springspotters who go round the neighbourhood and report back which trends and products are becoming popular.*

stealth tax *noun* [C] a new tax that is collected in a way that it is not very obvious, so people may not realise that they are paying it

Stepford *adjective* [always before noun] doing everything that someone tells you to, and not having any ideas of your own *a Stepford wife* ○ *Stepford employees*

stress puppy *noun* [C] someone who seems to enjoy stress (= worry caused by difficult situations), but complains about it often

supersize (*also* **supersized**) *adjective* describes something that is much bigger than normal *a supersize bacon cheeseburger*

Swiss army phone *noun* [C] a mobile phone that can do a lot of things such as play music, take photographs, etc

textual harassment *noun* [U] when someone sends rude or unpleasant text messages (= written messages sent from one mobile phone to another) to someone else *Textual harassment is becoming a popular way for school bullies to reach their victims day and night.*

TLA *noun* [C] *abbreviation for* three-letter abbreviation: a set of three letters that is a short form of a word or phrase *BBC and DVD are well-known TLAs.*

trouser *verb* [T] to get a large amount of money, especially money that should not be yours *She did all the work and yet her husband trousered the profits.*

ubersexual *noun* [C] a man who is sexually attracted to women, is kind, and wants to help other people *The ultimate ubersexual is confident and passionate about his beliefs.*

unibrow (*also* **monobrow**) *noun* [C] a line of hair that joins someone's eyebrows (= the lines of hair over the eyes) so that it looks as if they have one long eyebrow *If you have a unibrow should you pluck it, shave it, or leave it alone?*

universal release *noun* [C, U] when a new film becomes available in cinemas and on DVD on the same day *'Bubble' will be the movie industry's first universal release.* ○ *Universal release will increase audience and profits.*

Winterval *noun* [U] the time during the middle of winter when people celebrate Christmas and other festivals *The town renamed Christmas 'Winterval' in order to avoid offending non-Christians.*

zombie computer (*also* **zombie**) *noun* [C] a computer with a virus (= a program that is secretly put on a computer to cause damage) that makes it cause problems for other computers without the user knowing *50-80% of all email spam is sent by zombie computers.*

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