

LONGMAN



Phrasal Verbs

DICTIONARY

Over 5000 phrasal verbs



NEW

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*Phrasal
Verbs*

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GUIDE TO USING THE DICTIONARY

BLURT

blurtd, blurtd, blurting

blurt out

blurt out sth blurt sth out

to suddenly say something, without thinking

MAIN VERB

FORMS OF THE VERB

Past tense, past participle, and present participle of main verb

PHRASAL VERB

Phrasal verbs are listed under main verbs in alphabetical order.

break into

1 break into sth

to get into a building or a vehicle illegally by using force, especially in order to steal something: *Someone broke into my car and stole the radio.* | *Thieves broke into the school and took a quantity of cash.*

FREQUENCY STAR

Commonly used phrasal verbs are marked with a star.

GRAMMAR PATTERNS

show whether the phrasal verb has an object, and where you put the object. The object is written as 'sth' or 'sb'.

LAND

landed, landed, landing

land in

land (sb) in trouble/jail/court etc

to get into a bad situation, or put someone in a bad situation: *I hope I haven't landed you in trouble with the boss.* | *Her husband had a violent temper, which often landed him in court.* | *Gasgoine landed in trouble after an all-night drinking session with his friends.*

FIXED PHRASE

Fixed phrases that contain a phrasal verb are shown in bold.

LIGHT

lit, lit, lighting
lighted, lighted, lighting

light on/upon

● **Light upon** is more formal than **light on** and is mostly used in writing.

light on/upon sth NOT PASSIVE

literary to suddenly notice or find something,

USAGE NOTE

This gives you extra information about when to use the phrasal verb.

GRAMMAR HELP

This tells you if the phrasal verb is used or not in the passive or progressive.

LABELS

Labels tell you if a verb is formal, informal, spoken, or literary English.

LIKEN

likened, likened, likening

liken to

liken sth/sb to sth/sb

BrE to describe something or someone as similar to another thing or person: *The newspapers likened the new hospital to a five-star hotel.* | *In the Christian religion, God is likened to a father.*

* SIMILAR TO: **compare****DEFINITION**

Definitions are written using the 2000-word Longman defining vocabulary, which makes them clear and easy to use.

LABELS

Labels also tell you if a verb is only used in American English (AmE) or British English (BrE).

line up against**1 line up against sb/sth** NOT PASSIVE

if people line up against someone or something, they all oppose that person or thing: *Democrats quickly lined up against the tax cuts.* | *My brothers were soon involved in the argument too, all of them lined up against me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **oppose**● OPPOSITE: **line up behind****EXAMPLES**

Examples are chosen from the Longman Corpus of Spoken and Written English.

SIMILAR TO

references show verbs and phrasal verbs with similar meaning.

OPPOSITE

references show verbs and phrasal verbs with opposite meaning.

change over**1 change over**

especially BrE to stop doing or using one system or thing, and to start doing or using a different one instead

● **+ to** *Wheat was no longer profitable, and many farmers were forced to change over to dairy farming.*

● **change over from sth to sth** *We changed over from gas to solar heating because it's cleaner and cheaper in the long term.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch over****changeover** N [C]

a change from one way of doing something to another: *The changeover from analogue to digital television should be complete by 2006.*

PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions used with the phrasal verb are shown in bold.

RELATED NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

These are shown after the sense of the phrasal verb they refer to.

tear on
log of
polish of
tick over
gulp down
conk out
get up
Fill up
toy with
fear of
log of
polish of
tick over
gulp down
get up
Fill up
toy with
fear of
log of
polish of
tick over
conk out
get up
Fill up
toy with
fear of
log of
polish of
tick over
gulp down
log of
conk out

INTRODUCTION

1. What is a phrasal verb?

A phrasal verb is a verb that consists of two or three words. Most phrasal verbs consist of two words – the first word is a verb, and the second word is a particle. The particle is either an adverb or a preposition. Examples of common phrasal verbs include **get up**, **go off**, **turn on**, **make out**, and **deal with**. There are also some three-word phrasal verbs, for example **catch up with**, **look forward to**.

An important feature of phrasal verbs is that they are typically **idiomatic**. Therefore the whole meaning of a phrasal verb cannot be understood by simply putting together the meanings of its individual parts. For example, the meaning of **carry out** (=do) in the sentence *Scientists carried out an experiment* is not related to the normal meaning of 'carry' or the meaning of 'out'. Similarly, you could not guess the meaning of **pull up** (=stop) in the sentence *A car pulled up outside the house* from the separate meanings of 'pull' and 'up'. A phrasal verb such as **answer back** (=answer rudely) is related to the meaning of the verb 'answer', but this would not help you to guess the meaning of **answer back**.


Where a verb freely combines with an adverb or preposition to produce an ordinary meaning, this is NOT a phrasal verb. In sentences such as *The boy fell off his bike* and *We carried some chairs out into the garden*, 'fall off' and 'carry out' are not phrasal verbs.

2. Types of phrasal verb included in this dictionary

- idiomatic combinations of VERB + ADVERB/PREPOSITION of the type described above
- verbs that only exist in combination with a particular preposition or adverb, such as **rely on**, **amount to**, **gee up**; and also verbs that only produce a particular meaning when combined with a particular preposition or adverb, such as **deal with**, **abide by**, **relate to**
- VERB + ADVERB combinations that mean almost the same as the verb itself: eg **eat up**, **hurry up**, **toil away**, where the adverb adds emphasis or an idea of completeness or continuity to the action of the verb
- phrasal verbs that always have 'it' as their object: eg **hit it off**, **jump to it**, **slug it out**
- reflexive phrasal verbs, where the object is always 'myself', 'yourself', 'itself' etc: eg **pride yourself on**, **avail yourself of**, **lend itself to**

NB Do not expect to find fixed idiomatic phrases such as 'step out of line' and 'eat your heart out' in this book. You can find them in the *Longman Idioms Dictionary*.

3. How do I find the phrasal verb I want in this dictionary?

First look for the main verb. Phrasal verbs are listed alphabetically according to their particles after each main verb. When you get to the phrasal verb you want, you will find that the senses of each phrasal verb are listed in order of frequency. This means that the commonest meanings are listed first. The commonest and most useful phrasal verb meanings have a  next to them, so that you can see which are the most important ones to know.

For example, suppose you are looking for **get up**, meaning to 'get out of bed'. First look for the main verb GET. **Get up** is near the end of the phrasal verbs in GET, after phrasal verbs such as **get about**, **get ahead**, and **get together**.

You then need to look for which sense of **get up** you want. The sense of **get up** meaning to 'get out of bed' is the first sense given. This means that it is the most

frequently used sense – in this dictionary the senses of the phrasal verbs are listed in order of frequency, so the most frequent sense comes first.

4. Grammar information

The new *Longman Phrasal Verbs Dictionary* demonstrates clearly how phrasal verbs are used, with **grammar patterns** shown at each sense. These show whether a phrasal verb takes an object, where the object goes, and whether the object is human or non-human. Grammar patterns are also placed in order of frequency.

For example, at **turn on** (=make something start working), there are two grammar patterns:

turn on sth **turn sth on**

These patterns show that the object can come either after the phrasal verb or between the verb and the particle.

NB The examples also show how this phrasal verb is used, and how the position of the object can vary – *I turned on the radio and listened to the 6 o'clock news.* | *Could you turn the oven on if you're going into the kitchen?* | *Marion walked over to the overhead projector and turned it on.*

At **nod off** (=start to go to sleep), there is only one grammar pattern:

nod off

This grammar pattern shows that the verb does not take an object. The examples also show this:

Old Tom had nodded off in front of the television. | *I missed the end of her lecture – I think I must have nodded off.*

At **join in** (=take part in an activity with other people) the grammar patterns are:

join in **join in sth**

These grammar patterns show that **join in** can be used without an object, or with an object immediately after the phrasal verb. The examples also show this:

When we come to the chorus, I want everyone to join in. | *Politely, he joined in the laughter.*

At **talk into** (=persuade someone to do something, especially something they are unwilling to do), the following grammatical pattern is shown:

talk sb into sth

This shows that **talk into** must have two objects, the first is a person (*sb*), and the second is a thing (*sth*). The examples also show this:

I should never have let you talk me into this crazy scheme. | *"Why did you go with him?" "Well, he sort of talked me into it!"*

Separable phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs such as **turn on**, **put off**, and **rip off**, all of which can take an object in the middle of the phrasal verb or after the phrasal verb, are usually called 'separable' phrasal verbs. With separable phrasal verbs, the following rules apply:

If the object is a **pronoun**, such as 'it', 'her', 'them', 'me', 'you' etc, it must come **between** the verb and the adverb: eg **turn off** *If you're not listening to the radio, I'll turn it off.* (NOT *I'll turn off it.*)

If the object is a **long phrase**, it should come at the end, after the phrasal verb: eg **carry out** *The French carried out a series of six nuclear tests.*

5. Other useful information in this dictionary

Synonyms and opposites

A synonym is a word or phrase that has the same meaning as another word. If a phrasal verb has a synonym or a word that has almost the same meaning, this is shown at the end of that sense of the phrasal verb. The synonym can be a verb, a phrasal verb, or a verb phrase. The synonym(s) are introduced by the words 'SIMILAR TO'. Here are some examples:

At **put off** (=delay doing something until later, or arrange for something to happen at a later time)

SIMILAR TO: **postpone**

At **head for** (=go towards a place)

SIMILAR TO: **make for**

At **put on** (=make a light or machine start working)

SIMILAR TO: **switch on, turn on**

Opposites are shown as follows:

turn up (=increase the amount of sound, heat etc)

OPPOSITE: **turn down**

Information about whether or not a phrasal verb is passive

Phrasal verbs that are usually passive are marked 'USUALLY PASSIVE'. Phrasal verbs that are never used in the passive are marked 'NOT PASSIVE'. If a phrasal verb is only normally used in the passive, it is shown in its passive form in bold at the head of the entry. For example, at **be booked up** (=there are no more seats, rooms, places etc available – used in British English), only the form **be booked up** is shown.

Related nouns or adjectives

Nouns and adjectives which are related to a phrasal verb are shown after the meaning of the phrasal verb that they are derived from. For example, **blackout** (noun) appears after the phrasal verb **black out** (=suddenly become unconscious), and **made-up** (adjective) appears after the phrasal verb **make up** (=invent a story, name etc)

Labels

The following labels are used in this dictionary:

- BrE* = used in British English
- AmE* = used in American English
- spoken* = used mainly in spoken English
- informal* = used when speaking or writing to people that you know well
- formal* = used in speeches, in serious or official writing, but not in ordinary conversation
- old-fashioned* = used by people in the past, although you may sometimes hear it being used now
- literary* = used in literature but not in ordinary conversation
- technical* = used when talking or writing about specific technical subjects which are not familiar to most ordinary people
- taboo* = this expression is extremely rude and offensive and you should not use it



A

ABANDON

abandoned, abandoned, abandoning

abandon to

abandon yourself to sth

literary if you abandon yourself to something, especially a strong feeling, you let it have a very strong influence on your behaviour, and do not try to control yourself: *That night they abandoned themselves to passion.* | *As she danced, she abandoned herself to the sensuousness of the music.*

ABIDE

abided, abided, abiding

abide by

abide by sth

formal to obey or agree to accept a rule, law, agreement, or decision: *The President has to abide by the same rules and laws as everyone else.* | *Both countries have shown their willingness to abide by the peace agreement.* | *Tyson promised to abide by the terms and conditions of his release.*

* SIMILAR TO: **observe** formal, **stick to**, **keep to**
BrE

ABOUND

abounded, abounded, abounding

abound with/in

abound with/in sth

literary or formal to contain a lot of something: *The rivers abounded with fish.* | *The Costa Azul abounds with bars, restaurants and night-clubs.* | *a densely forested area, abounding in wildlife*

* SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

ABSORB

absorbed, absorbed, absorbing

absorbed in

be absorbed in sth

to be very interested in what you are doing, especially so that you do not pay attention to what is happening around you: *Natalie was sitting up in bed, absorbed in her book.* | *I was so absorbed in my work that I didn't notice the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be engrossed in**

ABSTAIN

abstained, abstained, abstaining

abstain from

abstain from sth

formal to not do something, especially something you want to do, usually because of health or religious reasons: *Women are usually advised to abstain from alcohol during the early stages of pregnancy.* | *Abstaining from sex is a sure way of avoiding this route of HIV infection.*

abstain from doing sth *For a whole month, Muslims abstain from eating and drinking during daylight hours.*

ACCEDE

acceded, acceded, acceding

accede to

1 accede to pressure/sb's demands/request/wishes etc

formal to agree to do what someone demands or asks you to do, especially when you do not want to do it: *The King was forced to accede to pressure for major political reforms.* | *Prison authorities have so far refused to accede to any of the prisoners' demands.* | *If a doctor accedes to a patient's request to withdraw treatment, he or she may find himself in trouble with the law.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bow to**

2 accede to sth

formal to officially become the leader of a country and be in charge of the government

accede to power *General Abacha acceded to power after a military coup.*

accede to the throne (=become king or queen) *Queen Elizabeth acceded to the throne in 1953.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come to**

3 accede to sth

formal if a country or leader accedes to an agreement or law, they sign it and officially agree to it: *India has announced that it will accede to the Montreal Protocol on controlling CFCs.* | *Hungary was the first Eastern European country to accede to the UN Convention on Refugees.*

ACCORD

accorded, accorded, according

accord with

accord with sth

formal to contain the same ideas, information etc as something else, especially so that they

A

both seem right: *Her evidence accorded with that of the other witnesses.* | *This view would seem to accord with Marx's own theories on the subject.*

* SIMILAR TO: **agree with, back up**

ACCOUNT

accounted, accounted, accounting

account for

1 account for sth

to form a particular part or amount of something: *Exports account for over 80 per cent of sales.* | *People from ethnic minority groups now account for one in ten of the population.* | *Britain plays by far the biggest role, accounting for 31 per cent of all foreign investment in the US.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make up**

2 account for sth

to give a satisfactory explanation why something happened or why you did something: *How do you account for the sudden disappearance of the murder weapon?* | *His boss called him into his office and asked him to account for his actions.* | *This was one phenomenon which Darwin's theory of Evolution could not account for.*

* SIMILAR TO: **explain**

3 account for sth

to be the reason for something: *People felt that Clinton was doing a good job. This may account for his high popularity rating, despite the scandal over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.* | *Genetic factors probably account for the higher incidence of depression among women.*

* SIMILAR TO: **explain**

4 account for sb/sth

to know where people or things are, or what has happened to them, especially when you are worried that some of them are missing: *Firefighters later said all the children except for one little boy had been accounted for.* | *Most of the jewellery that was stolen has now been accounted for.*

5 account for sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to say how money has been used or will be used: *Every penny of the taxpayer's money has to be accounted for.*

6 there's no accounting for taste

spoken used to say that it is difficult to understand why someone likes something or someone, or wants to do something: *"Why is Doug going out with that awful woman?" "Like they say, Rosie, there's no accounting for taste."*

ACE

aced, aced, acing

ace out

ace out sb/sth

AmE informal to easily defeat someone or something: *Meg Ryan aced out Parker for the leading role in the film.*

ACHE

ached, ached, aching

ache for

a ache for sth

to want something very much, and feel very unhappy that you cannot have it: *It had been a hard day, and I was aching for a good night's sleep.* | *Suddenly his heart ached for the sight of his native country.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for**

b ache for sb

if you ache for someone you love, you feel very unhappy because you cannot be with them: *He ached for her, and longed to be back in her arms.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for**

ACQUAINT

acquainted, acquainted, acquainting

acquaint with

1 be acquainted with sth

formal to know about something and be familiar with it because you have seen it, read it, used it etc: *Anyone who is acquainted with the details of the case will realize that the men are completely innocent.*

be fully acquainted with sth *All employees should be fully acquainted with health and safety regulations.*

be well acquainted with sth *He was well acquainted with the works of other European writers of his day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be familiar with**

2 acquaint yourself with sth

formal to find out about something so that you are familiar with it: *She always took the trouble to acquaint herself with the interests of her students.*

* SIMILAR TO: **find out**

3 acquaint sb with sth

formal to give someone information about something so that they know about it and are familiar with it: *He decided to use this opportunity to acquaint her with his plans for the company.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell sb about sth**

ACT

acted, acted, acting

act for

act for sb

if someone, especially a lawyer, acts for you, you employ them to deal with something for you or speak for you in a court of law: *Lawyers acting for ex-smokers are suing the big tobacco companies for billions of dollars.* | *The buyer of the painting said he was acting for an American client, who wished to remain anonymous.*

* SIMILAR TO: represent

act on/upon

● **Act upon** is more formal than **act on** and is mostly used in writing.

act on/upon sth

to do what someone has advised, ordered etc you to do, or do something because you have received some information or had an idea: *Acting on a hunch, she went into his study and looked through his letters.*

act on sb's advice/orders/suggestion *I realize now that I should have acted on my father's advice.*

act on information *Police say they were acting on information from an undisclosed source.*

act out

1 act out sth act sth out

to perform the events in a story, play, or a situation: *We had to act out the story of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem.* | *Through playing, children act out the dramas of adult life, and learn how to master new situations.* | *Like every teenager, Kylie acted out her fantasies of pop stardom in front of her bedroom mirror.*

2 act out sth act sth out

to express your feelings and emotions through your behaviour, especially as a way of getting rid of feelings of unhappiness or anger: *Teenagers often act out their frustrations by turning against their parents.*

* SIMILAR TO: vent

act up

1 act up

to behave badly – used especially about children: *He was always acting up in class and caused his teachers no end of trouble.* | *McEnroe developed something of a reputation for throwing tantrums and acting up on court.*

* SIMILAR TO: play up BrE informal

2 act up

informal if a part of your body acts up, it starts to hurt or stops working properly: *My elbow started acting up again, and I had to stop playing.*

* SIMILAR TO: play up BrE informal

ADD

added, added, adding

add in

1 add in sth add sth in

to include something when calculating the total amount of something: *If you add in all the other costs, we hardly made any profit.* | *Add in 90 million tons from industry, and America's grand total is around 250 million tons of waste-paper.*

* SIMILAR TO: include, factor in

2 add in sth add sth in

BrE to put something in with something else, in order to combine them together: *Add in the sugar and stir gently.*

add on

1 add on sth add sth on

to increase the total amount or cost of something, by adding something more to it: *On top of the official fees, many schools add on other charges, for example for books or materials.* | *The referee added on a couple of minutes of injury time at the end of the game.* | *a tour of the Far East, with the option of adding on an extra week in Bali*

+ to *An additional service charge of 10% will be added on to your bill.*

* SIMILAR TO: put on

2 add on sth add sth on add on

to add another part to a house, town, garden etc, in order to make it larger: *The previous owners had added on an extension at the back of the house.* | *The Howard family added on to the castle in the 16th century.*

* SIMILAR TO: build on

add to

1 add to sth

to make something increase, for example the price or amount of something: *This will only add to the cost of getting it fixed.*

* SIMILAR TO: increase

2 add to sth

to make a feeling stronger, a quality more noticeable, or a situation worse: *The report will only add to the public's fears about genetically modified foods.* | *He seemed much older.* | *No doubt his thick glasses added to this*

A

impression. | *To add to their problems, the cost of borrowing money has increased sharply.*

add up

- 1 **add up sth** **add sth up** **add up**

to calculate the total of several numbers or amounts: *The waiter took our bill away and added it up again.* | *It is extraordinary how often professional golfers add up their scores incorrectly.* | *As children we are all taught how to read, write, and add up.*

- 2 **add up** USUALLY NEGATIVE

if calculations or total amounts add up, they seem correct: *The sums just didn't add up.* | *Someone had obviously made a mistake.* | *The CIA began noticing that North's sales of weapons and the money received from Iran did not add up. \$3.5 million was missing.*

- 3 **add up**

if something adds up, it seems likely to be true or correct: *The facts all seemed to add up.* | *He was the only person who could have carried out the murder.*

it adds up *If she hates him so much, why is she helping him? It simply doesn't add up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make sense**

- 4 **add up**

if small amounts or numbers add up, they produce a big total, especially one that is surprisingly big: *If you eat sweets and snacks every day, the calories soon add up.* | *The number of killed and wounded was starting to add up, and the captain refused to risk the lives of any more of his men.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mount up**

- 5 **add sth up** **add up sth**

to consider all the facts about something or all the advantages and disadvantages, in order to form an opinion about it: *When I add everything up, I think I'm better off working from home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **weigh up**

add up to

- 1 **add up to sth**

to result in a particular total or amount: *Just 200 extra calories per day add up to one-half pound of extra body fat each week.* | *Seth's novel has 19 chapters, each with as many as 30 sections. These add up to 1,364 pages.*

* SIMILAR TO: **amount to**

- 2 **add up to sth**

to have a particular result or effect, especially to result in people having a particular opinion about something: *All this adds up to a remarkable achievement.* | *These differences add up to one conclusion. Government cannot*

be run like a business. | *The Pyramids, the Valley of the Kings, cruising on the Nile – it all adds up to the holiday of a lifetime.*

* SIMILAR TO: **amount to**

ADDRESS

addressed, addressed, addressing

address to

- address yourself to sth**

formal to deal with or discuss a particular subject or problem: *The committee will address itself to three main issues.* | *The new administration has yet to address itself to the problem of reforming the gun laws.*

ADHERE

adhered, adhered, adhering

adhere to

- 1 **adhere to sth**

formal to obey a law, rule, or agreement: *Visitors should adhere to all local driving regulations.* | *countries which adhere to Islamic law* | *Both parties must adhere to the terms of the contract.*

* SIMILAR TO: **obey, keep to, abide by** *formal*

- 2 **adhere to sth**

formal to believe that an idea or opinion is true or right: *Some people still adhere to the view that homosexuality is somehow morally wrong.* | *Both he and Marx adhered to a similar philosophy.*

ADJOURN

adjourned, adjourned, adjourning

adjourn to

- adjourn to sth**

if you adjourn to a place, you go there, especially after you have finished doing something – often used humorously: *After the match we adjourned to the bar for some liquid refreshment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go to**

ADMIT

admitted, admitted, admitting

admit of

- admit of sth**

formal to make it possible for something to be allowed or accepted: *The present law admits of no exceptions.* | *The facts of the case admit of only one possible verdict.*

* SIMILAR TO: **allow**

admit to**admit to sth**

to say that you have done something wrong, especially something criminal, or say that you have a feeling which you feel embarrassed about: *I think he feels sorry for what happened, even though he's not willing to admit to it.*

admit to doing sth *Campbell was sent to prison after admitting to spying for the KGB. | Tony once admitted to drinking up to a bottle of whisky a day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **confess**

ADVISE

advised, advised, advising

advise of**advise sb of sth**

formal to tell someone about a fact or situation: *Patients were not advised of the potential risks of the treatment. | The police are legally obliged to advise people of their rights when they arrest them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell sb about sth**

AGREE

agreed, agreed, agreeing

agree with**1 not agree with sb**

if a type of food or drink does not agree with you, it makes you feel slightly ill: *I'll have white wine. Red wine doesn't really agree with me.*

2 agree with sb

if a situation or place agrees with you, it makes you feel healthy or happy about your life: *Phyllis looked better than she had in a long time. The country air obviously agreed with her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **suit**

AIM

aimed, aimed, aiming

aim at**1 aim at sth**

to try to achieve something: *We're aiming at a growth rate of 25%.*

aim at doing sth *They're currently aiming at having a computer in every classroom by the end of next year.*

be aimed at doing sth *talks aimed at ending the conflict in Northern Ireland | The*

government plans to introduce new taxes aimed at persuading drivers to switch to public transport.

* SIMILAR TO: **shoot for** AmE

2 be aimed at sb

if something is aimed at a particular type of person or group, it is intended for them to buy, watch, use etc: *a new TV sex education series aimed at teenagers | The course is aimed at people with a professional interest in gardening. | The Jaguar XK8 is aimed at the luxury end of the market.*

* SIMILAR TO: **direct at**

3 be aimed at sb

if a remark is aimed at someone, it is intended to be about them or for them, often in a way which criticizes them: *I hope that last remark wasn't aimed at me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **direct at**

AIRBRUSH

airbrushed, airbrushed, airbrushing

airbrush out**airbrush sb out****airbrush out sb**

to deliberately pretend that someone did not exist or was not important, so that people forget about them – used especially about former political leaders

+ *of Mr Major* *claimed that Mrs Thatcher's supporters were trying to airbrush him out of British politics.*

ALLOW

allowed, allowed, allowing

allow for**1 allow for sth**

to consider or include something when making plans or calculations, or when making a judgment about something: *Make sure you allow for possible delays on the way to the airport. | Allowing for inflation, the cost of the two movies was roughly the same. | Even allowing for this, it's still a remarkable achievement.*

2 allow for sth

to make it possible for something to happen: *The system allows for photos to be sent via computers and downloaded from the Internet. | The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, and therefore allows for political, economic, and scientific progress.*

allow of**allow of sth**

formal to make it possible for something to

A

happen or be accepted: *The facts allow of only one interpretation.* | *The small stock of provisions did not allow of imaginative cuisine.*

ALLUDE

alluded, alluded, alluding

allude to**allude to** sth/sb

formal to mention someone or something indirectly: *The poet was alluding to his own relationship with Sylvia Plath.* | *In his speech the bishop talked about the "adulterers in public life" – apparently alluding to the recent behaviour of certain government ministers.*

* SIMILAR TO: refer to

AMOUNT

amounted, amounted, amounting

amount to**1 amount to** sth

to be the same as something else, or seem to have the same effect: *These changes would amount to a revolution in our political system.* | *Pleasure and happiness do not necessarily amount to the same thing.* | *Disconnecting the feeding tube which keeps Tony Bland alive would amount to murder, the High Court was told yesterday.*

2 not amount to much/anything/ a great deal etc

to not seem very important, good, successful etc: *Her own academic achievements didn't amount to much.*

3 amount to sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

to result in a particular total or amount: *Total bank lending to farmers in the province amounts to about \$295m.* | *Agents' fees could amount to £2,000 on a £75,000 house – a substantial figure.* | *Annual emissions of sulphur from the mines are thought to amount to 700,000 tons.*

* SIMILAR TO: add up to, total

ANGLE

angled, angled, angling

angle for**angle for** sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to try to get something, by asking or talking about it in an indirect way: *We all knew she was angling for promotion.* | *Laura smiled at him, aware that he was angling for an invitation to come back home with her.*

* SIMILAR TO: fish for

ANSWER

answered, answered, answering

answer back**answer back** answer sb back

especially BrE to answer someone rudely or say that you disagree with them, when you should obey them and be polite to them – used especially about children speaking rudely to teachers or parents: *If any of the students dared to answer back, they would be sent straight to the Principal's office.* | *Just do as your mother tells you, and don't answer her back!* | *The reason you like dogs is that they can't answer back.*

* SIMILAR TO: talk back

answer for**1 answer for** sth NOT PASSIVE

if you have to answer for something bad that you have done or that has happened you are responsible for it and have to be punished for it if necessary

have to/must answer for sth *One day the general will have to answer for his crimes in a court of law.* | *A manager has to answer for the team's performance – if they do badly, he's likely to be out of a job.*

2 have a lot/a great deal etc to answer for

to be responsible for causing a lot of trouble: *The last government has a lot to answer for.* | *I think that television has a great deal to answer for*

3 I can answer for sb/sth

spoken used to say that you are sure that someone can definitely be trusted to do something, or that someone definitely has a particular quality: *I'm sure Jo will come. I can't answer for the others though.* | *I can't answer for his abilities as a teacher.*

* SIMILAR TO: vouch for

answer to**1 answer to** sb/sth

if you answer to someone, you have to explain the reasons for your actions to them, and they can criticize or punish you if they disapprove: *Politicians have to answer to the voters at the general election.* | *When he dies he will have to answer to God, just like the rest of us.* | *rich entrepreneurs who answered to nobody but themselves and could do whatever they pleased*

2 answer to the name of sth

literary or humorous to be called a particular name, often a name that you think is unusual or humorous: *They had two cats: one was called Treacle, and the other answered to the name of Faustina.* | *an attractive well-dressed young woman answering to the name of Susan*

ANTE

anted, anted, anteing

ante up

ante up sth ante up

AmE to pay an amount of money, especially in order to take part in a card game in which you win or lose money: *215 poker players anted up \$10,000 each on Monday to play in the eliminating game.* | *20th Century Fox will ante up \$1.5 million for the 'Almost Adam' movie rights.*

APPEAL

appealed, appealed, appealing

appeal to

appeal to sb

if something or someone appeals to you, they seem attractive or interesting: *The movie will appeal to children of all ages.* | *I can't say that the idea of living abroad has ever really appealed to me.*

APPERTAIN

appertained, appertained, appertaining

appertain to

appertain to sth

formal to be about a particular subject or situation – used especially in official or legal situations

appertaining to sth *Staff should be familiar with all the general facts and figures appertaining to the size, shape and types of rooms.*

APPRISE

apprised, apprised, apprising

apprise of

apprise sb of sth

formal to tell someone the facts about something that has happened: *I thought it right to apprise Cyril of what had happened at Muirfield.*

be fully apprised of sth (=have been told all the facts about it) *The minister said he was fully apprised of the case.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inform** formal

APPROVE

approved, approved, approving

approve of

approve of sth/sb

to think that something or someone is good,

right or suitable: *His parents didn't really approve of the marriage.* | *Nigel didn't approve of her – he thought she was a bit pompous.* | *The vast majority of people approve of the government's policies on immigration.*

● OPPOSITE: **disapprove of**

APPROXIMATE

approximated, approximated, approximating

approximate to

approximate to sth

formal to be almost the same as a particular number or amount, or a particular situation: *This figure approximates to the total population of Western Europe.* | *They do roughly the same job, so their wages should approximate to each other.* | *The training is intended to approximate to the real situation on the battlefield.*

ARGUE

argued, argued, arguing

argue out

argue sth out argue out sth

to argue about or discuss every part of something in order to make a final decision about it: *They had spent months arguing out the details of the divorce.* | *I didn't want to have to argue it out with him again.*

ARRIVE

arrived, arrived, arriving

arrive at

arrive at sth

to make a decision or agreement about something, especially after discussing it or considering it for a long time: *The jury took 5 hours to arrive at a verdict.* | *All attempts to arrive at some kind of power-sharing agreement have so far been unsuccessful.* | *Acting independently, the two scientists both arrived at the same conclusion.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach, come to**

ARSE

arsed, arsed, arsing

● **Arse** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

arse about/around

arse about/around

BrE informal to waste time doing silly or unimportant things: *Stop arsing about and get back to your work!*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** informal, **fool about/around**

A

A

ASCRIBE

ascribed, ascribed, ascribing

ascribe to

1 ascribe sth to sth

formal to say or believe that something is caused by something else: *An inquest was held on the following day and her death was ascribed to natural causes.* | *the peace-loving nature of the Burmese people, which is often ascribed to Buddhism* | *Some commentators have ascribed the rise in the number of homeless mentally ill people to the closure of large psychiatric hospitals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

2 ascribe sth to sb/sth

formal to believe that someone or something has a particular quality or value: *It is wrong to ascribe human qualities such as greed and revenge to animals.* | *the status traditionally ascribed to members of the aristocracy* | *the importance ascribed to material wealth in western societies*

* SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

3 ascribe sth to sb

formal to say or believe that something was first said, written, invented etc by a particular person: *This quotation is usually ascribed to Descartes.* | *It has been suggested that many of the plays that are normally ascribed to William Shakespeare were actually written by Francis Bacon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

ASK

asked, asked, asking

ask after

ask after sb/sth

to ask about someone, especially about their health or what they have been doing: *Helen was asking after you – she was pleased when I told her how well your business was doing.* | *Lady Agnes asked after Kathleen's health.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inquire after** formal

ask along

ask sb along ask along sb

to invite someone to go somewhere with you: *It was very generous of them to ask her along, but Lou would much rather stay at home.* | *Why don't you ask some of your friends along?*

ask around

ALSO **ask round** BrE

ask around/round

to ask several people about something in

order to find the information or help that you need: *I'll ask around and see if there's a room available.* | *"Do you know anyone who wants to buy a bike?" "I don't know – I'll ask around for you."*

ask for

1 ask for sth

to say that you would like to have something: *She called the waiter and asked for the bill.* | *Victims are often too frightened to ask for help.* | *Last year he asked for a big French dictionary for his birthday.*

2 ask for sb

to say that you would like to speak to someone: *Talbot was asking for you earlier.* | *He called the police station and asked for Inspector Tennison.*

3 /you couldn't ask for a better...

especially spoken used to say that someone or something is the best of their kind: *Alan's really nice – I couldn't ask for a better boss!* | *You couldn't ask for a more romantic place for a holiday.*

4 sb is asking for trouble

used to say that someone is doing something that is clearly dangerous or likely to cause something bad to happen to them: *Anyone who goes into Chapelton after dark is asking for trouble.*

5 sb was asking for it

spoken used to say that someone deserved to be attacked or deserved something bad that happened to them, and you do not feel any sympathy for them: *"Why did you hit him?" "He was asking for it."*

ask in

ask sb in

BrE to invite someone to come into a room or building, especially your home or your office: *I asked him in for a cup of coffee.* | *"Lydia's here to see you." "Ask her in, will you?"*

* SIMILAR TO: **invite in**

ask out

ask sb out

to ask someone to go to a restaurant, film etc with you, especially because you want to start a romantic relationship with them: *At first he was too shy to ask her out.*

+ for *She rang me up that same evening and asked me out for a drink.* | *Brad wouldn't have asked her out for a meal if he didn't like her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **invite out**

ask over/round**ask sb over/round**

to invite someone to come to your house, especially so that you can have a meal or drinks with them: *You must ask him over for dinner some time.* | *We've asked some friends round this weekend. You're welcome to join us if you want.*

* SIMILAR TO: **invite over/round****ask round**SEE **ask around/round**SEE **ask over/round****ASPIRE**

aspired, aspired, aspiring

aspire to**aspire to sth**

to want to try to achieve something in the future that is better than what you have now: *Young people aspiring to careers in industry should seriously think about setting up their own small firms.* | *South Africa finally got the democracy that it had aspired to for so long.*

ASSOCIATE

associated, associated, associating

associate with**1 be associated with sth/sb**

to be connected with something or someone, or thought to be connected with them – used especially about problems, dangers, or qualities: *We all know the risks that are associated with smoking.* | *Increasing old age is usually associated with ill-health.* | *Oxford is a national centre for the treatment of problems associated with childbirth.* | *Such skills are all traditionally associated with women.*

2 associate sth with sth/sb

to make a connection in your mind between one person or thing and another: *People usually associate Japan with high-tech consumer products.* | *In the West we associate aging with decline, dependency, and often poverty.*

3 associate with sb

to spend time with someone, especially a group who other people disapprove of: *Middle-class families didn't want their children associating with boys from the estate.* | *They found that he had been associating with known Communists, and his career was effectively over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mix with****ATONE**

atoned, atoned, atoning

atone for**atone for sth**

formal to do something to show that you are sorry for something wrong that you have done, especially by trying to improve the situation: *They were anxious to atone for their sins.* | *In the post-war period, Hollywood began to atone for its blatantly racist depictions of African Americans.*

ATTEND

attended, attended, attending

attend to**1 attend to sth**

formal to deal with something, especially a problem or something that you must do: *Tom left early, saying he had some important business to attend to.* | *In those days women were expected to stay at home and attend to their domestic duties.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deal with, see to****2 attend to sb**

formal to help or look after someone, for example a customer in a shop or someone who is ill or injured: *Adam waited while the girl attended to the next customer.* | *Army medics were busy attending to the wounded.* | *She has to get up three or four times a night in order to attend to her elderly mother.*

* SIMILAR TO: **see to****3 attend to sth**

formal to treat a wound or injury: *He went to the local hospital to have the wound attended to.*

* SIMILAR TO: **see to****4 attend to sth**

formal to provide someone with the things that they need to have: *Schools in the area are failing to attend to children's educational needs.*

ATTEST

attested, attested, attesting

attest to**1 attest to sth**

formal to show or prove that something is true: *Many studies attest to the fact that depression is becoming much more common, due to the increased pressures of modern life.* | *The numerous books on his shelves attest to his broad range of interests.*

A

2 attest to sth

formal to say that something is definitely true or that something definitely works: *I know dozens of people who can attest to the treatment's effectiveness.* | *There was no one who could attest to his innocence.*

* SIMILAR TO: **vouch for**

ATTRIBUTE

attributed, attributed, attributing

attribute to

1 attribute sth to sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to say or believe that a situation, event etc is caused by something: *Recent changes in the Earth's climate have been attributed to pollution from cars and factories.* | *Some diseases which were once attributed to evil spirits may have been forms of mental illness.*

2 attribute sth to sb USUALLY PASSIVE

to say or believe that something was said, invented, or done by a particular person: *The arch is attributed to Giovanni Maria Filippi, who was court architect to Rudolf II.* | *I remembered reading a similar quotation attributed to Voltaire.* | *Murders and kidnappings which were previously attributed to right-wing death squads are now thought to have been carried out by the army.*

3 attribute sth to sb/sth

formal to say or believe that someone or something has a particular quality: *We must be very careful in attributing human motives to animals.*

attribute great importance to sth (=say or believe that something is very important)
Our ancestors attributed great importance to the positions of the stars and the planets.

ATTUNE

be attuned to

be attuned to sth

formal to be familiar with how someone thinks or behaves, and what they want or need: *Teachers should be properly attuned to the needs of their students.* | *Film-makers like Tarantino and Stone are more attuned to today's audiences.*

AUCTION

auctioned, auctioned, auctioning

auction off

auction off sth auction sth off

to sell something, for example land or some-

one's possessions, at an auction. An auction is a public meeting where goods are sold to the person who offers the most money: *The family were short of money, and the contents of Eglinton Castle had to be auctioned off.* | *The company will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.*

AVAIL

availed, availed, availing

avail of

avail yourself of sth

formal to use an opportunity to do something or accept an offer to do something: *Thousands of people availed themselves of the opportunity to buy shares in the company.* | *Staff wishing to avail themselves of this flexible arrangement should discuss it with their manager.*

AVERAGE

averaged, averaged, averaging

average out

1 average out sth average sth out

to calculate the average amount of a set of figures: *If you average out the scores, you get a total of 8.5, which is pretty good.*

2 average out/average each other out

if totals average out, they are equal in amount or number: *The differences in price between the two systems average out over a year.*

average out at/to

average out at/to sth

to have a particular amount as the average: *"How much do you spend on groceries?" "I think it averages out at around \$150 a week."* | *Our training costs for last year averaged out at £5,100 per trainee.*

AWAKE

awoke, awoken, awaking

awake to

awake to sth awake sb to sth

formal to realize something, especially something important that has a big effect, or to make someone realize something: *It took almost twenty years before the authorities finally awoke to the full extent of the problem.* | *Orwell wanted to awake his readers to the realities of living on the streets.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wake up to**

B

BACK

backed, backed, backing

back away

1 back away

to move backwards so that you are further away from someone or something, often because you are afraid or nervous: *'Are you crazy?' she cried, backing away in horror.*

+ from *The gunman began backing away from the counter, watching the cashier the whole time.*

2 back away

to become unwilling to do something that you promised or planned to do, especially because you do not support the idea or plan any more: *We thought we had a deal, but the seller is starting to back away.*

+ from *The government has been accused of backing away from a promise to increase welfare benefits.*

* SIMILAR TO: **back off**

back down

back down

to accept that you cannot win an argument or fight and stop trying to win, or accept that you are wrong and change your decision, when you do not want to do this: *The union refused to back down and called for immediate strike action. | In the end Krushchev backed down and agreed to remove the missiles from Cuba.*

+ on/over *The government may have to back down on some of its transport policies if it wants to win the next election.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give in**

back off

1 back off

to move backwards so that you are further away from someone or something: *He backed off immediately when I told him my boyfriend was waiting outside.*

* SIMILAR TO: **back away**

2 back off

to stop trying to influence or force someone to do or think something: *You should back off for a while and let Alan make his own decisions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay off**

3 back off

to gradually become unwilling to do something that you promised or planned to do, especially because you do not support the idea or plan any more

+ from *The President is backing off from his plans to accelerate democratic change.*

* SIMILAR TO: **back away**

4 back off

spoken, especially AmE used to tell someone to go away and stop annoying or criticizing you or another person: *Hey, back off, buddy! Can't you see it's none of your business?*

back onto/on to

back onto/on to sth

BrE if a building backs onto something such as a river, field, or road, the back of the building faces it and you can see it or reach it from there: *an old black and white pub, backing on to the river | The house backs onto a field and a nature reserve beyond.*

back out

back out

to decide not to do something that you have agreed to do: *The actress who was originally going to play the part backed out at the last minute.*

+ of *She's made a promise and she can't back out of it now.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull out**

back up

1 back up sth back sth up

to prove that something is true: *There was no scientific evidence to back up their claims. | It was fortunate that the videotape backed up the manager's story.*

* SIMILAR TO: **support**

2 back sb up back up sb

to support someone by saying that they are telling the truth: *Peggy was there too. She'll be able to back me up. | He swears he's telling the truth and has witnesses who will back him up.*

3 back up sb/sth back sb/sth up

to provide help or support for someone or something: *Officials discussed the possibility of using military forces to back up the police. | a series of security arrangements which would back up a peace deal | solar power, backed up by a propane generator*

back-up N [SINGULAR, U]

help or support for someone or something: *Several police cars provided back-up for the officers.*

back-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
back-up systems, services, or equipment are designed to be used if the main one does not work effectively: *Nuclear reactors have superbly efficient back-up systems in case of emergencies.*

B 4 back up sth back sth up

to make a copy of information on a computer, and store it on a separate disk or tape so that the information is safe if there is a problem with the computer: *You should back up your data at least once a week.*

back-up N [C]
a copy of information on a computer: *The tape drive does an automatic back-up every lunchtime.* | *Remember to keep back-ups of all your important files.*

back-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
used or produced when you make a copy of information on a computer: *back-up disks* | *a back-up copy*

5 back up back up sth back sth up

if you back up or back a vehicle up, you drive backwards: *Will you back up a bit so that I can get through, please?* | *The driver backed the taxi up to the hotel door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reverse** BrE

6 back up

if traffic backs up, it stops moving and forms a long line because there are so many vehicles: *If you leave town after five o'clock the traffic starts backing up really badly.*

BAG

bagged, bagged, bagging

bag up

bag up sth bag sth up

to put things into plastic or paper bags: *You'd better bag all this rubbish up before you put it in the bin.* | *We spent a couple of hours bagging up clothes to take to the charity shop.*

BAIL

bailed, bailed, bailing

bail out

1 bail sb/sth out bail out sb/sth

to help a person or organization to get out of trouble, especially by giving them money when they have financial problems: *Richard has run up huge debts at college and his parents have refused to bail him out.* | *The government has bailed out the car industry too many times in the past.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bale out** BrE

2 bail sb out bail out sb

to leave a large sum of money with a court of

law so that someone can be let out of prison until their trial takes place: *Clarke's family paid \$50,000 to bail him out.*

bail sb out of jail/prison *Whittingham bailed Taylor out of jail, and even paid for the damage he'd done.*

3 bail out bail out sth bail sth out

to remove water from the bottom of a boat by collecting it in a container and throwing it over the side of the boat: *We were bailing out as fast as we could, but it was no use – we were sinking.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bale out** BrE

4 bail out

to jump out of a plane in order to escape, because it is going to crash: *The aircraft was hit, but the pilot managed to bail out just in time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bale out** BrE

5 bail out

to stop being involved in or part of something, often because there are difficulties: *After ten years in the business, McArthur is bailing out.*

+ of *She decided it was time to bail out of a marriage that had become unbearable.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bale out** BrE

bail out on

bail out on sb

AmE to stop supporting someone: *It was a moral issue and a lot of people bailed out on the President.*

BALANCE

balanced, balanced, balancing

balance against

balance sth against sth

to consider the importance of one thing in relation to something else when you are making a decision: *The cost of treatment has to be balanced against expected benefits.* | *When the life of a pregnant mother is at risk, balanced against the life of the unborn child, the mother's welfare should take priority.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set against**

balance out

ALSO **balance up** BrE

1 balance out/up

if two or more things balance out or up, the final result is that they are equal in amount or effect: *Sometimes I look after the kids and sometimes John does – so in the end it all balances out.*

2 balance sth out/up balance out/up sth

if you balance out or up two or more things, you make them equal in amount or effect: *You have to try and balance up what you want with what you can actually afford.*

BALE

baled, baled, baling

bale out

1 bale sb/sth out bale out sb/sth

BrE to help a person or organization to get out of trouble especially by giving them money when they have financial problems: *Once, when things were going particularly badly, Craig offered to bale us out.* | *The company was in severe trouble and it had to be baled out by the government.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bail out**

2 bale out

BrE to jump out of a plane in order to escape, because it is going to crash: *Thacker baled out into the sea, and the aircraft crashed off Delimara Point.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bail out**

3 bale out bale out sth bale sth out

BrE to remove water from the bottom of a boat by collecting it in a container and throwing it over the side of the boat: *Jane got a bucket and started baling out, while I rowed back towards the shore.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bail out**

4 bale out

BrE to stop being involved in or part of something often because there are difficulties: *The Blue Aeroplanes had another two members bale out from the band last week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bail out**

BALK also BAULK BrE

balked, balked, balking
balked, balked, balking

balk at

ALSO **bauk at** BrE

1 balk at sth

to not want to do or try something because it seems difficult, unpleasant, or frightening: *Westerners balk at the prospect of snake and dog on the menu.*

balk at doing sth *Many people would balk at setting up a new business during a recession.*

2 balk at a fence/jump

if a horse balks at a fence, it stops suddenly and refuses to jump over it: *They'd nearly*

completed a clear round, but the horse balked at the last fence.

BALLS

balsed, balsed, balsing

● **Balls** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

balls up

balls up sth balls sth up balls up

BrE *informal* to do something very badly or unsuccessfully: *"How did the interview go?" "Don't ask – I really ballsed it up!"* | *The referee reviewed the decision on video and told the FA he'd ballsed up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **screw up** *informal*, **cock up** BrE *informal*

balls-up N [C]

BrE *informal* when someone does something very badly or unsuccessfully: *Nigel made a complete balls-up of the arrangements.*

BAND

banded, banded, banding

band together

band together

to form a group and work together in order to do or achieve something: *Recently, a few brave shopkeepers banded together and refused to pay 'protection' money to the mafia.*

+ **to do sth** *Bulgarians and Greeks banded together to repel the invaders.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get together**, **team up**, **unite**

BANDAGE

bandaged, bandaged, bandaging

bandage up

bandage up sth/sb bandage sth/sb up

to tie a long narrow piece of material around a part of the body that is injured: *The nurse bandaged me up and sent me home to rest.* | *Johnny came back on the pitch with his knee bandaged up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bandage**

BANDY

bandied, bandied, bandying

bandy about/around

bandy about/around sth

bandy sth about/around

to mention or discuss a word, name, idea etc

often, especially without considering it very carefully: *Names like Scott Thomas and Kate Moss are being bandied about for starring roles in the show.* | Words like 'world-class' and 'brilliant' are bandied around in the press, but is this young performer really such a genius?

* SIMILAR TO: **toss around**

BANG

banged, banged, banging

bang around

ALSO **bang about** BrE

1 bang around/about

to move around a place, doing things and making a lot of noise: *Michael was banging about in the garage, hunting for his tools.* | *If you get up early, don't start banging around – you'll wake me up.*

2 bang sth around/about

bang around/about sth

to move things around a place in a noisy way, or to use them roughly and carelessly: *In the kitchen, Tessa banged saucepans about irritably.*

3 bang around/about

if an object bangs around or about, it moves around noisily hitting other objects, because it has become loose or has been badly packed: *I could hear the garage door banging about in the wind.* | *There's something banging around in the back of the car.*

bang away

1 bang away

to hit something noisily again and again: *Seizing his hammer, he began to bang away with renewed enthusiasm.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hammer away**

2 bang away

to play music loudly and often not very skillfully on the piano, drum etc

+ at/on *Mick was banging away on an old piano all evening.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pound away**

3 bang away

informal, especially AmE to work hard at something

+ at/on *Marcel banged away on his paper all night, and finished it just before class the next morning.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toil away, slave away**

4 bang sb away USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal to put someone in prison: *"The sooner we get these thugs banged away, the better," said Sergeant Maxwell.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang up** BrE informal

bang down

1 bang down sth bang sth down

to put something down violently and noisily, especially because you are annoyed: *"That's enough!" Laura said, banging down the iron.*

+ on *Alan banged his fist down on the table and glared at Kellerman.*

bang down the phone/receiver *She swore at him and banged down the phone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slam down**

2 bang the door down/bang down the door

to break a door by hitting it violently in order to enter a room or building by force: *Her husband threatened to bang the door down if she didn't let him in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down, smash down**

bang into

bang into sth/sb

to knock against something or someone by accident when you are moving around: *He didn't dare switch the light on, and he banged into some shelves in the darkness.* | *The little boy kept running round and round the shop banging into people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bump into**

bang on

bang on

BrE informal to talk continuously about something in a boring way

+ about *She keeps banging on about how wonderful her darling son is.* | *The Treasury has been banging on about the need to make savings for the past two years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on** informal

bang out

1 bang out sth bang sth out

to play a tune loudly in a careless way, especially on a piano: *The window was open and I could hear someone inside banging out some Scott Joplin.* | *an old photo of Lennon banging out chords in some scruffy club in Liverpool*

2 bang out sth bang sth out

to write a story, report etc very quickly, especially using a computer or typewriter: *In just one week, Reiger banged out 'Meeting Girls', a play about a high-school reunion.* | *Journalists fly into the disaster area, bang out a quick story, and leave.*

bang up**1 bang sb up** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal to put someone in prison: *Their father had been banged up in Liverpool jail for more than a year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang away** BrE informal

2 bang up sth/sb **bang sth/sb up**

AmE informal to seriously damage something or injure something or someone: *My car got pretty banged up, but I'm okay.* | *Brown banged up his knee in yesterday's game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock about/around**, **bash up** BrE informal

banged-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

AmE informal old and damaged: *She drives a banged-up blue Subaru.*

BANK

banked, banked, banking

bank on

bank on sth

to rely on something happening or on someone doing something, especially because the success of something depends on it: *The Chancellor is banking on a spending boom to boost the economy.*

bank on doing sth *They were banking on getting Kate Winslet to play the star role.*

I wouldn't bank on it spoken (=used to emphasize that something is not at all definite and you cannot rely on it) *It looks like the weather will be good on the day, but I wouldn't bank on it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **count on**, **rely on**

bank up**1 bank sth up** **bank up sth**

to make earth, sand, snow etc into a pile: *Huge mounds of snow were banked up on either side of the road.* | *Heavy rain had washed the soil and leaves down the slope, and banked them up beside the gate.*

2 bank up sth **bank sth up**

BrE if you bank up a fire, you put a lot of coal onto it, so that it will keep burning for a long time: *Lily banked up the fire, and went out, closing the door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **build up**

BARGAIN

bargained, bargained, bargaining

bargain away

bargain away sth **bargain sth away**

if you bargain away something, for example

your rights, land etc, you agree to give them away, in return for getting something else that you want: *Over the years employees have bargained away many of their rights in return for higher salaries.*

bargain for

more than you bargained for

used to say that something was more than you expected, and you were surprised or it caused problems for you: *It was a wonderful holiday but it cost a lot more than we'd bargained for.*

get more than you had bargained for *The thief got more than he'd bargained for when Mr Cox turned a gun on him.*

bargain for/on

sb hadn't bargained for/on sth

if you hadn't bargained for something, you did not expect it to happen, and you are surprised or it causes problems for you: *What they hadn't bargained for was the prejudice of the trial judge.* | *I hadn't bargained on being stuck in traffic for two hours on Kilburn High Road.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reckon with**

BARGE

barged, barged, barging

barge in/into**1 barge in** **barge into sth**

to rudely enter a building or room without being asked, especially when it is a private place and other people are in there: *Connors barged in when we were in the middle of a meeting.* | *I wish you wouldn't barge into the bathroom without knocking!*

2 barge in **barge into sth**

to interrupt what someone else is saying or doing, especially when you are not wanted there and you spoil it for them: *Gordon had an annoying habit of sitting down and barging into other people's conversations.* | *I was perfectly happy until Dane Jacobsen came barging into my life.*

+ on *We were anxious not to barge in on the ceremony, but the local people waved to us to join them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **intrude**

BARK

barked, barked, barking

bark out

bark out sth **bark sth out**

to shout something loudly and suddenly,

especially an order: *The general began barking out orders to his staff.*

BASE

based, based, basing

B

base on/upon

● **Base upon** is more formal than **base on** and is mostly used in writing.

base sth on/upon sth

to use facts, ideas, written material etc that you already have in order to decide or produce something: *I based my decision on what I thought would be best for the children.* | *The movie was based on a novel by Sinclair Lewis.* | *The results, based on replies from over 10,000 schoolchildren, showed that 30% of them smoked on a regular basis.*

BASH

bashed, bashed, bashing

bash about

bash sth/sb about

BrE informal to treat something or someone roughly or hit them, especially with the result that you damage or hurt them: *I don't mind you borrowing the car as long as you don't bash it about.* | *Sam came home covered in bruises, saying he'd been bashed about at school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock about/around, bash up**
AmE informal

bash away

bash away

informal, especially BrE to work hard and continuously at something you find difficult or boring in order to try and get it right or to finish it

+ at *Mike spent the weekend bashing away at his revision.* | *I'd been bashing away at my essay all morning and made almost no progress.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slave away, slog away** BrE informal

bash in

bash in sth bash sth in

informal to break, damage, or seriously injure something, especially by hitting it very hard: *The car's rear window had been bashed in, and there was glass all over the seat.* | *I'll bash your head in if you say that again!*

bash on

bash on

BrE informal to continue travelling or doing

something even when it is difficult and you are not enjoying it: *I'm still bashing on with the book, and I hope it will be finished by the summer.* | *"There's nothing we can do except bash on," said Geoff.* "We must be nearly there."

* SIMILAR TO: **carry on**

bash up

1 bash up sth bash sth up

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal to damage something by treating it roughly: *Some of the fruit was a bit bashed up, so they let us have it really cheaply.*

2 bash up sb/sth bash sb/sth up

BrE informal to seriously hurt someone or damage a part of their body by attacking them violently: *They said they'd bash me up if I said anything to the teachers.*

be bashed up *Marie's face was all bashed up; I think her boyfriend did it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **duff up/in/over** BrE spoken informal

BASK

basked, basked, basking

bask in

bask in sth

to enjoy very much the attention or admiration that other people give you, or the feeling of success: *The group were at the height of their popularity, and they basked in the admiration of their fans.*

bask in the glory of sth *Christie was basking in the glory of his sensational Olympic 100 metres victory.*

BAT

batted, batted, batting

bat around

bat around sth bat sth around

BrE informal to discuss ideas, in order to decide whether they are good or which one is the best: *We batted around several suggestions at the committee meeting, but none of them seemed quite right.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toss around, knock around**

BATHE

be bathed in

be bathed in sunshine/moonlight etc

literary if a place is bathed in light, the light shines on or into it in a way that makes it look very pleasant or attractive

BATTEN

battered, batted, battenning

batten down**batten down** sth **batten** sth down

to firmly fasten a window, door, or entrance, in order to prevent damage from strong winds: *Stephen was busy battenning down all the shutters and doors before the hurricane arrived.* | *An order was quickly given to batten down the ship's hatches and cover them.*

batten on**batten on** sb

BrE old-fashioned to have a comfortable life or become successful by using or getting someone else's money in an unfair way: *Advertising makes people buy things they do not want, enabling huge multinational companies to batten on the working classes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sponge off****BATTER**

battered, battered, battering

batter down**1** **batter down** sth **batter** sth down

BrE to hit a door or wall very hard many times until it breaks and falls down: *Armed police battered the front door down and dragged the men into the street.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down****2** **batter down** sth **batter** sth down

BrE if you batter down someone's opposition you make them stop being opposed to something: *Mandy succeeded in battering down Simon's resistance with her charm.* | *His mother had a sharp tongue, which she used for battering down any opposition.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down****BATTLE**

battled, battled, battling

battle out**battle it out**

if people, teams etc battle it out, they fight, oppose, or compete with each other until one person or team wins, using a lot of effort

+ **for** *On Sunday the professionals will be battling it out for the first prize of \$1,000,000.*

+ **with** *After five years of battling it out with the planning department we finally got approval to build the house.*

BAULKSEE **balk** ALSO **baulk** BrE**BAWL**

bawled, bawled, bawling

bawl out**1** **bawl out** sth **bawl** sth out

informal to shout or sing something in a very loud unpleasant voice: *The Sergeant came striding into the hut and bawled out an order.* | *On the way home, the train was full of football fans, bawling out rude songs.* | *I heard someone bawl my name out from across the street.*

2 **bawl** sb out **bawl out** sb

informal to speak angrily to someone because they have done something wrong: *My mother really bawled me out for coming home late.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell off**, **chew out** AmE informal**BEAM**

beamed, beamed, beaming

beam up**beam** sb up **beam up** sb

to make someone's body disappear from a planet's surface and appear again a moment later in a space ship – used in space adventure stories: *Beam me up, Scotty!*

BEAR

bore, borne, bearing

bear down**1** **bear down**

to use all your strength to push or press down on something: *The men all bore down, but the stone wouldn't budge.*

2 **bear down**

AmE to use all your effort to do something: *The home team have to bear down again and get serious if they want to win the game.*

3 **bear down**

BrE if a woman who is having a baby bears down, she uses a lot of effort to push the baby out of her body: *Jane gritted her teeth and bore down groaning.*

4 **bear** sb down

literary if someone or something heavy bears you down, they push you down towards the ground: *Justine half rose at one point, but he bore her down again.* | *A heavy weight fell on his shoulders, bearing him down, stunning him with the blow.*

bear down on/upon

● **Bear down upon** is more formal than **bear down on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 bear down on/upon sb/sth

to move quickly towards someone or something in a threatening or determined way: *The ship bore down on us and for a few moments there seemed to be no escape.* | *Billy looked up and frowned as he saw his mother bearing down on him.*

2 bear down on/upon sb/sth

to have a strong effect on someone or something, especially by creating pressure on them: *When they speak, I feel the force of history bearing down on me.* | *The Abbey's sombre traditions were bearing down on him.*

bear on/upon

● **Bear upon** is more formal than **bear on** and is mostly used in writing.

bear on/upon sth

formal to have a connection with something and affect it in some way: *Ten years later, new evidence was found which bore on the case.* | *The Chinese scholar T'ang Chun-i made an important point that bears upon this discussion.*

bear out**bear out sth/sb** **bear sth/sb out**

to support what someone has said or written and so help to prove that it is true: *Recent research bears out the idea that women are safer drivers than men.* | *I told them exactly what had happened, and Dudley bore me out.*

bear up**bear up** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to remain cheerful and not be badly affected by a bad situation, illness etc: *It's been a very difficult year for my father, but he's bearing up quite well.*

how is sb bearing up (=how do they feel)
How's Rosie bearing up under all the strain?

bear with**bear with me**

spoken used to politely ask someone to wait or be patient while you do something: *Bear with me a moment while I make a phone call.* | *I hope you will bear with me if I tell you a little about my own situation.*

BEAT

beat, beaten, beating

beat down**1 the sun beats down**

if the sun beats down, it shines very strongly and the weather is hot: *The sun was beating down on our backs and our throats were dry.* | *It's incredible how animals have adapted to this harsh environment, where the sun beats down remorselessly every day.*

2 the rain beats down

if the rain beats down, it rains very hard: *At that moment the sky darkened and the rain began to beat down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour down**

3 beat sb down

BrE to persuade someone to reduce the price of something you are buying, by arguing about it: *They wanted \$250,000 for the house but we beat them down to \$200,000.* | *He wants £7,000 for his car, but I'm sure I can beat him down a bit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock down, get down**

4 beat sb down USUALLY PASSIVE

AmE if a situation or person beats you down, they make you lose enthusiasm or energy: *I was really excited when I first started the job, but I soon felt beaten down by the negative atmosphere in the office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wear down, get down**

beat off**1 beat off sb/sth** **beat sb/sth off**

to succeed in stopping someone from attacking you, by hitting them: *The old man managed to beat off his attackers using his walking stick.* | *Although the dog looked very fierce, I was able to beat it off.*

2 beat off sth/sb **beat sth/sb off**

to succeed in defeating someone who is competing with you or opposing you: *The manufacturers were looking at different techniques in an effort to beat off their rivals.*

beat off competition *Rolls Royce beat off competition from the American companies for the new engine contract.* | *Stuart Ewin ran twenty yards, beating off strong challenges from the other team, before driving the ball home.*

3 beat off

AmE informal if a man beats off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs

* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, toss off** BrE informal

beat out**1 beat out a rhythm**

if you beat out a rhythm on a drum, you make the drum produce a regular pattern of sounds: *When the ceremony was about to begin, someone began to beat out a rhythm on the drums.*

2 beat out sth beat sth out

to make a fire stop burning by hitting it with something

beat out a fire/the flames *Heather seized a branch of a tree and began to beat out the flames.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put out**

3 beat sb out beat out sb

AmE *informal* to defeat someone or do better than them in a competition: *The Raiders beat out their rivals, the Kansas City Chiefs.*

beat out of**beat sth out of sb**

to force someone to tell you something, by hitting them until they agree to talk: *The police said that if he didn't tell them where the girl was, they'd beat it out of him.*

beat up**beat sb up beat up sb**

to attack and seriously hurt someone, by hitting or kicking them many times: *Two men dragged him from his car and beat him up so badly he was in hospital for a month. | He was beaten up by a gang of thugs in the city centre.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bash up** BrE *informal*, **do over** BrE *spoken informal*

beat up on**beat up on sb**

AmE to attack someone or criticize them unfairly, especially someone younger or weaker than you are: *Basically Popeye's a nice guy. He just beats up on bad guys. | Kerry accused politicians of beating up on immigrants to get votes.*

BEAVER

beavered, beavered, beavering

beaver away**beaver away**

BrE *informal* to work hard at something, especially in an eager way and giving it all your attention: *The mechanics have been beaver-ing away all night, trying to get Alessi's car ready for the race.*

† **at** *There was an enormous amount of paperwork, and we all beavered away at it for days.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slog away**, **plug away**, **slave away**

BECOME

became, become, becoming

become of**1 what/whatever became of sb/sth**

if you ask what became of someone or something, you want to know what happened to them or where they are now: *Whatever became of Phil Goddard? I haven't heard from him for years. | What became of the painting is still a mystery.*

* SIMILAR TO: **what happened to**

2 what is to become of sb/sth?**what will become of sb/sth?**

if you ask what will become of someone or something, you want to know what will happen to you or them in the future because you feel very anxious about it: *Maisie broke down in tears. "You can't go, Judd. What's to become of me and the children?" | Obviously these countries want to know what will become of the nuclear weapons on their soil.*

BED

bedded, bedded, bedding

bed down**1 bed down**

to lie down in order to get to sleep somewhere, especially on the floor, on the ground, on a chair etc: *Angie didn't want to go home so late, so I told her she could bed down on the sofa. | About twenty people had bedded down outside the shop, waiting for the sale to start.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doss down** BrE *informal*

2 bed down

BrE if a new system beds down, it gradually becomes less new and strange and starts to work with fewer problems: *It will be necessary to wait about six months for the reforms to bed down, before we can comment on their success.*

3 bed sb/sth down bed down sb/sth

to make a person or animal ready for the night: *It was Jim's job to look after the horses and bed them down for the night.*

4 bed sb down bed down sb

AmE *informal* to have sex with someone – used when someone is proud of having done this: *He claimed to have bedded down over 20,000 women.*

bed out**bed out** sth **bed** sth **out**

BrE to move young plants from where they have been growing indoors, and plant them outside in the ground: *Sow the seeds in March, and bed them out in the vegetable garden in May.*

* SIMILAR TO: **plant out** BrE

BEEF

beefed, beefed, beefing

beef up**beef up** sth **beef** sth **up** ✕

informal to improve something by making it stronger, more powerful, more effective etc: *Security has been beefed up for the President's visit.* | *The new mayor in Los Angeles wants to beef up the city's police force.* | *The government plans to beef up the current gun control legislation.*

beefed-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

stronger, more powerful, more effective etc than before: *a beefed-up version of the BMW 3 series*

BEER**be beered up****be beered up**

BrE informal to have drunk a lot of alcohol, especially beer, with the result that you are drunk: *The England fans were beered up well before the match.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drunk, be liquored up** AmE informal

BEG

begged, begged, begging

beg off**beg off** sth **beg off** sth

to say politely that you cannot do something that other people want or expect you to do: *I wanted to have a quiet day, so when the opportunity arose to spend the day on the beach with friends, I begged off.*

beg off doing sth *Haney didn't feel too well, so he decided to beg off working that day.*

BELIEVE

believed, believed, believing

believe in**1 believe in** sth

to think that a god exists or that a particular religion or belief is true: *Most English people*

still believe in God, even if they don't go to church. | *People say they've seen aliens from other planets, but I don't believe in any of that.*

2 believe in sth

to support or approve of an idea or system because you think it is good or right: *I don't believe in all these silly diets.* | *92% of those questioned said they believed in marriage.*

believe in doing sth *My grandfather had always been a vegetarian – he didn't believe in killing anything.*

3 believe in sb

to be confident that someone will be able to do something successfully, or that they are honest and good: *The people want a president that they can believe in.*

believe in yourself (=be confident that you are good at something or that you can succeed) *If you want to be an artist, you have to believe in yourself because no one else will.*

BELLY

bellied, bellied, bellying

belly up**belly up**

AmE informal to move forward so that you are very close to something

+ to *A strange man bellied up to the bar and offered to buy Sarah a drink.*

BELONG

belonged, belonged, belonging

belong to**1 belong to** sb

if something belongs to you, it is yours: *The boat belonged to one of the local fishermen.* | *Both sides are claiming that the island belongs to them.* | *Who does that house belong to now?* | *a ring that once belonged to Mary Queen of Scots*

2 belong to sth

to be a member of a particular group or organization: *The kidnappers are believed to belong to the Basque terrorist group ETA.* | *Did you belong to any clubs when you were at university?* | *Although they both belonged to the same family, they had very little in common with each other.*

3 belong to sb/sth

if something, especially power or responsibility for something, belongs to a person, country etc, they have it or are responsible for it: *Of course, the final decision belongs to the Prime Minister.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rest with**

4 belong to sth

to come from or be connected with a particular time, place, or style: *The old lady seemed to belong to a different era.* | *For many people, having a racehorse belongs to the world of Rolls Royces and luxury yachts.*

BELT

belted, belted, belting

belt out

belt out sth belt sth out

informal to sing or play a song on an instrument very loudly: *Downstairs a band was belting out a deafening selection of hits from the early sixties.*

belt up**1 belt up!**

BrE spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to stop talking: *"For Christ's sake, belt up!" Barton said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut up**

2 belt up

BrE informal to fasten your seatbelt in a car or a plane: *The government have introduced a £500 fine for drivers who don't belt up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **buckle up** AmE

BEND

bent, bent, bending

bend down

bend down

to move your body forwards and down towards the ground, by bending it at the waist or knees: *George bent down and kissed the little girl on the cheek.*

† to do sth *Suddenly I noticed a silver coin, and I bent down to pick it up.*

be bent on

be bent on

to have decided to do something and be completely determined to achieve it, especially something that involves violence or destroying something – used to show disapproval

be bent on doing sth *The terrorists seem bent on causing as much disruption as possible before the elections.*

be bent on revenge/vengeance *The family could not forgive the girl's killers, and were bent on revenge.*

bend over

bend over bend over sth

to move the top part of your body forwards at the waist or shoulders: *He bent over his plate, eating hungrily.* | *These trousers are so tight I can hardly bend over!*

be bent over (=be in a position in which you are leaning forward at the waist or shoulders) *The woman was bent over, picking up fallen apples.*

BENEFIT

benefitted, benefitted, benefitting

benefit from

benefit from sth

BrE formal if a house benefits from a particular feature, type of room etc, it has that feature or type of room in it – used in advertisements for houses and by people whose job is to sell houses: *The property benefits from gas-fired central heating, and a garage with space for two cars.*

BET

bet or betted, bet or betted, betting

bet on

bet on sth

to expect or feel sure that something will happen, especially so that it influences what you decide to do: *Traders who had bet on a rise in share prices, lost money.*

bet on (sb/sth) doing sth *I think it's safe to bet on Dozier staying with his team, the Minnesota Vikings, this year.*

don't bet on it/I wouldn't bet on it spoken *"Do you think they'll let me work for them again?" "I wouldn't bet on it if I were you."*

* SIMILAR TO: **bank on, count on**

BEVY**be bevvied up**

be bevvied up

BrE informal to have drunk a lot of alcohol, with the result that you are drunk: *After a couple of hours everyone was so bevvied up that they didn't know what they were doing.*

get bevvied up *We're all going out tonight to get bevvied up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drunk, be liquored up** AmE informal

BID

bid, bid, bidding

bid on

bid on sth

if a company bids on a piece of work, it tries to get the work by offering to do it at a particular price, especially when it is competing against other companies: *Local companies have personal contacts and reduced delivery costs, which gives them an advantage when bidding on contracts.* | *Some people claim that there is discrimination against US companies wishing to bid on Japanese projects.*

BILL

billed, billed, billing

bill as

bill sb/sth as sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to publicly describe someone or something in a particular way in order to advertise them: *The festival is being billed as the biggest of its kind in Europe.*

bill itself as *Disneyland bills itself as the happiest place on Earth.*

BIND

bound, bound, binding

bind over

1 bind over sb bind sb over

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal if someone is bound over by a court or judge, they are given an official order to cause no more trouble and threatened with punishment if they do: *The brothers, aged 24 and 27, denied the offence but were bound over for six months.*

be bound over to keep the peace *Campbell was arrested and bound over to keep the peace for three months.*

2 be bound over for trial

AmE formal to be taken to a court of law in order to be judged to see if you are guilty of a crime: *Gugliatto, 35, was bound over for trial on charges of aiding an escaped criminal.*

bind up

bind sth up bind up sth

to wrap a piece of cloth around a wound, in order to stop it bleeding or to protect it: *Shelley washed the wound very thoroughly and bound it up with a clean dressing.* | *In the end Gareth had to sit down on the grass and bind his ankle up with rags.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bandage up**

be bound to

be bound to sth/sb

formal to have made a formal agreement or promise to obey something or someone: *I'm afraid that you have signed a contract and therefore you are bound to it.* | *Miller started the society, and its members were bound by oaths to him personally.*

be bound up in/with

be bound up in/with sth

to be so involved in a particular situation that you cannot think of anything else: *Joanna's too bound up in her own problems to be able to help us at the moment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be wrapped up in**

be bound up with

be bound up with sth

to be closely connected with a particular idea, activity, situation etc: *The history of the mill is closely bound up with that of the Williams family, who owned it from 1840-1947.* | *Religion and morality are inescapably bound up with one another.*

BITCH

bitched, bitched, bitching

bitch out

bitch sb out bitch out sb

AmE informal to criticize someone angrily: *When I called her she started bitching me out.*

BITE

bit, bitten, biting

bite back

1 bite back sth bite sth back

especially BrE to stop yourself from saying something or from showing what you really feel, especially when this is difficult: *Carrie had a powerful desire to say what she really thought, but she bit back the words.* | *Shiona bit back her anger. What on earth was Mackay playing at?*

2 bite back

to criticize someone strongly and angrily, or do something to them as a punishment, because they have criticized or done something unpleasant to you: *Be careful what you say - Maria's got a temper and she tends to bite back rather easily!*

+ at *Tony Blair bites back at his critics in an article in the News of the World.*

B

bite into**1 bite into sth**

to press so hard against someone's skin that it hurts or cuts them: *Callum tightened his grip and she felt his fingers biting into her wrist.* | *The poor creature's collar was so small that it bit into its neck.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig into**

2 bite into sth

especially BrE to use a large part of the money, time etc that you have available, so that there is much less left: *If we bought the car now, it would really bite into our savings.* | *Shares have slumped as the recession has bitten into profits.*

* SIMILAR TO: **eat into**

BLACK

blacked, blacked, blacking

black out**1 black out**

to suddenly become unconscious: *The driver of the car had apparently blacked out at the wheel.* | *I felt as if I was suffocating, as if I was going to black out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass out**

blackout N [C]

when you suddenly become unconscious: *You'll have to go to the doctor if you keep having these blackouts.*

2 be blacked out

if a room, building, or city is blacked out at night during a war, all the lights are turned off and the windows are covered with dark material, especially so that the buildings cannot be seen by enemy planes: *During the NATO bombing, the city was blacked out and the cafes closed at 8 pm.* | *The windows were permanently blacked out, the rooms turned by war into dirty, dismal places.*

blackout N [C]

a period of time each night during a war when no lights can be used and windows must be covered with dark material, so that the buildings cannot be seen from the air: *Kitty had had enough of the blackout, the bombings and the shortages.* | *blackout curtains*

3 be blacked out

if a building, city, country etc is blacked out, there are no lights on in it because the electricity has stopped working: *From time to time the whole country was blacked out by power cuts.* | *Large sections of the capital were blacked out following the earthquake.*

blackout N [C]

when the electricity has stopped working so that there is no light available: *Due to a*

power blackout, their hotel was in total darkness.

4 black out sth black sth out

to cover something so that it cannot be seen, by using a dark mark or dark material: *The car's license plate had been blacked out with tape.* | *He was wearing a wig, and several of his teeth were blacked out.*

5 black out sth black sth out

to prevent a television or radio programme from being broadcast, or a news report from being seen or read, especially because it is damaging to a government in some way: *The authorities in Belgrade blacked out news of what was happening in Kosovo.*

blackout N [C]

when a radio or television programme is prevented from being broadcast, or a news report from being seen or read: *Police ordered a news blackout while the negotiations to free the hostages were in progress.*

BLANK

blanked, blanked, blanking

blank out**1 blank out sth/sb blank sth/sb out**

to deliberately stop yourself from thinking about something or someone, because it is too painful or it upsets you to think about them: *I tried to blank out everything he had said from my mind.* | *After a moment he was able to blank out the pain.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block out**

2 blank out sth blank sth out

to cover or remove something written, so that it cannot be seen or read: *Every fifth word was blanked out, and the students had to try and fill them in.* | *The whole of the last paragraph had been blanked out.*

3 blank out the screen

if something blanks out your computer screen, all the information on it disappears: *If, after some time, you have not used your mouse or keyboard, then a control program blanks out the screen.*

4 blank out

AmE informal to be unable to remember what to say or do: *Melissa took one look at the exam and completely blanked out.*

BLANKET

blanketed, blanketed, blanketing

blanket with**1 be blanketed with snow/mist/smoke etc**

if a place is blanketed with snow, mist,

smoke etc, it is covered with it: *Virtually all of Pennsylvania was blanketed with snow overnight.* | *The coast had been blanketed with fog in the morning, but it cleared a little later on.*

B

2 blanket sth with sth

BrE to put a lot of advertisements or large quantities of a particular product in a particular place: *The company blanketed bookstores nationwide with copies of the book.* | *WebTV has been blanketing the airwaves with ads.*

BLARE

blared, blared, blaring

blare away/out

blare away/out USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if music, a radio etc is blaring away, it is very loud, especially in a way that is annoying: *The people upstairs from us have their stereo blaring away at all hours of the night.* | *Military music was blaring out from the loud-speaker system.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blast out**

BLAST

blasted, blasted, blasting

blast away

1 blast away blast away sb/sth

blast sb/sth away

to keep firing a gun continuously: *Schwarzenegger grabs a machine gun and blasts away until all the bad guys are dead on the floor.*

+ at *The farmer started blasting away at the crows with his shotgun.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blaze away**

2 blast away sth/sb blast sth/sb away

to destroy something or kill someone by shooting at them or by using explosives: *In the film 'Magnum Force', Clint Eastwood blasts away a group of corrupt cops.* | *Small balls of Semtex, powerful enough to blast away doors, were smuggled into the prison.*

3 blast away

if a radio, band etc is blasting away, it is playing music very loudly, especially for a long period of time: *At 2am, the band was still blasting away.* | *The teenagers next door have their stereo blasting away all night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blare away**

4 blast away

especially AmE to strongly and publicly criticize someone or something – used especially in news reports

+ at *He blasted away at city officials, blaming them for the housing shortage.* | *Democrats are expected to blast away at the proposed budget cuts.*

blast off

blast off

if a spacecraft blasts off, it leaves the ground at the beginning of its journey into space. A spacecraft is a vehicle that can travel in space: *The space shuttle Columbia blasted off on Thursday on a 17-day flight around the moon.* | *Next week, a rocket carrying the first Austrian into space will blast off from Cape Canaveral.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off, lift off**

blast-off N [U]

the moment when a spacecraft leaves the ground to begin its journey into space: *We have 10 seconds until blast-off.*

blast out

blast out sth blast sth out blast out

if music blasts out or something blasts it out, it is very loud: *Rap music was blasting out from the car stereo.* | *The band was blasting out songs from their latest album.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blare out**

BLAZE

blazed, blazed, blazing

blaze away

1 blaze away

if a fire blazes away, it burns strongly and is very bright: *Soon the campfire was blazing away, and they began to make dinner.* | *The fire continued to blaze away, and there was nothing we could do to save the house.*

* SIMILAR TO: **burn**

2 blaze away

to keep firing a gun continuously: *Excited hunters sometimes start blazing away before they really know what they're shooting at.*

+ at *He pulled out a gun and started blazing away at the oncoming soldiers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blast away**

BLEND

blended, blended, blending

blend in/into

1 blend in blend into sth

if something blends in, or blends into the things around it, it has the same colour, shape, or pattern as the other things around it, and is not easily noticeable: *Military*

vehicles are painted green or brown so that they blend into the surroundings.

+ with *The bugs were a yellowish-green colour that blended in with the grass. | The house is made of local stone, which blends in well with the surrounding countryside.*

2 blend in blend into sth

if someone blends in, they seem similar to the other people around them, and do not seem different or unusual: *Speaking the local language will help you blend in and look less like a tourist. | In Los Angeles, it doesn't matter where you came from – after a while you just blend in. | It didn't take long for the immigrants to blend into the community.*

+ with *Philippe did his best to blend in with the other students.*

BLIMP

blimped, blimped, blimping

blimp out

blimp out

AmE informal to become fat: *During my first year in college I totally blimped out from eating so much junk food.*

BLISS

blissed, blissed, blissing

bliss out

bliss out bliss sb out

AmE informal to feel very happy and relaxed, or to make someone feel this way: *After exercising, bliss out in our relaxing sauna.*

BLOCK

blocked, blocked, blocking

block in

1 block sb/sth in

to prevent a car or vehicle from moving by putting something, especially another car or vehicle, very close to it: *Don't park there – you'll block me in. | Her car was blocked in by a large furniture van.*

2 block in sth block sth in

AmE to write or draw something that covers a space on a piece of paper: *She'd drawn the swimming pool, then blocked in a blue-green colour.*

* SIMILAR TO: fill in

block off

block off sth block sth off

to put something across a road, path,

entrance etc in order to prevent people from passing through: *Police blocked off the whole area after the shooting, looking for witnesses. | Canal Street is blocked off for the Statue of Liberty Festivities; no traffic will be allowed all weekend.*

* SIMILAR TO: close off, cordon off

block out

1 block out sth block sth out

to prevent light from reaching somewhere, or prevent something from being seen or heard: *The new lenses are supposed to block out harmful rays that can damage your eyes. | Heavy curtains blocked out all daylight in the dark house. | Huge skyscrapers blocked out the view.*

* SIMILAR TO: shut out, blot out

2 block out sth block sth out

to stop yourself from thinking about something unpleasant or painful: *Amy didn't tell anyone about the attack, and just tried to block it out of her mind. | Professional athletes often have to block out the pain in order to finish playing a game.*

* SIMILAR TO: shut out, suppress, repress

block up

block up sth block sth up

to fill a narrow space or the entrance to something so that nothing can pass through: *The sink was blocked up and I had to call a plumber. | Crowds of people were blocking up the street in front of the federal building.*

* SIMILAR TO: obstruct, clog up

BLOT

blotted, blotted, blotting

blot out

1 blot out sth blot sth out

to prevent light from reaching somewhere, or prevent something from being seen: *Clouds of black smoke blotted out the sky and the flames rose higher. | Yelena held her hand in front of her eyes to blot out the morning sun.*

* SIMILAR TO: block out, shut out

2 blot out sth blot sth out

especially BrE to stop yourself from thinking about something, especially something unpleasant or painful: *The former star said he used alcohol to blot out the pain. | She could never blot out completely what had happened and ended up committing suicide.*

* SIMILAR TO: block out, shut out

blot up**blot up sth** **blot sth up**

to remove liquid from a surface by gently pressing a cloth, paper etc on it: *Cornell blotted up the excess water with a kitchen towel. | If oil has been freshly spilled, blot up as much as you can, then cover the spot with detergent.*

B

BLOW

blew, blown, blowing

blow away**1** **blow sb away** **blow away sb**

informal if a performance, film, book etc blows you away, you think it is extremely good and you are surprised and impressed by how good it is: *Calvin blew away the audience with his outstanding performance as Shylock in 'The Merchant of Venice'. | When I first heard this record, I was blown away.*

2 **blow sb away** **blow away sb**

informal to kill someone or something by shooting them with a gun: *Don't move or I'll blow you away! | Clint takes out his 45 Magnum and blows them all away.*

3 **blow away sb** **blow sb away**

informal, especially AmE to defeat someone or something completely: *Franklin D. Roosevelt blew away presidential candidate Alf Landon in 1936. | The Italian team blew them away in a thrilling game.*

blow down**blow sth down** **blow down sth****blow down**

if the wind blows something down, or it blows down, the wind makes it fall to the ground: *High winds blew down trees, cut power, and blocked roads in Madison yesterday. | Seven people were hurt at the carnival when a big tent blew down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blow over****blow in****blow in**

informal, especially AmE to arrive unexpectedly: *Jim blew in about an hour ago – did you see him?*

blow off**1** **blow off sth** **blow sth off** **blow off**

if the wind blows something off, or it blows off, the wind moves it from its position, especially so that it falls down onto the ground: *The wind had blown off some of the tiles from the roof. | Part of the barn roof blew off in the storm.*

2 **blow off sth** **blow sth off**

if an explosion or bullet blows something off, it removes it with great force: *The bullet blew off three of his fingers. | The front part of the jeep was blown off in the explosion.*

3 **blow off sb/sth** **blow sb/sth off**

AmE informal to treat someone or something as unimportant: *Charles Barkley blew off the sexist remarks he made about female reporters.*

4 **blow sth off** **blow off sth**

AmE informal to not do something that you had planned to do earlier: *Burleson blew off a dinner Saturday night and went to the movies instead.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ditch****blow out****1a** **blow out sth** **blow sth out**

to make a flame or a fire stop burning by blowing air on it: *Helen blew out the candles on her birthday cake. | The wind had blown out the pilot light on the stove.*

1b **blow out**

if a flame or fire blows out, it stops burning because of the wind, or because someone has blown air on it: *The candles had blown out in the wind.*

2 **blow out sth** **blow sth out**

if an explosion or strong wind blows something out, especially a window, it breaks and falls down onto the ground: *Hundreds of windows were blown out by the force of the explosion, but fortunately no one was hurt.*

3 **blow out**

if a tyre blows out while you are driving, all the air suddenly goes out of it because it is damaged: *One of her tyres blew out and she was lucky not to have had an accident.*

blowout N [C]

when all the air suddenly goes out of a tyre because it is damaged: *A blowout at this speed could be really dangerous.*

4 **blow out sb/sth** **blow sb/sth out**

AmE informal to easily defeat someone or something: *Our team blew out the Cubs 28–3.*

5 **blow itself out**

if a storm blows itself out, it ends: *The hurricane moved along the northeast before blowing itself out over the North Atlantic.*

6 **blow sb out** **blow out sb**

BrE informal to disappoint someone by not meeting them or not doing what you have agreed to do: *If he blows you out again, tell him you've had enough.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand up**

blow over**1** **blow over** ✕

if an argument or unpleasant situation blows over, it is forgotten or no longer seems important: *I know she's angry now, but it'll soon blow over.* | *Rushdie stayed in hiding until the controversy about his book blew over.*

2 **blow sth over** **blow over**

if the wind blows something over, or it blows over, the wind makes it fall: *The owners are afraid the trees will blow over on the house during the next big storm.* | *Rescue workers help passengers after a bus was blown over by strong winds.*

3 **blow over** ✕

if a storm blows over, it ends: *The Weather Centre predicts that the snowstorm will quickly blow over.*

blow up**1** **blow up sth** **blow sth up**

to destroy something using a bomb: *The two men are accused of blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland in 1988.* | *Nato forces have blown up almost all the bridges.* | *An army bus carrying 10 soldiers was blown up by a land mine.*

2 **blow up**

to be destroyed in an explosion: *Investigators are trying to find out what caused the rocket to blow up in midair.*

3 **blow up sth** **blow sth up**

to fill something with air or gas: *The tyre needs blowing up.* | *Have you got a bicycle pump?* | *Come and help me blow up the balloons.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pump up**, **inflate** *formal*

● OPPOSITE: **let down**, **deflate** *formal*

blow-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a blow-up object is one that you fill with air and is usually made of plastic or rubber: *a blow-up doll*

4 **blow up**

to suddenly become very angry and start shouting: *Why did he blow up like that? He's usually so calm.* | *Soon after our wedding, she started to blow up over the slightest thing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **explode**

blow-up N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

a sudden angry argument: *After our blow-up, Larry didn't speak to me for a week.*

5 **blow up sth** **blow sth up**

to make a much larger copy of something, especially a photograph: *This picture is absolutely gorgeous – you should blow it up and hang it in the living room.* | *Jerry blew up*

a picture of himself and gave it to his girlfriend for Christmas.

* SIMILAR TO: **enlarge**

blow-up N [C]

a photograph or picture that has been made much larger: *The evening news showed a blow-up of a spy satellite picture taken over Cuba.*

6 **blow up**

if an angry argument or a difficult situation blows up, it suddenly starts to happen: *A diplomatic crisis has blown up over Nato's bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.*

7 **blow up sth** **blow sth up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to talk about something in a way that makes it seem more important or more serious than it really is: *The story got blown up by the press.*

+ **into** *I don't know why you've blown this up into such a big deal – it was just a joke!*

blow sth up out of proportion *The whole thing is being blown up out of all proportion by the Western media.*

8 **blow up**

if a storm or strong wind blows up, it suddenly starts: *The sky's getting dark – it looks like there's a storm blowing up.*

BLUFF

bluffed, bluffed, bluffing

bluff out**bluff it out**

BrE to lie or pretend that you do not know something, in order to avoid being punished for something wrong that you have done: *If she asks him who took the money, he'll just bluff it out and say he doesn't know anything about it.*

BLUNDER

blundered, blundered, blundering

blunder into**blunder into sth**

to arrive somewhere or get in a difficult or dangerous situation by mistake: *The men took a wrong turn and blundered into a group of enemy soldiers.* | *Without realizing it, Karpov had blundered into a trap set by his opponent.*

BLURT

blurled, blurled, blurting

blurt out**blurt out sth** **blurt sth out** ✕

to suddenly say something, without thinking

about it, usually because you are nervous or excited: "I have to tell you, Mark," she blurted out, "I'm in love with you." | Rather than blurring the answers out, take some time to think before speaking.

B BLUSH

blushed, blushed, blushing

blush from

not blush from doing sth

to not feel too embarrassed or ashamed to do something: *The party has not blushed from promoting its leader as an idealized family man.*

BOARD

boarded, boarded, boarding

board out

board out sb/sth board sb/sth out

BrE old-fashioned to arrange for a child or pet to stay somewhere, usually by paying someone to look after them for you: *We'll have to board the cat out while we're on holiday.* | *The welfare agency boards out orphans until they are old enough to live independently.*

board up

board up sth board sth up

to cover part of a building, such as a window or door, with wooden boards: *Residents are boarding up their windows before the hurricane strikes.* | *After the 1989 earthquake, damaged buildings were boarded up or demolished.*

BOB

bobbed, bobbed, bobbing

bob up

1 bob up and down

to move up and down continuously: *Fans bobbed up and down, trying to get a better view of the band.*

2 bob up

to suddenly appear, especially after being hidden or not seen for a short time: *Kelly's head bobbed up from under the table when she heard my voice.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pop up**

3 bob up

to suddenly appear and float on the surface after being under water: *A duck bobbed up out of the water in front of me.*

4 bob up

AmE if the price or level of something bobs up,

it suddenly increases a little: *Gas prices bobbed up before the holiday weekend.* | *Interest rates are expected to bob up again soon.*

BOG

bogged, bogged, bogging

bog down

1 get/become bogged down

to become so involved in dealing with something, especially small details or less important things, that you cannot make progress or do the main thing that you want to do

+ **over** *Let's not get bogged down over small details.* | *The peace talks became bogged down over arguments about whether the terrorists should be allowed to keep their weapons.*

+ **in** *The French were losing territory, but they did not want to become bogged down in another Asian land war.*

2 bog down sth bog sth down

bog down

AmE to make something move, work, or happen less quickly and easily: *Snow and freezing rain have been bogging down traffic on Connecticut roads this week.* | *Bitter disputes between political parties have bogged the bill down in Congress.*

bog off

bog off!

BrE spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away: *Why don't you just bog off and leave me alone?*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** informal

BOIL

boiled, boiled, boiling

boil away

boil away

if liquid boils away, it disappears and changes into steam because it has been heated for a long time: *All the water in the pan had boiled away and it was red hot.*

boil down

1 boil sth down boil down sth

to make information, a piece of writing, or a speech shorter and simpler by not including anything that is unnecessary: *The article is still too long – see if you can boil it down.*

+ **into** *Before the election, candidates will have to boil down their campaign messages into a few simple phrases.*

2 boil down | boil down sth

boil sth down

if food or liquid boils down or you boil it down, the amount of food or liquid is reduced because it has been cooked for a long time: *Add a lot of cabbage – it will boil down quite a bit.* | *Boil down the liquid until it becomes a thick red sauce.*

boil down to

boil down to sth

if a situation, problem, discussion etc boils down to something, that is the main part or cause of it: *Their arguments boiled down to a lack of trust in each other.*

it all boils down to sth *There are thousands of books on how to lose weight, but it all boils down to one simple fact: if the energy you consume is less than the energy your body burns, you will lose weight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come down to**

boil over

1 boil over

if a liquid boils over, it rises and flows over the sides of the container because it is being heated at a high temperature: *The milk's boiling over – quick, turn it off!* | *An hour later, I came back into the kitchen to find that the soup had boiled over and the roast had burned.*

2 boil over

if a situation in which people are angry boils over, they become very angry and often violent, and can no longer control their feelings or actions: *After years of frustration the people's anger finally boiled over.* | *Racial tension boiled over into violence in the streets of Los Angeles.*

boil up

1 boil up sth | boil sth up

especially BrE to heat liquid or food until it starts to boil: *Sit down and relax while I boil up some water for tea.* | *Should we boil up a big pot of rice to go with the vegetables?*

2 boil up

if angry feelings boil up inside you, you suddenly feel very angry: *She stared at him for a moment, anger boiling up inside her.*

3 boil up

if a quarrel or an unpleasant situation boils up, it suddenly starts to happen and becomes difficult to control: *A price war is boiling up between the US and Japan.*

* SIMILAR TO: **heat up**

BOLSTER

bolstered, bolstered, bolstering

bolster up

1 bolster up sb/sth | bolster sb/sth up

BrE to make someone feel more confident, especially by praising them: *He relies on Clare because she bolsters him up and tells him he's wonderful.*

bolster up sb's ego/morale *She thought she'd bolster up his ego a bit by asking for his advice.*

2 bolster up sth | bolster sth up

if you use something to try to bolster up an idea or argument, you use it to try to show that the idea or argument is true: *There's plenty of evidence available to bolster up this theory.* | *The lawyer referred to various other cases that bolstered up their argument.*

BOLT

bolted, bolted, bolting

bolt down

bolt down sth | bolt sth down

BrE informal to eat food very quickly, especially because you are in a hurry: *Charlie bolted down his breakfast and ran out of the house.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wolf down**

BOMB

be bombed out

1 be bombed out

if people are bombed out, their homes have been destroyed by bombs: *Some people were completely bombed out and had nothing except the clothes they stood up in.*

of *We saw the very young and the very old, bombed out of their homes and suffering from shock.*

2 be bombed out

if a building or town is bombed out, it is destroyed by bombs: *People still remember that night, when half the city was bombed out.* | *Reed had started this school after the International College was bombed out.*

bombed-out ADJ

a bombed-out building or town has been destroyed by bombs: *the bombed-out Bosnian capital*

BOMBARDbombarde**d**, bombarde**d**, bombarde**ing****bombard with****bombard** sb **with** sth**B**

to ask someone a lot of questions, give them a lot of advice, send them a lot of letters etc all at once, especially in a way that makes them feel confused or annoyed: *Everyone crowded round and began bombarding Quinn with questions.* | *Today we are bombarded with advice on what to eat and what not to eat.* | *Even after moving away from the area, she continued to bombard Paul with love letters.*

BONEbone**d**, bone**d**, bone**ing****bone up****bone up**

informal to learn as much as you can about something, in order to prepare for an examination, meeting etc

- + **on** *I'm very weak in my science subjects, so I'll really have to bone up on them.*
- + **for** *Yesterday Dole left for San Diego, where he will bone up for Wednesday's debate.*

BOOKbook**e**d, book**e**d, book**ing****book in/into****1** **book in** **book into** sth

especially BrE to go to a hotel where you intend to stay and give them your name or sign it in the hotel book: *We booked into the Savoy and then went out to a restaurant.* | *It was about 10 o'clock by the time we'd booked in.*

- + **at** *Let's book in at the hotel, and then go and have a meal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check in/into**

2 **book sb into sth** **book sb in**

especially BrE to arrange for someone to stay at a hotel, have treatment at a hospital etc: *My secretary had booked me into The Howard Hotel, not far from Parliament Square.* | *I can't cancel the villa now – I've already booked us in!*

- book sb in at sth** *The doctor's booked you in at the West London Clinic.*

be booked up**1** **be booked up**

if a trip, concert, course etc is booked up,

there are no more seats or places available for it because other people have already taken them all: *We'd hoped to go to the Caribbean, but all the flights were completely booked up.* | *The popular plays are always booked up well in advance.*

2 **be booked up**

informal if a person is booked up, they are busy and have no time to do something or to accept more work: *I had to refuse their invitation because I was already booked up.* | *Some of the top singers are booked up for years in advance.*

BOOMboom**e**d, boom**e**d, boom**ing****boom out****1** **boom out**

if someone's voice booms out, the person is speaking in a very loud deep voice: *"Come in," a voice boomed out, and the door opened automatically.*

2 **boom out**

if music or a noise booms out, it is very loud: *Music was booming out of a loudspeaker.* | *Suddenly the bells of the cathedral boomed out across the square.*

BOOTboot**e**d, boot**e**d, boot**ing****boot out****boot out** sb **boot sb out** USUALLY PASSIVE

informal to force someone to leave a place, job, organization etc, or to tell them they cannot take part in an event, especially because they have done something wrong

- + **of** *Stephen's just been booted out of his apartment, because the landlady says he hasn't paid his rent.* | *Saxton and Davies were booted out of the Olympics for taking drugs.*

get booted out *The military President, Pierre Buyoya, got booted out in 1962.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick out, throw out**

boot up**1** **boot up**

if a computer boots up, it starts working and becomes ready to use: *The PC took a couple of minutes to boot up.*

2 **boot up sth** **boot sth up**

to make a computer start working so that it is ready to use: *It's always the same – you make some coffee, boot up the computer and sit down at your desk.*

BORDER

bordered, bordered, bordering

border on**1 border on sth** NOT PASSIVE

to be almost the same as an extreme feeling, action, or situation, especially one that is bad: *The crowd pressed forward in a state of excitement bordering on hysteria.* | *His behaviour with some female members of staff bordered on sexual harassment.*

be bordering on the ridiculous/the absurd etc (=seem ridiculous, absurd etc) *Sometimes, government censorship borders on the absurd.*

* SIMILAR TO: **verge on****2 border on sth** NOT PASSIVE

if one country or area borders on another, it is next to it: *the states that border on Texas* | *Kosovo, a province of Serbia, borders on Albania.*

BORE

bored, bored, boring

bore into**bore into sb**

literary if someone's eyes bore into you, they look at you very directly in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable: *The young man's cold angry eyes bored into her, and she felt a shiver run along her spine.*

BORNESEE **bear out****BOSS**

bossed, bossed, bossing

boss aroundALSO **boss about** BrE**boss sb around/about****boss around/about sb**

if someone bosses you around, they keep telling you what to do in a way that you find annoying because they do not have the right to do this: *I can't stand the way James bosses everyone around!* | *Leonore was good at bossing people about, and doing very little herself.* | *She would rather stay single than marry some pig who thought he could boss her around like a maid.*

BOTCH

botched, botched, botching

botch up**botch sth up** **botch up sth**

to do something badly and carelessly; *The first lot of builders botched it up so badly that we had to start again.*

botched-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

BrE a botched-up job or piece of work is one that has been done badly and carelessly: *The decorating was a real botched-up job.*

botch-up N [C]

BrE something that has been done badly and carelessly

make a botch-up *The government has made a complete botch-up of its tax reforms.*

BOTTLE

bottled, bottled, bottling

bottle out**bottle out**

BrE *informal* to suddenly decide not to do something that you had agreed or promised to do, because you are afraid or nervous – used especially to show disapproval: *You said you wanted a fight – it's too late to bottle out now!* | *The Blair government seems to be bottling out on its promises to ban fox hunting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chicken out****bottle up****1 bottle up sth** **bottle sth up**

to keep a strong feeling such as anger, worry, or unhappiness hidden and not talk about it or show it: *Writing the book was a way of expressing all the anger I'd been bottling up for years.* | *There's obviously something wrong but he bottles it up and I can't help him.*

keep sth bottled up (inside) *Tell me what's bothering you. Don't keep it bottled up inside.*

2 bottle up **bottle sth up****bottle up sth**

AmE to be unable to move forwards or make progress, or make it difficult or impossible for something to do this: *The bill has been bottled up in the Senate since September.*

BOTTOM

bottomed, bottomed, bottoming

bottom out**bottom out**

to stop decreasing or becoming worse, especially before starting to increase or improve

again: *Most people believed that the fall in the value of the dollar had bottomed out. | House prices in California have bottomed out, and are expected to start rising in the near future. | A lot of jobs have been lost, but there are now signs that the recession is bottoming out.*

B

BOUNCE

bounced, bounced, bouncing

bounce around

1 bounce sth around

bounce around sth

informal to discuss ideas with other people: *I wanted to have a meeting so that we could bounce a few ideas around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bat around** BrE

2 bounce around

AmE informal to move frequently to different cities or towns: *My family bounced around a lot because my dad was in the military.*

bounce back

1 bounce back

to become successful again after failing or being defeated, especially quickly and in a determined way: *The company's had a lot of problems in the past but it's always managed to bounce back.*

+ from *Anatoly Karpov bounced back from his defeat, with a crushing victory in game seventeen.*

2 bounce back

to feel well or cheerful again after being ill, or after an unpleasant experience: *Suzie's been quite depressed since her illness, but I'm sure she'll soon bounce back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **recover**

bounce into

bounce sb into (doing) sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to force someone to decide to do something too quickly without thinking carefully about it, especially because there is very little time or other people want you to do it: *The Israelis say they don't want to be bounced into accepting a peace settlement by the United States. | She feels that she wasn't really ready to get married, but she was bounced into it by her family.*

bounce off

bounce ideas/suggestions etc off sb

to talk about your ideas with someone in order to get their opinion of them, especially as a way of helping you to make a decision

about something: *It was great working with Rob. We could bounce ideas off each other and share our problems.*

BOUND

be bound up with

be bound up with sth

to be closely connected with a particular problem, situation etc: *Mark's problems are all bound up with his mother's death when he was ten. | The people of Transkei began to realize that their future was inseparably bound up with that of South Africa.*

BOW

bowed, bowed, bowing

bow down

1 bow down

to bend forward from your waist, especially when you are already kneeling, in order to show respect

+ before *Maria bowed down before the statue in the church.*

2 bow down

if you bow down to a much more powerful person, country, organization etc, you do what they order you to do, or let them do what they want, especially because you are afraid of them

+ to *Thatcher refused to bow down to the unions.*

bow out

bow out

to give up an important position or job, so that someone can take your place, or to stop taking part in an event or competition: *Mitterand stayed on until the presidential election, when he bowed out and left the stage to Chirac.*

+ of *Alan Macmanus bowed out of the tournament, after losing to Jimmy White.*

bow to

1 bow to sth/sb

to agree to do what someone else wants you to do, especially when this is not what you want

bow to pressure *The President reluctantly bowed to pressure from his advisers, and agreed to delay the proposed tax cuts.*

bow to sb's demands/wishes *In the end the government was forced to bow to demands from environmental groups for a ban on growing GMOs.*

bow to sb's authority/wisdom (=agree to do what someone wants because they are more important or know more than you) *In those days women were still expected to bow to masculine authority. | The customers tried the new model and liked it, so the company bowed to their wisdom.*

2 **bow to the inevitable**

especially BrE to accept that something is going to happen and cannot be avoided, instead of trying to stop it happening: *When the recession hit, Chen's company bowed to the inevitable and closed its doors.*

BOWL

bowled, bowled, bowling

bowl along

bowl along **bowl along sth**

BrE to travel very quickly, smoothly, and easily, especially in a car: *Soon we were bowling along a narrow road, through gentle green countryside. | She looked like a filmstar, bowling along in her open-topped car.*

bowl out

bowl sb out **bowl out sb** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE in cricket, if one team bowls out the team that is hitting the ball, they succeed in ending their period of play by getting all their players out

+ for *New Zealand took the lead over Zimbabwe, who were bowled out for 219 in Bulawayo.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dismiss** formal

bowl over

1 **bowl sb over** **bowl over sb**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are bowled over by someone or something, you are very impressed by them because they are so beautiful, exciting, special etc: *When Fiona first met Mario, she was bowled over by his good looks and charm. | I remember reading the book, and being completely bowled over by it.*

2 **bowl sb over** **bowl over sb**

to knock someone down to the ground, especially by running into them: *George came racing round the corner and nearly bowled me over.*

BOX

boxed, boxed, boxing

box in

1 **box sb/sth in** **box in sb/sth**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are boxed in by other cars or other people, they are so close to you that you cannot move away: *When I got back to my car I found it was boxed in by a huge furniture truck.*

get boxed in *She ran most of the way on the outside lane, because she didn't want to get boxed in by the other competitors.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hemmed in**

2 **box sb in** **box in sb** USUALLY PASSIVE

to prevent someone from doing what they want to do, by limiting them in some way: *Small businesses are boxed in by all sorts of silly rules and regulations. | Although she'd been married for only a year, Connie already felt boxed in.*

box off

box off sth **box sth off**

especially BrE to put walls around a small area in a room, in order to separate it from the rest: *We're going to box off that corner and put in a shower.*

box up

box sth up **box up sth**

to put things into boxes, especially in order to move or send them somewhere: *In the morning it took us two hours to clean the house and box up the empty bottles.*

* SIMILAR TO: **parcel up** BrE

BRANCH

branched, branched, branching

branch off

1 **branch off**

if a road, path etc branches off from another road or path, it separates from it and goes in a different direction: *Half a mile further on the path branches off, and goes down through fields to the sea.*

+ to *We took a minor road, which branched off to the left at Wiggen.*

2 **branch off**

to leave a main road and turn onto a smaller one: *Follow the road out of Ballycastle, and branch off at the sign for Kinbane Castle.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn off**

3 branch off

to start talking about something different

+ **into** *Then the conversation branched off into a discussion about movies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go off**

branch out**branch out**

to start doing something different from what you usually do in your business, job etc

+ **into** *Vass was the owner of a shipping company, who for some strange reason had branched out into the fashion industry.*

+ **from** *She has now branched out from translating work into writing her own books.*

branch out on your own *After five years of working for William Lee in London, Graham was looking for opportunities to branch out on his own.*

BRASS**be brassed off****be brassed off**

BrE *informal* to feel annoyed, especially because you are tired of something that happens again and again

+ **with/about** *I'm really brassed off with the way Dan treats me – he doesn't seem to care at all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be fed up, pissed off** *informal*

BRAVE

braved, braved, braving

brave out**brave it out**

to stay and face a dangerous or unpleasant situation, rather than running away from or avoiding it: *A lot of people left Paris when the war broke out, but Elaine decided to brave it out.*

BRAZEN

brazened, brazened, brazening

brazen out BrE**brazen it out**

to deliberately behave in a confident way when you are in a difficult or embarrassing situation, rather than appearing guilty or ashamed: *Hamilton tried to brazen it out, but in the end he was forced to resign.* | *It was, of course, quite scandalous for a woman to go alone to a single man's hotel room, but she decided to brazen it out.*

BREAK

broke, broken, breaking

break away**1 break away**

to stop being part of a group, a political party, or a country, especially because of a disagreement or because you want to form another group, party, or country: *In 1920, the majority of socialists broke away to form the Communist party.*

+ **from** *After thirty years of bitter civil war, Eritrea broke away from Ethiopia.*

* SIMILAR TO: **split off**

breakaway ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a breakaway group is one that has separated from a larger group: *The Independent National Party was a breakaway group led by Colonel Johnson.*

breakaway N [SINGULAR]

when someone or something stops being part of a group, because of a disagreement or in order to form another group: *Webb helped to restructure the Football League, following the breakaway of the Premier League.*

2 break away

to suddenly move away from a person or group, often when they are holding you and trying to prevent you from going: *Anna attempted to break away, but he held her tight.*

+ **from** *As soon as Harry saw her, he broke away from the group he was talking to and came over to greet her.*

3 break away

to do something different from what you usually do, or from what is usual or expected

+ **from** *After the series ended, Glaser found it difficult to break away from his TV cop image.* | *Societies have to break away from the traditions of the past in order to develop and grow.*

break down**1 break down**

if a vehicle or a machine breaks down, it stops working because there is something wrong with it: *I don't believe it – the photocopier's broken down again!* | *A truck broke down half way up the hill, causing a long line of traffic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **conk out** *informal*

breakdown N [C]

when a vehicle stops working while you are travelling in it, because there is something wrong with it: *That's the second breakdown we've had this month.*

broken-down ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a broken-down vehicle or machine is old

and has stopped working: *There was a broken-down car at the side of road, with smoke pouring out of it.*

2 break down

if a discussion, system, relationship etc breaks down, it fails because there are problems or disagreements: *According to the statistics, two out of three marriages break down and end in divorce.* | *Negotiations between the two governments broke down last year, when they were unable to reach an agreement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **collapse**

breakdown N [C,U]

when something fails because there are problems or disagreements: *a breakdown in communication* | *Marriage breakdown accounts for a large number of one-parent families.*

3 break down

to be unable to control yourself and start to cry, especially in front of other people

break down in tears *"You have to help me," O'Neil said, and he broke down in tears.*

4 break down

to become mentally ill because you cannot deal with all your problems or there is too much pressure on you: *When her husband died, she broke down completely and had to be looked after by her son.* | *You can't possibly work under this amount of pressure without breaking down in the end.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up** informal

(nervous) breakdown N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

when you become mentally or physically ill because you cannot deal with all your problems or there is too much pressure on you

have a breakdown *Marty needs to relax more, or she'll end up having a nervous breakdown.*

5 break down sth break sth down

to hit something such as a door or wall so hard that it breaks and falls to the ground: *Police broke down the door and searched the building.*

* SIMILAR TO: **smash down**

6 break down sth break sth down

to separate something into smaller parts so that you can deal with it or understand it more easily

+ into *The project has been broken down into a series of tasks which can be carried out in stages.* | *The best way to deal with all this information is to break it down into categories.*

breakdown N [C]

an explanation of the details of something, divided into different parts, especially

about the cost of something: *Can you give me a detailed breakdown of how much the whole thing would cost?*

7 break down sth break sth down

to change someone's ideas or attitudes, especially when you think that they are wrong or prevent you from making progress: *We aim to break down racial prejudice through education and greater understanding of other cultures.* | *She had hoped that she would eventually be able to break down his coldness, but he remained as distant as ever.*

* SIMILAR TO: **overcome**

breakdown N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

when an idea or tradition ends or is ended: *the breakdown of traditional attitudes to work*

8 break down sth break sth down

to get rid of something that prevents you from doing what you want, especially a situation or system that has existed for a long time

break down barriers *We must continue our efforts to break down the barriers that prevent our companies from competing freely in Europe.* | *Modern telecommunications are breaking down the age-old barriers of time and distance.*

* SIMILAR TO: **overcome**

9 break down sth break sth down

break down

if a substance breaks down, or something breaks it down, it changes as a result of a chemical process: *Bacteria break down the animal waste to form methane gas.*

+ into *Carbohydrates break down into sugar in the body.*

breakdown N [SINGULAR]

when a substance changes as a result of a chemical process: *This illness prevents the breakdown of certain proteins in the digestive system.*

break for

break for sth

AmE informal to suddenly run or drive somewhere, especially in order to escape from someone: *Lambert fell as Morton broke for the corner of the field.*

break in

1 break in

to get into a building illegally by using force, especially in order to steal something: *Nearly two months ago, thieves broke in while she was asleep and took all her jewellery.*

break-in N [C]

when people get into a building illegally

by using force, especially in order to steal something: *Five men were arrested after the break-in on Monday night.*

2 break sb in **break in sb**

informal to make someone get used to doing a job or activity, especially by letting them do it a little and then gradually making them do it more: *New trainees are usually broken in quite gently – we don't want to frighten them away! | We'll do a short run today just to break you in, and then build it up over the next few weeks.*

3 break in

literary to suddenly say something when someone else is already talking, so that they cannot continue: *"This is all very interesting," Ottley broke in, "but how do I know it's true?"*

* SIMILAR TO: **interrupt**

4 break sth in **break in sth**

to wear new shoes, boots etc for short periods of time until they become comfortable enough to wear all the time: *I don't think I'll wear these shoes to work until I've broken them in at home first.*

5 break in sth **break sth in**

to train a young horse to behave well and to allow people to ride it: *David had bought the horse as a two-year-old, and broken her in himself.*

break in on/upon

break in on sth/sb

to interrupt what someone is doing, thinking, or saying, for example by suddenly entering the room or by starting to speak: *"Well? Have you decided?" said Robbie, breaking in on her thoughts. | Lee's voice broke in on the conversation. "They're here," he said.*

break into

1 break into sth

to get into a building or a vehicle illegally by using force, especially in order to steal something: *Someone broke into my car and stole the radio. | Thieves broke into the school and took a quantity of cash.*

2 break into sth

to suddenly start doing something – used especially in the following phrases

break into a smile/grin *Manion read the letter and his face broke into a smile.*

break into laughter/applause *The curtain came down and the audience broke into loud applause.*

break into tears/sobs *We waited until his train was out of sight, and suddenly my mother broke into tears.*

break into a run *Realizing that the man was following him, Steve broke into a run.*

break into a sweat *The room was hot and crowded and I felt myself break into a sweat.*

break into song *He had a marvellous voice, and would sometimes break into song while he was working.*

* SIMILAR TO: **burst into**

3 break into sth

to start to become involved in a new type of activity or business, especially when it is difficult to do this: *Kevin had worked as an editor for ten years, and was now keen to break into management.*

break into a market *The firm now wants to break into the US market.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get into, move into**

4 break into sth

to use a computer to illegally get or change information that is on someone else's computer: *Kyle Mitnick was arrested after breaking into computer networks in several states.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hack into**

5 break into sth

BrE to start to use money or food that you have been saving: *In order to pay for their daughter's wedding, they had to break into their savings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dip into**

6 break into sth

BrE to open a container of food or drink in order to eat or drink what is inside: *What do you think about breaking into another bottle? | We don't need to break into that packet – there's enough here.*

7 break into sth

BrE to pay for something using a piece of paper money because you do not have enough coins, especially a large note which you would prefer not to have to use: *Let me get the drinks – you don't want to break into a fifty pound note.*

8 break into sth

literary to interrupt what someone is doing, thinking, or saying, for example by entering the room, or starting to speak: *Hunter broke into their conversation. "It's David. He's been involved in some kind of accident." | "You've become very silent," Piers said, breaking into her thoughts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **disturb**

break off

1 break off **break off sth**

break sth off

if part of something breaks off, or you break

it off, it becomes separated from the rest: *One of the branches had broken off in the wind.* | *Ben broke off a piece of the chocolate and ate it.* | *It was a beautiful old jug, but the handle had broken off.*

2 break off break off sth

break sth off

if talks between people, countries etc break off, or someone breaks them off, the talks stop suddenly before they have finished, especially because of a disagreement: *Negotiations towards a new contract broke off again in the summer and the strike continued.* | *Russian authorities broke off talks with the Chechen gunmen after they killed two hostages on Tuesday.*

3 break off communication/contact relations etc

to refuse to communicate with a person or country any more, especially because of a disagreement: *There had been an argument between the two brothers, and Ted had threatened to break off all communication.*

break off diplomatic relations *The US broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba.*

4 break off sth break sth off

if you break off a romantic or sexual relationship with someone, you end it

break off an engagement *Keith became jealous of Angie's other friends, and in the end he broke off their engagement.*

break it off *I'd been having some problems with my boyfriend for some time, so I broke it off in the summer.*

5 break off sth break sth off

break off

BrE if you break off something that you are doing, you stop doing it, especially suddenly: *Kulikov had to break off his holiday and return to Moscow to handle the crisis.*

+ from (doing) sth *She broke off from writing as soon as he came into the room.*

6 break off

to suddenly stop speaking, especially before you have finished what you wanted to say: *"I don't think ...," he broke off and smiled suddenly, seeing the expression on her face.*

break off with

break off with sb

BrE to end a romantic or sexual relationship with someone: *She broke off with Peter last month.*

break out

1 break out

if war, fighting, fire, or disease breaks out, it starts suddenly: *In 1991 civil war broke out in Yugoslavia.* | *Firemen fought for hours to control the fire, which had broken out on Wednesday night.* | *Three prisoners were killed when fighting broke out in the jail.*

outbreak N [C]

when war, fighting, fire, or disease suddenly starts

+ of *In 1832 there was a serious outbreak of cholera in New York City.*

2 break out

to escape from a prison

+ of *Two dangerous robbers had broken out of jail and murdered a police officer.*

break-out N [C]

an escape from a prison: *Prison security has been severely criticized following a series of break-outs in recent months.*

3 break out

if a noise such as laughter or shouting breaks out, it starts suddenly: *As the crowd grew restless, angry shouting broke out.* | *The concert ended and for a second there was silence before the applause broke out.*

4 break out

to change the way you live or behave, especially when it is the usual or accepted way, because you feel that it limits you too much and you need more freedom

+ of *Both Matt and Angela wanted to break out of the traditional male and female roles.* | *Until she found a job and broke out of the cycle of poverty, Maritza's life was very hard.*

break out of the mould/mold (=do something different from the usually accepted style) *Groups like Blur are struggling to break out of the usual Britpop mould.*

5 break out in spots/a rash etc

if your skin breaks out in spots, a lot of spots suddenly start to appear on your skin, especially because of illness: *I woke up feeling terrible and found that I had broken out in hundreds of tiny red spots.* | *My arms and legs had broken out in a rash.*

6 spots/a rash etc breaks out

if spots etc break out, they suddenly appear on your skin: *Katy had a high temperature, and spots had broken out on her chest.*

7 break out in a sweat

to suddenly start to sweat (=lose liquid through your skin), because you are very hot, ill, or frightened: *The snake came slowly closer and closer and I broke out in a sweat.*

8 a smile/grin etc breaks out

if a smile or grin breaks out on someone's face, they suddenly start to smile: *As she read the letter, a smile broke out on her face.*

9 break sth out break out sth

AmE informal to get something out and prepare to use it: *Break out the cowboy boots and get ready to dance all night!*

break through**1** break through sth break through

to force your way through something, especially something that is blocking your way and stopping you moving forwards: *On Friday two thousand striking workers broke through a police barricade in order to protest outside the presidential office.* | *Owen broke through the Italian defence and scored a great goal.* | *After hours of digging the rescue team finally broke through and were able to get the child out.*

2 break through break through sth

if the sun or light breaks through, you can see it again after it has been hidden by clouds or mist: *At that moment the sun broke through, and the whole field was covered in light.*

break through the clouds/mist *By twelve o'clock it had stopped raining and the sun was just breaking through the clouds.*

3 break through

if the amount or number of something breaks through a particular level, it becomes higher than that level: *After the election, the level of unemployment broke through the 3 million mark.* | *The assets of the Newcastle Building Society have broken through the £1 billion barrier this year.*

4 break through sth break through

to find a way of dealing with a problem or a situation that limits what you or other people can do, especially one caused by people's behaviour or attitudes: *Women are finally breaking through the barriers that have held them back for so long.*

breakthrough N [C]

an important new discovery or development that helps you deal with or achieve something, especially when you have been trying for a long time: *a major breakthrough in the fight against the disease* | *The company's great breakthrough came when they won a big contract to produce steel for the American market.*

5 break through

literary if a quality, emotion etc breaks through, it begins to appear or be noticeable: *When Carson answered, Alison was surprised to hear a trace of emotion breaking through.* | *Even though the subject is a serious one, the writer's humour sometimes breaks through.*

break up**1** break up sth break sth up**break up**

to break into smaller pieces or parts, or to make something break into smaller pieces or parts: *There is a real possibility that the ice caps at the North and South Poles will start breaking up and melting.* | *Can you break up some of these sticks? They're too big to start a fire with.*

+ into *Oil floats on the top of the water and then breaks up into drops.*

break-up N [C]

when something breaks into smaller pieces or parts: *Accident investigators are still not sure what caused the break-up of the plane.*

2a break up break up sth**break sth up**

if a marriage breaks up, or if someone or something breaks it up, it ends: *Simon went to live in London when his marriage broke up, and only saw his children at weekends.* | *She actually accused me of trying to break up her marriage!*

break-up N [C]

when a marriage or sexual relationship ends: *It took her years to get over the break-up of her marriage.*

2b break up

if two people who are married or having a sexual relationship break up, they separate and the marriage or relationship ends: *We'd been together for three years before we broke up, so it was really hard.*

+ with *Did you know that Pat's broken up with John?*

* SIMILAR TO: **split up**

3 break up sth break sth up

if someone breaks up a fight, protest, etc, they stop it, especially by using force: *Ten people were injured in the fighting, which was eventually broken up by security forces.*

break up a demonstration *Police used tear gas to break up the demonstration.*

4 break up

BrE if schools, universities, or students break up, their classes end and the holidays begin: *Some schools have already broken up, but we've got another week.*

+ for *What date do you break up for the summer holidays?*

● OPPOSITE: **go back**

5 **break up** **break up sth****break sth up**

if a meeting, party etc breaks up, or someone breaks it up, it ends and the people leave: *It was around six in the morning when the party finally broke up.* | *The meeting broke up and we still hadn't reached an agreement.* | *I didn't want to break the evening up by leaving too early.*

6 **break up** **break up sth****break sth up**

if an organization, country etc breaks up or is broken up, it is divided into several separate parts: *Since the Soviet Union broke up, Belarus has had a hard time economically.* | *One way of creating more competition would be to break up and sell off the big state-owned companies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **split up****break-up** N [C]

when an organization, country etc is divided into several separate parts

+ of the break-up of Yugoslavia

+ into the break-up of Aeroflot into several small airline companies

7 **break up** **break up sth****break sth up**

if a group of people who live or work together break up or something breaks them up, they separate and stop living or working together: *One of the things that causes families to break up is financial pressure.* | *The group had recorded ten albums before they decided to break up.* | *What do you think finally broke up the Beatles?*

* SIMILAR TO: **split up****break-up** N [C]

when a group of people who live or work together separate: *a family break-up* | *the break-up of the band*

8 **break up sth** **break sth up**

to make something such as a journey seem less long and boring, by doing something different in the middle of it: *We stopped off in Cambridge in order to break up the journey.*

9 **break sth up** **break up sth**

if you break up something that is all the same colour, shape, or pattern, you make it look more interesting by adding new colours, shapes etc: *The huge lawns at Barnsley House are broken up by the clever planting of shrubs and trees.*

10 **break it up!**

spoken used to tell two or more people who are fighting to stop fighting: *Break it up, you two, or you'll hurt each other!*

11 **break sb up**

informal, especially AmE if something breaks you up, it is so funny that you cannot stop laughing at it: *Ethan really broke me up with that story about the alligator.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up****break with**1 **break with sth/sb**

to stop being part of a particular group of people or an organization, or to stop supporting someone, especially because you do not agree with their ideas any more: *In the early '80s, Shirley Williams and David Owen broke with the Labour Party and formed their own Alliance Party.*

+ over *Some Democrats have broken with Clinton over this issue.*2 **break with sb/sth**

to end a relationship with someone, especially because you have had a disagreement with them: *Freddie broke with his family long ago, after his mother died.*

3 **break with tradition/the past etc**

to stop doing things in the way they were done in the past, and do them in a completely different way: *In 1940 Roosevelt broke with tradition and stood for a third term of office.* | *The new Sultan wanted to modernize his country, but he didn't want to break with the past completely.*

BREATHE

breathed, breathed, breathing

breathe in**breathe in** **breathe in sth****breathe sth in**

to take air, smoke etc into your lungs through your nose or mouth: *My chest hurts every time I breathe in.* | *Here's another exercise. Breathe in slowly and raise your arms above your head.* | *Twenty-seven people needed hospital treatment after breathing in smoke.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inhale** formal**breathe out****breathe out** **breathe out sth****breath sth out**

to let air, smoke etc come out of your lungs through your nose or mouth: *Hold your breath for ten seconds and then breathe out slowly.* | *George leaned back and breathed out heavily through his nose.* | *Animals breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exhale** formal

BREEZE

breezed, breezed, breezing

breeze in/into**breeze in** **breeze into** sth**B**

to come into a place in a confident, relaxed, and cheerful way: *He just breezed into my office and told me he wanted a job. | I'd only just put the phone down when Nina Myskow came breezing in with a big smile on her face.*

breeze through**breeze through** sth

to do something very easily and successfully, especially an examination or test: *At the age of nineteen Sheldon breezed through his final exams and came away from Oxford with a first class degree. | We all thought she'd never get through her initial training period, but she just breezed through it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sail through****BREW**

brewed, brewed, brewing

brew up**1** **brew up** **brew up** sth

BrE informal to make a drink of tea or coffee: *Every two hours the men would stop work to brew up and have a cigarette. | I spent the day reading novels and brewing up endless cups of tea.*

2 **be brewing up**

especially BrE if trouble or a situation in which people argue or fight with each other is brewing up, it is starting to develop: *The CIA were aware that a civil war was brewing up in Nicaragua.*

3 **brew up** sth **brew** sth up

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to secretly plan something that will cause trouble: *I knew that the kids were brewing something up but I wasn't sure what it was. | Racist organizations are brewing up mischief wherever they can.*

4 **brew up** sth

to make a mixture of drugs, medicines etc: *We found him in his laboratory, brewing up a strange concoction of psychedelic drugs.*

BRICK

bricked, bricked, bricking

brick up/in**brick up/in** sth **brick** sth up/in

to put a wall of bricks in the space where a

window, door etc is, so that it cannot be used any more: *The house had been empty for years and all the windows had been bricked up. | Its previous owners had bricked in the old fireplace and put a gas heater there instead.*

BRIGHTEN

brightened, brightened, brightening

brighten up**1** **brighten up** sth **brighten** sth up

to make a place look more attractive and cheerful: *A warm pink or yellow colour will brighten up a dark room.*

brighten the place up *I thought new curtains would brighten the place up a bit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cheer up****2** **brighten up** sth **brighten** sth up

to make a period of time or a situation happier for someone: *It was a real joy to see the children again – you've no idea how it brightened up my day. | Natalie brightened up his life and made him feel young again.*

3 **brighten up**

to suddenly become more cheerful: *She brightened up as soon as she saw us. | "It's almost suppertime." "So it is," said Hubert, brightening up at the mention of food.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cheer up****4** **the weather brightens up/it brightens up**

if the weather brightens up, the sun begins to shine and the sky becomes brighter: *If the weather brightens up, we could walk down to the beach. | It was really cloudy first thing this morning, but it seems to be brightening up a bit now.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clear up****BRIM**

brimmed, brimmed, brimming

brim over**1** **brim over** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a container is brimming over, it is so full of something that what it contains flows over the top: *Twelve large sacks were filled with corn until they were brimming over.*

+ with *Pots and containers brimming over with flowers are an indispensable feature of any garden.*

* SIMILAR TO: **overflow****2** **brim over** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

literary if someone's eyes or tears are brimming over, they start to cry even though they are trying not to show it: *Her lovely eyes were brimming over again, and he sat beside her*

and put one arm round her. | Don Pedro cried out, the tears brimming over and wetting his cheeks.

brim over with

brim over with sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

literary if someone is brimming over with confidence, happiness, excitement etc, they feel very confident, happy, excited etc: *By the end of the day Juliana was brimming over with confidence.* | *As she walked through the church, her heart brimmed over with love and adoration for Charles.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

brim with

1 **brim with** sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

literary if someone is brimming with confidence, happiness, excitement etc, they feel very confident, happy, excited etc: *Suddenly her eyes lit up, and she was brimming with joy at the thought of seeing Guido again.* | *young men from Harvard who arrived in Washington brimming with energy and enthusiasm*

* SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

2 **brim with** sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

literary to be very full of something or contain a very large amount of it: *On the table was an enormous silver bowl brimming with strawberries.* | *Their garden was brimming with every imaginable variety of tropical flowers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

3 **be brimming with tears**

literary if someone's eyes are brimming with tears, they start to cry, even though they are trying not to show it: *His eyes were brimming with tears as he reached out to embrace her for the last time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be full of tears**

BRING

brought, brought, bringing

bring about

bring about sth **bring** sth about

to make something happen, especially a change or better situation: *The war brought about huge social and political changes.* | *Great improvements in public health have been brought about by advances in medical science.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cause**

bring along

1 **bring along** sb/sth **bring** sb/sth along

to bring someone or something with you when you come to a place: *The exhibition is*

open to people of all ages, so bring along your family and friends. | *We'd like to see your designs for the new theatre, so bring them along to the interview on Friday.*

2 **bring** sb/sth along **bring** along sb/sth

AmE to train or help a person, team etc so that they become better at something: *"Our plan was to bring this team along slowly," said UCLA coach Andy Janachowski.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring on**

bring around

ALSO: **bring round** BrE

● In British English people usually use **bring round**. In American English people always use **bring around**.

1 **bring** sth/sb around **bring** sth/sb round **bring** around sth/sb **bring** round sth/sb

to bring something or someone to someone else's house, when it is not far away: *I'll ask the driver to bring the car around to your house.* | *We have a French visitor staying with us. I'd like to bring her round to meet your parents.* | *If you're going to be in this evening, I'll bring round the forms for you to sign.*

2 **bring** sb around/round

to persuade someone to change their opinion and agree with you or do what you want: *At first Joanna was unwilling to support the campaign, but in the end his arguments brought her around.*

+ to *Don't worry about Marius, I think I can bring him round to our way of thinking.*

* SIMILAR TO: **win over**

3 **bring** sth around/round

bring around/round sth

to move among a group of people and give them something or take something from them, especially when serving them with food or drinks: *Waiters brought around sandwiches and glasses of iced Saratoga water.* | *The usually bring round a collection box during the last hymn.*

4 **bring** sb around/round

● In British English people use **bring round** in this meaning. In American English people use **bring around**.

to make someone become conscious again after they have been unconscious: *Amy had fainted, but we managed to bring her round with water from the cold tap.*

● OPPOSITE: **knock out**

B

bring around toALSO **bring round to** B, E**bring** sth/sb **around to** sth**bring** sth/sb **round to** sth

to gradually change the subject of a conversation or discussion, so that someone starts talking about the subject you want them to talk about: *It took her a long time to bring him round to the important question of their children's education.*

bring the conversation around/round to sth Bertie was desperately trying to bring the conversation round to the topic of food and drink.

bring back**1** **bring back** sth/sb **bring** sth/sb **back**

to bring something or someone with you when you return from somewhere: *The ivory elephant was a souvenir that Winston had brought back from India.*

bring sb back sth *If you're going down to the store, would you bring me back a six-pack of beer?*

2 **bring back** sth **bring** sth **back**

to start to have or use a law, system, method etc that was used in the past but has not been used recently: *They should bring back the death penalty for murder – at least that's what I think. | They're bringing back the old electric trams to help solve the city's public transport problems.*

+ to *Zyuganov's party would like to bring Communist rule back to Russia.*

* SIMILAR TO: **restore** formal**3** **bring back** sth **bring** sth **back**

to make a feeling or quality begin to exist again in a place, situation etc

+ to *It was hoped that the agreement would bring peace back to the streets of Beirut. | a contest that should bring back excitement to heavyweight boxing*

* SIMILAR TO: **restore** formal**4** **bring back** sth **bring** sth **back**

to make someone remember or think of something that they experienced in the past

bring back memories *Hearing that song always brought back sweet memories of a certain night in Santa Cruz.*

bring it all back (=make someone remember everything about an experience) *"The film brought it all back to me," said 78-year old Jack Riley, who had fought in the war himself as a young man.*

5 **bring back** sth **bring** sth **back**

to return something to the shop where you bought it, for example because you are not satisfied with it or you want to exchange it for something else: *If you don't like it, you can always bring it back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return****6** **bring back** sb **bring** sb **back**

to give someone the job or the position of authority that they had in the past: *After two bad seasons Johnson resigned, and the directors voted to bring back the former manager, Alf Stephens.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reinstate****7** **bring** sb **back** **bring** back sb

to make someone who has just died become alive again: *I wish she would recognise the fact that Albert is dead and gone, and nothing can ever bring him back*

bring sb back to life *Kenna – full of hope – tried to bring him back to life by applying the magic herb known as moly.*

bring back to**bring** sb **back to** earth/reality

to force someone to think about the real situation they are in, after a period when they were happily ignoring it: *Emily was still day-dreaming about Italy and Guisepe, when a sharp knock at the door brought her back to reality. | I'd been enjoying planning our holiday until Beryl brought me back to earth by reminding me of our debts.*

bring down**1** **bring down** sth **bring** sth **down**

to reduce the number, amount, price, or level of something: *Clinton succeeded in bringing down the number of unemployed. | Competition between airlines has brought down fares dramatically.*

+ to *Our aim is to bring inflation down to 2.5%.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reduce, cut****2** **bring down** sb/sth **bring** sb/sth **down**

to remove a ruler or government from their position of power: *The Watergate scandal caused a political crisis and finally brought down President Nixon. | A defeat on this issue could bring down the government.*

* SIMILAR TO: **topple****3** **bring down** sth **bring** sth **down**

to shoot at a plane, bird, or animal and make it fall to the ground: *An F117 bomber had been brought down by a Serb ground-to-air missile. | I held my rifle steady and brought down the stag with my second shot.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shoot down**

4 bring down sth bring sth down

to fly a plane down to the ground safely, especially when there is a problem with it: *The pilot skilfully brought the Cessna down in a hay meadow by the river.*

* SIMILAR TO: land

5 bring down sth bring sth down

to move your arm or a weapon, tool etc quickly downwards, especially in order to hit something: *McGraw raised his axe and brought it down with a thud.*

6 bring sb down bring down sb

to make someone fall to the ground, for example by holding onto them, kicking them, or pushing them, especially in a game such as football: *The goalkeeper had brought down Gareth Evans on the edge of the penalty area.* | *He ran after his attacker and managed to bring him down.*

bring down on/upon

● **Bring down upon** is more formal than **bring down on** and is mostly used in writing.

bring sth down on/upon sb

bring down sth on/upon sb

formal to make something bad happen to someone, especially yourself or your family, by behaving in a particular way: *His behaviour has brought down shame on all his family.* | *The demonstrators brought down upon themselves the anger of the military government.*

* SIMILAR TO: bring on/upon

bring forth

bring forth sth

formal/literary to produce a particular result or reaction, or to make something happen: *I feel sure that such a generous offer would bring forth an enthusiastic response.* | *a tragic love affair that brought forth only pain* | *Each day brings forth fresh wonders.*

bring forward

1 bring forward sth bring sth forward

to change the date or time of an event so that it happens earlier than was arranged: *There are urgent matters to discuss, so we have decided to bring forward the date of our next meeting.*

+ to *The wedding has been brought forward to the first Saturday in June.*

2 bring forward sth bring sth forward

to officially suggest a new plan or idea so that it can be discussed by a committee, parliament etc: *The government has brought forward a set of proposals for dealing with juvenile*

crime. | *Scientists are being invited to bring forward plans for research into alternative sources of energy.*

* SIMILAR TO: put forward, propose

3 bring forward sth bring sth forward

technical to include an amount of money in a later set of figures or calculations: *The balance brought forward is £21,675.*

bring in

1 bring in sth

to earn a particular amount of money, or produce a particular amount of profit: *Paul brings in about \$800 a month from his job at the local hospital.* | *Her books bring in about \$500,000 a year.*

2 bring in sth bring sth in

if a government or organization brings in a new law, rule, system, or method, they introduce it and start to use it for the first time: *The government is expected to bring in tough new laws on immigration.* | *Few companies will be willing to bring in the new technology unless it can be shown to reduce production costs.*

* SIMILAR TO: introduce

3 bring in sb bring sb in

to get someone with special skills or knowledge to do something or take part in something, especially in order to help you deal with a problem

bring sb in to do sth *They brought in a team of experts to investigate the causes of the accident.* | *The former Wimbledon champion was brought in to coach the young players.*

+ on *When local police failed to find the killer, the FBI was brought in on the case.*

* SIMILAR TO: call in

4 bring in sth/sb bring sth/sb in

to attract new business, trade, customers etc: *The bank's offer of free financial advice has brought in thousands of customers.* | *an advertising campaign that is bringing in a lot of new business* | *Julia Roberts' new movie has been bringing in huge audiences around the country.*

5 bring in sth bring sth in

to include or mention something in a piece of writing or a speech, especially for a particular purpose: *Try to bring in a few quotations from Shakespeare's plays to illustrate the points you are making.*

bring into

1 bring sth into sth

to add a particular quality to a situation or to someone's life: *Our aim is to bring more fun*

into children's education. | She had contacted the dating agency in the hope that it would bring a little romance into her life.

2 bring sth into sth

to talk about or include something in a conversation or discussion: *There is no need to bring a lot of detail into the negotiations at this stage.*

3 bring sb/sth into sth

to involve someone or something in a situation, especially an unpleasant situation that is not connected with them: *This is a purely political matter, so don't start trying to bring my family into it.*

* SIMILAR TO: drag into

bring off

bring off sth bring sth off

to succeed in doing something that is very difficult: *It was an amazing victory, and the whole team brought it off together by training incredibly hard.* | *Larry's a brilliant negotiator, and he's brought off some big deals in his time.*

* SIMILAR TO: pull off, carry off

bring on

1 bring on sth bring sth on

to make the start of a pain, illness, or problem start to happen: *He complained that the noise and fumes from the engine always brought on a headache.* | *The company's troubles had been brought on by lack of financial planning.* | *He had suffered a heart attack, brought on by stress and alcohol abuse.*

* SIMILAR TO: cause

2 bring sb on bring on sb

BrE to help someone to improve their skills: *Teachers need to bring on the weaker students, and not just concentrate on their star pupils.*

* SIMILAR TO: bring along AmE, help along

3 bring on sth bring sth on

BrE to make plants or crops grow faster: *The hot weather has really brought on the roses.*

bring on/upon

● **Bring upon** is more formal than **bring on** and is mostly used in writing.

bring sth on/upon sb

to make something bad happen to someone, especially yourself or your family, by behaving in a particular way: *Gloria ran off with a married man and brought shame on the whole family.*

bring sth on yourself *By refusing to talk to the police he only brought suspicion on himself.*

bring it (all) on yourself *He doesn't deserve any sympathy. He brought it all on himself.*

bring out

1 bring out sth bring sth out

to produce a new product, book, record etc and make it available for the public to buy: *Sony is about to bring out a complete recording of the film music from 'Titanic'.* | *Since it was brought out last autumn, sales of the new software have been very slow.*

2 bring out sth bring sth out

to make a particular quality or taste more noticeable: *You can bring out the flavour of the vegetables by steaming them in a pressure cooker.* | *Becoming a father seems to have brought out the gentle side of his nature.*

3 bring out the best/worst in sb

to make someone's best or worst qualities appear in the way they behave: *There's something about driving a car that brings out the worst in me.* | *A crisis invariably brings out the best in people.*

bring out the romantic/poet etc in sb (=make someone behave in a way that is typical of a romantic person, poet etc) *It's such a beautiful place. It's guaranteed to bring out the romantic in him.*

4 bring sb out

to make someone less shy and more confident: *She's a shy girl and she needs friends – I hope going to college will bring her out.*

bring sb out of himself/herself *Rick's teacher has done an excellent job – she's really brought him out of himself.*

bring out in

bring sb out in spots/a rash/a sweat

BrE to cause spots etc to appear on someone's skin or to make them sweat (=lose liquid through their skin because they are nervous or hot): *I can't eat strawberries – they bring me out in a rash.*

bring sb out in a cold sweat (=make someone sweat because they are very frightened) *The very thought of appearing in court brought him out in a cold sweat.*

bring round

SEE **bring around/round**

bring round to

SEE **bring around/round to**

bring through**bring sb through** **bring sb through sth**

to help someone to deal successfully with a difficult time in their life or a difficult event or situation: *Both my children have brought me through extremely difficult times since my husband died. | It was a real crisis, but Alice's strong personality brought her through.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get through****bring to****bring sb to**

to make someone conscious again when they have been unconscious: *The sound of voices brought him to, and he suddenly found himself in a room full of strangers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring sb around/round****bring together****1 bring sb together** **bring together sb**

to make people become friends with each other, especially people who are very different, or to make people have a much closer and more friendly relationship: *What was it that brought you two together? Was it your love of music? | At Atlantic College we aim to bring together young people of different cultures and backgrounds from all over the world.*

bring sb closer together *As it happened, the tragedy of our daughter's death actually brought us closer together.*

2 bring sth together **bring together sth**

to make it possible to see or experience an unusual variety of things, by collecting or uniting them together: *The exhibition brings together some of Ruskin's finest architectural drawings. | Whiteread's work brings together a whole range of different styles and influences.*

bring up**1 bring up sb** **bring sb up**

to look after and educate a child until he or she is grown up: *After Ben's mother died when he was three, he was brought up by his grandmother. | Where will they find the money to bring up six children.*

be brought up to do sth (=be taught by your parents to behave in a particular way) *In my day children were brought up to respect the law.*

bring sb up (as) a Catholic/Muslim etc *When they adopted Lucy, it was agreed that she should be brought up as a Catholic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **raise****upbringing** N [SINGULAR]

the way that parents treat their children and the things they teach them while they

are growing up: *Mike had a very strict upbringing.*

well-brought up ADJ

a child who is well brought up has been taught to be polite and to behave well: *a well-brought up little girl*

2 bring up sth **bring sth up**

to mention a subject or start to talk about it during a conversation or discussion: *Why did you have to bring up the subject of money? | I shall bring this question up at the next meeting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **raise****3 bring up sth** **bring sth up**

BrE to vomit something. If you vomit, food comes up from your stomach and out through your mouth because you are ill or drunk: *She rushed to the toilet and started bringing up her breakfast.*

* SIMILAR TO: **vomit** formal, **throw up, spew up** BrE informal

4 bring sb up USUALLY PASSIVE

to charge someone with a crime and make them appear before a court of law

+ **before** *Ben was brought up before the magistrates and accused of being drunk and disorderly. | The two men were brought up before the courts on charges of receiving stolen goods.*

bring uponSEE **bring on/upon****BRISTLE**

bristled, bristled, bristling

bristle with**1 bristle with sth** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal to have a lot of something, especially weapons or to be full of something, especially a quality: *The whole area was full of security guards, bristling with weapons. | Tomorrow they will play the South African Barbarians, a team bristling with international talent.*

2 bristle with sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal if someone bristles with an emotion such as anger or jealousy, the emotion is very strong and noticeable even though they are trying to hide or control it: *She tried to smile, but she was obviously bristling with jealousy. | Jay pushed back his chair, his red face bristling with rage.*

BROADEN

broadened, broadened, broadening

broaden out**1 broaden out**

if a road or river broadens out, it becomes wider: *At last the road broadened out and I was able to overtake the truck in front.* | *Ahead of us the river broadened out, creating the effect of a lake.*

2 broaden out sth broaden sth out**broaden out**

especially BrE to include a range of different subjects, or to make something do this: *I'd like to broaden out the discussion a little.* | *The course has broadened out and now includes a range of related subjects.*

BROWN**be browned off****be browned off**

BrE old-fashioned to be annoyed about something or bored with it

get browned off *The boss kept asking him to stay late at work, and he was getting really browned off.*

+ **with** *It had rained non-stop for a week, and we were all browned off with it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be fed up**

BRUSH

brushed, brushed, brushing

brush aside**1 brush aside sth brush sth aside**

to refuse to consider a suggestion or a demand because it seems unimportant or you do not agree with it: *Uncle Max brushed aside all suggestions that he was not well enough to go.* | *Their request for more funds was brushed aside.*

be brushed aside as impossible/unimportant etc *Several of us had our doubts, but these were brushed aside as unimportant.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ignore, dismiss**

2 brush sb aside brush aside sb

to refuse to listen to someone, because you do not think that what they are saying is important or correct: *Corbett opened his mouth to speak, but Bruce brushed him aside with a wave of his hand.*

brush down**1 brush down sb/sth brush sb/sth down**

BrE to remove dirt or dust from your clothes

by using a brush or quick light movements of your hands: *Carrie brushed down her coat, and got out a scarf to wear with it.*

brush yourself down *He picked himself up from the ground and brushed himself down.*

2 brush down sth brush sth down

to brush an animal, especially a horse, in order to remove dirt and dust from it: *Anne was in the stable yard, brushing down her pony.*

* SIMILAR TO: **groom**

brush off**1 brush off sth brush sth off**

to refuse to consider or discuss something, in a way that shows you do not think it is important, serious, or correct: *You've upset a lot of people by what you said, and you can't just brush it off like that.* | *The secretary brushed off questions about her personal finances.* | *Coetzee contacted the police about it but they brushed him off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush aside**

brush-off N [SINGULAR]

if someone gives you the brush-off, they refuse to listen to you or pay attention to you: *If you write to and complain about the standard of service, you'll only get the brush-off.*

2 brush sb off brush off sb

to end a relationship with someone in a way that shows you do not care about them or their feelings: *Surely he didn't think that he could just brush you off with a phone call?*

brush-off N [SINGULAR]

BrE if you give someone the brush-off, you treat them in a way that shows that you want to end your relationship with them because you do not care about them any more: *He's been trying to give her the brush-off for ages, but she won't seem to take the hint.*

3 brush yourself off

to remove dirt or dust from your clothes using a brush or quick light movements of your hands: *She got up off the ground and started to brush herself off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush yourself down** BrE

brush off on**brush off on sb**

BrE if a particular quality or attitude that someone else has brushes off on you, you are influenced by it and start to have it: *Her new friends were all very stylish, and some of it began to brush off on Emma.* | *They seem like a rough crowd – I hope their behaviour doesn't brush off on Tim.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rub off on**

brush up (on)**brush up (on) sth** **brush sth up**

to quickly practise and improve your skills or knowledge of something, especially in order to prepare for something: *I need to brush up on my Spanish before we go on holiday.* | *If you are thinking about a job change, brushing up on computer skills can be important.* | *England's players have just three days to brush up their technique before the next game.*

BUBBLE

bubbled, bubbled, bubbling

bubble over with**1 be bubbling over with excitement/enthusiasm**

to be very excited and pleased about something, and show it in the way you behave: *The children were bubbling over with excitement at the thought of visiting Disneyland.*

2 be bubbling with ideas/suggestions

to have a lot of ideas or suggestions about something: *It was an excellent meeting; everyone was bubbling over with ideas.*

bubble under**be bubbling under**

if a record is bubbling under, quite a lot of copies are being sold, and it may soon be successful enough to be in the lists of the top 20, 30 etc most popular records for that week: *Meanwhile, bubbling under at number 32, here is Van Morrison's new single.*

BUCK

bucked, bucked, bucking

buck up**1 buck up** **buck up sb** **buck sb up**

to become more cheerful, or to make someone more cheerful: *Buck up, Jerry! Things can't be that bad.* | *TV comic, Bob Carolgees, is flying out to help buck up our troops, who are serving with the United Nations forces.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cheer up****2 buck up sb** **buck sb up** **buck up**

to try harder and make more effort: *Deano needs to buck up a bit if he wants a hit record.*

buck your ideas up BrE informal (=used to tell someone to try harder to improve what they are doing): *You'll have to buck your ideas up if you want to go to university.*

3 buck up!

BrE spoken used to tell someone to hurry up:

Joyce shouted from downstairs, "Come on Henry! Buck up and get down here!"

BUCKET

bucketed, bucketed, bucketing

bucket down**it's/the rain's bucketing down**

BrE informal to be raining very hard: *It's been bucketing down all afternoon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour down, tip down****BUCKLE**

buckled, buckled, buckling

buckle down**buckle down**

to start working seriously or trying hard at something: *You've had a two week holiday, and now it's time to buckle down before your exams.*

+ to *The administration will be buckling down to tough negotiations over the next few months.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knuckle down****buckle under****buckle under**

to stop trying to do what you want to do, and do what other people want or expect, especially because of pressure from them: *I'd thought of going to university, but my family wanted me to stay at home and in the end I buckled under.*

+ to *The Irish Prime Minister accused the British government of buckling under to Protestant pressure.*

buckle up**buckle up**

AmE to fasten your seatbelt around you to protect you in a car, plane etc: *About 68 percent of motorists and passengers buckle up when they're driving, according to recent federal studies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **belt up** BrE**BUDDY**

buddied, buddied, buddying

buddy up**1 buddy up**

AmE informal to try to be friends with someone, especially because you want them to do something for you

+ to *Julie's just buddying up to the boss so she can get promoted.*

2 **buddy up**

AmE *informal* if children **buddy up**, they choose a person who will be with them on a journey or during an activity

+ with *Stephen buddied up with Erik for the trip to the museum.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pair up**

BUDGE

budged, budged, budging

budge up

budge up USUALLY IN COMMANDS

BrE *informal* to move along in order to make space for someone else to sit down: *Budge up boys – make room for your Dad.*

* SIMILAR TO: **move up, shove up!** *spoken informal*

BUDGET

budgeted, budgeted, budgeting

budget for

budget for sth

to expect that you will have to pay a particular amount of money for something, and so have the money available: *We usually budget for a family holiday that will cost about two thousand pounds. | We hadn't budgeted for a new car this year.*

BUFF

buffed, buffed, buffing

buff up

buff sth **up** **buff up** sth

to make a surface shine by rubbing it with a dry cloth: *We rubbed on two coats of floor wax, and then buffed it all up to a shine.*

BUG**bug off**

bug off!

AmE *informal* used to tell someone to go away and stop annoying you: *If that's Paul, tell him to bug off!*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away, get lost** *informal*

bug out1 **bug out**

AmE *informal* if someone's eyes **bug out**, they are open very wide and look big and round, for example because the person is surprised: *Paolo's eyes bugged out in amazement when he heard the whole story.*

2 **bug out** **bug sb out**

AmE *informal* to suddenly feel very frightened or surprised, or to make someone feel this way: *Hank was really bugging out after the accident. | The movie totally bugged me out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **freak out**

BUGGER

buggered, buggered, buggering

● **Bugger** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

bugger about/around1 **bugger about/around**

BrE *informal* to waste time doing unimportant things or behaving in a silly way: *Stop bugging about and get on with the job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around**

2 **bugger sb about/around**

BrE *informal* to treat someone badly by changing your plans a lot or wasting their time: *Our insurance company have really buggered us about – We can't get any money from them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around**

bugger off1 **bugger off!**

BrE *spoken informal* used to rudely tell someone to go away, for example because you are very angry with them: *"Bugger off!" Lily shouted. "I don't want to see you!"*

2 **bugger off**

BrE *spoken informal* to go somewhere quickly or suddenly: *Jim wasn't feeling too well, so he buggered off home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** *BrE spoken informal*

bugger up

bugger up sth **bugger** sth **up**

BrE *informal* to spoil something or do it very badly: *I really buggered up the first exam. | Don't give it to Emma. She'll only bugger it up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up, cock up** *BrE informal*

BUILD

built, built, building

build around

ALSO **build round** *BrE*

build sth **around/round** sth

to base something on information, facts, or ideas, and develop it from there: *The plot is built around the themes of ambition and*

power. | *The prosecution's case was built around Firman's evidence. If the defense could prove he was lying, the whole case would collapse.*

* SIMILAR TO: **build on/upon**

build in

1 build in sth build sth in

to include a particular idea, quality, attitude etc in something, so that it is an important part of it: *All the best speeches have a certain amount of humour built in.* | *In order to meet the three-year production plan, we'll have to build in specific targets at regular intervals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **incorporate** formal

built-in ALSO **inbuilt** especially BrE ADJ

[ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a built-in quality, feature etc is a natural or permanent one: *Older people tend to have a built-in resistance to change.* | *Do some societies have a built-in tendency towards extremism?* | *Every child is born with various inbuilt characteristics.*

2 be built in

to be made to fit permanently into a wall or into a room – use this especially about cupboards and furniture: *The kitchen cupboards are built in, and so are the cooker and fridge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be fitted**

built-in ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

fitted or included as a permanent part of something: *built-in wardrobes* | *The car has central locking with a built-in alarm system.*

build into

1 be built into sth

to be made as a permanent part of a wall or other space: *Nowadays almost every bank has a cash machine built into the wall.*

2 build sth into sth

to make something a permanent or natural part of a system, arrangement, agreement etc: *With the educational reforms, more controls were built into the system.*

build on/onto

build on build on sth build sth on

build sth onto sth

to add another room or rooms to a building, in order to have more space: *The house was a little too small, but we decided to buy it and build on.* | *It used to have only two bedrooms, but they've built on a huge extension at the back.* | *A new kitchen had been built onto the back of the house.*

build on/upon

● **Build upon** is more formal than **build on** and is mainly used in writing.

1 build sth on/upon sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to base something that you do on a particular idea, principle, aim etc which strongly influences you: *All his life he'd wanted to be a doctor; his hopes for the future were built on it.* | *Our ability to deliver an effective service is built on the principle of professionalism.*

* SIMILAR TO: **base on**

2 build on/upon sth

to use your success or achievement as a way of becoming even more successful or achieving more: *The company has had a very good year, and they are hoping to build on that success.* | *We aim to help our students build on present understanding and to move forward into new areas of learning.*

build round

SEE **build around/round**

build up

1 build up

to gradually increase in amount, size, or strength: *The traffic going out of town really builds up after five o'clock.* | *We are worried about chemicals building up in the soil.*

+ to *The problem has been building up to its present level over about two years.*

build-up N [SINGULAR]

a gradual increase in something: *a military build-up* | *a build-up of pressure*

2 build up sth build sth up

to make something increase in amount, size, or strength, especially gradually: *Don't do too much – you need to build up your energy for the match.* | *Members of nine European nations were meeting to discuss building up their armed forces in the Gulf.*

build up sb's confidence/trust *She's had a had experience, and it'll take some time to build up her confidence again.*

3 build up sth build sth up

to gradually succeed in getting something, especially by working hard or making a lot of effort: *The firm has built up an excellent reputation for speed and efficiency.* | *Over the years the gallery had managed to build up one of the world's finest collections of modern art.*

* SIMILAR TO: **accumulate** formal

4 build up sth build sth up

to develop and improve something such as a business or organization: *Jim Hunt was governor, and worked hard to build up the state's*

electronic industry. | His grandfather started the business and built it up.

5 build sb/sth up build up sb/sth

to praise someone or something a lot, so that other people think they are very good, or in order to make them feel special and confident: *It's only an amateur production of the play, so I don't want to build it up too much.* | *In the dressing room, the coach, Greg Downs, was building his men up before the match.*

build-up N [SINGULAR]

a description of someone or something in which you praise them a lot and make other people think they are very special: *I thought the group were a bit disappointing, after the terrific build-up they'd had.*

6 build sb up build up sb

to make someone healthier and stronger, for example by giving them plenty of good food: *My mother was always trying to build me up, telling me that I looked far too thin.*

build yourself up *You need to go and do some training and build yourself up a bit.*

7 be built up

if an area is built up, a lot of houses, buildings, and roads have been built there and there are very few open spaces: *When I went back fifteen years later, the town was incredibly built up and I hardly recognized it.*

built-up ADJ

a built-up area has a lot of houses, buildings, and roads in it and very few open spaces: *The speed limit is 30 mph in built-up areas.*

8 build up a picture/idea/image/profile of sth

to gradually get information that helps you to know and understand more about something or someone: *The police are slowly building up a picture of what happened on that night.* | *Some animals build up a detailed idea of their surroundings, by using sound instead of light.*

9 build up your hopes/build your hopes up

to hope for something that is not likely to happen: *Don't build your hopes up – a lot of people have applied for the job, and you may not get it.*

10 build up sb's hopes/build sb's hopes up

to encourage someone to believe that something they want is going to happen, even though this is unlikely or uncertain: *Don't build her hopes up until we're sure we can afford it.*

build up to

build up to sth

to gradually prepare yourself to do something more difficult than you have done

before: *"I may run for Congress," Bush said, "but it's something I'll have to build up to."*

build up to doing sth *John's already done a few short stories, and now he's building up to writing a novel.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work up to sth**

build-up N [SINGULAR]

the time spent preparing for a particular occasion or event, especially when people talk or write about it a lot in newspapers, on television etc

+ to the build-up to the general election

build upon

SEE **build on/upon**

BULK

bulked, bulked, bulking

bulk out

bulk out sth bulk sth out

BrE to increase the amount or size of something, by adding other things to it: *I added a couple of extra paragraphs to the article, in order to try to bulk it out a little.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bulk up**

bulk up

1 bulk up sth bulk sth up

to increase the amount or size of something, by adding other things to it

+ with *His latest book has been bulked up with lots of pictures, but it isn't very well written.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bulk out** BrE

2 bulk up

AmE to become bigger because you have more fat or muscle on your body: *Loville has bulked up about seven pounds to a whopping 212.*

BULLY

bullied, bullied, bullying

bully off

bully off

if a game of hockey bullies off, it starts. Hockey is a sport played between two teams of eleven players, using long sticks and a hard ball: *The players were ready to bully off.* | *A new girls' hockey tournament bullies off next month at Stockton sports centre.*

BUM

bummed, bummed, bumming

bum aroundALSO **bum round** BrE**1 bum around/round****bum around/round** sth

informal to travel around without any definite plans and usually with very little money: *Greg bummed around South America for a year between school and university.*

2 bum around/round

informal to spend time being lazy and doing very little: *I was still bumming round without any work, and I had no money at all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **loaf about/around, slob about/around**

bum off**bum** sth **off** sb

informal to get something that you need or want from someone, by asking them for it and not paying for it: *He had bummed the cigarettes off a group of Swedish students in Bonn.*

bum a lift/ride off sb (=ask someone to take you with them in their car when they are driving somewhere) *I expect Joe will be going to the party – I'll bum a lift off him.*

bum out**bum** sb **out**

AmE informal to make someone feel sad or disappointed: *I don't want to bum you out, but I'm afraid we can't go to the beach this weekend.*

be bummed out

AmE informal to feel sad or disappointed about something: *Kevin was a little bummed out when his team lost again.*

bum roundSEE **bum about/around****BUMBLE**

bumbled, bumbled, bumping

bumble aroundALSO **bumble about** BrE**bumble around/about****bumble around/about** sth

to move around or do something in a disorganized or slightly confused way, without achieving much: *I could hear my father*

bumbling around in his room upstairs. | Jenny had been bumbling around the kitchen for hours, trying to get dinner ready.

BUMP

bumped, bumped, bumping

bump along**bump along** **bump along** sth

if the level or rate of something bumps along, it continues at the same low level or rate, without making much progress: *The standard of living for the average family has bumped along without showing any significant increase.*

bump along the bottom *In its latest report, the Bank of England said the economy was still bumping along the bottom.*

bump into**bump into** sb

to meet someone that you know by chance, when you did not plan or expect to meet them: *Guess who I bumped into on holiday – Alex Barrett! | It's such a small town that you can't go anywhere without bumping into someone you know.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run into**

bump off**bump** sb **off** **bump off** sb

informal to deliberately kill someone: *The rumour was that he had bumped his first wife off to get the insurance money.*

get bumped off *The bad guy usually gets bumped off at the end of the story.*

* SIMILAR TO: **murder, do away with** informal, **do in** informal

bump up**bump up** sth **bump** sth **up**

informal to increase a price, rate, number etc, especially suddenly and by a large amount: *The government have really bumped up the price of petrol this year. | We had Mike on our team, which helped to bump up our score.*

bump up against**bump up against** sth

to have to deal with something that limits what you can do, or causes unexpected problems for you: *Political parties find themselves bumping up against the federal spending limits for election campaigning. | Women trying to get to the top would suddenly bump up against a 'glass ceiling', once they got beyond a certain level.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come up against**

BUNCH

bunched, bunched, bunching

bunch up**1** **bunch up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to move together and form a close group: *Mr Stephenson stopped suddenly, forcing the rest of them to bunch up behind him.*

be bunched up *The sheep were all bunched up together in a corner of the field.*

2 **bunch up** **bunch up** *sth***bunch** *sth* **up**

to pull material tightly together in folds, or to form tight folds: *The dress was much too big, but she bunched it up with a belt round her waist.* | *Machine stitching can cause material to bunch up, so I usually sew it by hand.*

BUNDLE

bundled, bundled, bundling

bundle off**bundle** *sb* **off** **bundle off** *sb*

to send someone somewhere quickly without asking them if they want to go: *She bundled the kids off to bed and sat down in front of the television.* | *In the holidays Amelia was always bundled off to stay with her grandmother.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pack off**

bundle up**1** **bundle up** *sth* **bundle** *sth* **up**

to gather or tie a group of things together, especially in order to take them somewhere: *Hilary bundled up all her old clothes and carried them downstairs.* | *The newspapers were all bundled up, ready to be thrown away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **parcel up**, **tie up**

2 **bundle up** *sb* **bundle** *sb* **up****bundle up**

to put warm clothes or blankets on yourself or someone else because it is cold: *My mother bundled me in the warmest clothes she could find.*

be bundled up *Lying in one of the doorways was a human figure, bundled up in a blanket.*

bundle up against the cold *We bundled up against the cold and went outside.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

BUNG

bunged, bunged, bunging

be bunged up**1** **sth is bunged up**

BrE if a pipe, toilet etc is bunged up, it is blocked, with the result that it does not work properly: *The kitchen sink was bunged up with bits of food.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block up**

2 **be bunged up**

BrE if a person is bunged up, it is difficult for them to breathe because they have a cold and their nose is blocked: *I had a headache, and I was so bunged up I decided to stay in bed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be stuffed up**, **be stopped up**

AmE

bunged-up ADJ

if your nose or ear is bunged-up, it is blocked and you cannot breathe or hear properly: *a bunged-up nose*

BUNK

bunked, bunked, bunking

bunk down**bunk down**

to lie down in order to go to sleep somewhere, especially on a floor, chair, or in someone else's house: *You can bunk down on the sofa if you want.* | *A friend of mine has said that you can bunk down in her house for a couple of nights.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bed down**

bunk off**bunk off** **bunk off** *sth*

BrE *informal* to stay away from school or work or leave early without permission: *We used to bunk off school, go round to my house, and smoke a few cigarettes.* | *In the end he got sacked for bunking off early.*

BUOY

buoyed, buoyed, buoying

buoy up**1** **buoy** *sb* **up** **buoy up** *sb*

to make someone feel more cheerful or confident, especially when they are feeling sad, shy etc: *"You look absolutely wonderful," Margaret said, in an attempt to buoy Emma up.* | *We felt really buoyed up by our success.*

buoy yourself up *A lot of people buy new clothes to buoy themselves up emotionally.*

2 **buoy up** sth **buoy** sth up

to keep something at a high level, for example profits, prices, or the value of something: *The company's profits were buoyed up by a successful publishing venture.* | *The pound rose against the dollar; buoyed up by rumours of an increase in interest rates.*

3 **buoy up** sth/sb **buoy** sth/sb up

to keep something or someone floating on the surface of water and prevent them from sinking: *Wooden floats on the sides of the raft helped to buoy it up.*

BURN

burnt or burned, burned or burnt, burning

burn down

1 **burn down** **burn down** sth

burn sth down

if a building, town, or forest burns down or is burnt down, it is completely destroyed by fire: *The old Palace of Westminster burned down in 1834.* | *Hopper's Hollywood home was burnt down in a fire, and almost all the paintings were destroyed.*

2 **burn down** sth **burn** sth down

to deliberately cause a fire in order to destroy a building, town, forest etc: *Gore had burnt down the house in order to destroy the evidence of his crime.* | *The men were threatening to burn down the capital if Colonel Rebu was not set free.*

3 **burn down**

if a fire burns down, the flames become smaller and weaker and produce less heat or light: *Gradually the fire burnt right down, leaving the room in near darkness.* | *The candles had burned down low, but still they went on talking.*

burn off

1 **burn off** sth **burn** sth off

to remove or get rid of something by burning it: *Fires are lit to burn off the remaining forest and make way for agriculture.* | *The oil, which spilt into the Gulf of Mexico, was mostly burnt off in a fire.*

2 **burn off** sth **burn** sth off

to get rid of unwanted fat or extra energy in your body, by doing physical exercise

burn off fat/calories *Regular exercise helps burn off excess fat.*

burn off energy *The children in the school yard were playing football, fighting, or simply running about to burn off all their energy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **burn up, work off**

burn out

1 **burn (yourself) out**

to work so hard that in the end you cannot continue working, because you have become tired, ill, or unable to think of any new ideas: *It's important that you learn to relax more, or you're likely to burn out.* | *Young stockbrokers often work eighteen-hour days, and burn themselves out before they are thirty.*

burned-out ALSO **burnt-out** ADJ
informal very tired or ill, or unable to think of any new ideas, because you have been working too hard: *At the end of the week I felt completely burned-out.* | *I didn't want to become one of those burnt-out writers with nothing left to say.*

burnout N [U]

when you are unable to continue working because you have worked so hard that you are very tired or ill, or unable to think of any new ideas: *More and more people suffer from burnout due to overwork.*

2 **be burned/burnt out**

if a vehicle or a building is burned out, the inside of it is destroyed in a fire: *The stolen car used in the robbery was found burnt out near Middlesburgh.* | *A chemical works was completely burnt out in one of the region's biggest fires for decades.*

burnt-out ALSO **burned-out** ADJ

[ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a burnt-out vehicle or building has been so badly damaged by fire that only the outside of it is left: *We passed a burnt-out truck at the side of the road.*

3 **a fire burns (itself) out**

if a fire burns out or burns itself out, it stops burning because there is nothing left for it to burn: *She'd fallen asleep in her chair and the fire had burnt out.* | *In remote areas of the country, the forest fires were allowed to burn themselves out.*

4 **burn (itself) out**

if an illness or a strong emotion burns itself out, it gradually becomes less severe or serious and then stops completely: *The doctor said the fever should burn itself out in a few days time.* | *At first Schramm's anger had been intense, but now he felt that it had burnt out.*

5 **burn out**

if a piece of electrical equipment burns out, it stops working because it has been used too much or has become too hot: *The electrical system in the car will burn out if you're not careful.*

burn up**1** burn up sth burn sth up

to use energy or get rid of unwanted fat from your body by doing physical exercise

burn up energy *The rate at which people burn up energy varies quite a lot between individuals.*

burn up fat/calories *Women tend to burn up calories less efficiently than men.*

* SIMILAR TO: **burn off**

2 burn up burn up sth burn sth up

to be completely destroyed by fire or great heat, or to destroy something with fire or great heat: *The satellite is expected to burn up in the Earth's atmosphere. | Anything getting that near to the sun, would simply be burned up. | The fire had burnt up forty acres of corn crops.*

3 burn up sth burn sth up

if someone or something burns up petrol, money etc they use a lot of it: *I changed my car because the old one burned up too much gas. | That girl just burns up money!*

* SIMILAR TO: **use up**

4 burn sb up

AmE *informal* to make someone very angry: *It used to burn me up when the kids at school would laugh at my name.*

5 burn up sth burn sth up

AmE *informal* to cover a distance very quickly, by moving or travelling very fast: *His Porsche really burns up the miles. | a couple burning up the dance floor*

6 be burning up

informal to be very hot, especially because you have a fever: *Ruth wiped away the sweat – although it was cold, she was burning up!*

burn with**1** burn with sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if you are burning with a particular feeling, you feel it very strongly: *Melissa was burning with curiosity, but it was obvious that it was not a good time to ask questions. | Burning with impatience, Janet waited for the train to finally stop.*

2 burn with sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if your face or cheeks burn with a particular feeling, they become hot or red because you feel so strong: *Willie smiled, his cheeks burning with excitement. | "I'm sorry, I forgot," Maria said, her face burning with shame.*

BURST

burst, burst, bursting

burst in**burst in**

to enter a room very suddenly, interrupting the people who are inside or giving them a shock: *Mrs Andrews was just closing the post office when gunmen burst in.*

burst in on sb *What do you do if the kids burst in on you when you're in the bath? | A group of animal rights protesters burst in on the meeting and started shouting at the speaker.*

burst into**1** burst into sth

to enter a room very suddenly, interrupting the people who are inside or giving them a shock: *Two masked men burst into the house and shot the boys parents in front of him. | She burst into the room, waving a large brown envelope.*

2 burst into sth

to suddenly start doing something – used in the following phrases:

burst into tears (=suddenly start crying) *When I asked her what was wrong, she just burst into tears.*

burst into laughter (=suddenly start laughing) *To John's surprise, Sarah burst into laughter. "What's so funny?" he asked.*

burst into song (=suddenly start singing) *Musicals are ridiculous – people don't burst into song like that in normal life!*

burst into applause (=start hitting your hands together to show that you have enjoyed a performance, speaker etc) *At the end of her speech the audience burst into enthusiastic applause.*

burst into flames (=suddenly start burning) *Their car hit a wall and burst into flames.*

burst into bloom/flower/leaf (=when leaves or flowers suddenly appear on a plant) *In May all the flowers in the valley burst into bloom and the air is filled with their scent.*

burst out**1** burst out laughing/crying

to suddenly start to laugh or cry: *It was such a funny story – even the newsreader burst out laughing. | When she saw the dog lying there, she burst out crying because she thought he was dead.*

2 **sb burst out**

literary to suddenly say something in an angry or excited way, especially when you have been trying to avoid saying anything: "It's all your fault!" she burst out angrily. | "For heavens sake!" he burst out. "Will you stop going on about it!"

outburst N [C]

when someone suddenly starts speaking about something because they feel very angry, upset etc, especially when this seems rude or shocking to other people: *I'd like to apologise for my outburst at the meeting last night.*

burst with**be bursting with** sth/sb

to have a lot of something, especially a particular feeling or quality, or to be full of people or things: *Helen, our teacher, was bursting with confidence and energy.* | *The 1996 vintage is delicious – bursting with flavour.* | *When we arrived at the concert, the hall was bursting with people.* | *He was a grey-haired dynamo of a man, bursting with ideas and good humour.*

BURY

buried, buried, burying

bury away1 **be buried away**

if something is buried away somewhere, it is not easy to find or notice, especially because it is hidden by other things: *I found a beautiful old silver teapot buried away at the back of the shop.* | *a vague memory, buried away somewhere in his mind*

2 **bury yourself away**

to go somewhere quiet where there are not many people, often somewhere that is boring

+ *in* *It's not good for you burying yourself away in that dusty old library day after day.*

bury in1 **bury yourself in** sth

to give all your attention to something, especially your work or something that you are reading very carefully, often in order to avoid thinking about something or to avoid talking to someone: *After Sylvie left him, he buried himself in his work and tried to put her out of his mind.* | *At breakfast Duncan buried himself in his newspaper and pretended to ignore her.*

2 **be buried in** sth

to be so involved in what you are doing, that you do not notice what is happening around you: *Alan was buried in his work, as usual.*

3 **bury yourself in** sth

to go somewhere quiet where there are not many people, often somewhere that is boring: *He expected her to give up her job in the city and bury herself in the countryside miles from anywhere!*

B

BUST

bust, bust, busting BrE

busted, busted, busting especially AmE

bust out (of)1 **bust out**

AmE *informal* to escape from a place, especially a prison

+ *of* *They thought it was impossible for anyone to bust out of Alcatraz.*

2 **bust out** sb **bust** sb out

AmE *informal* to help someone to escape from somewhere, especially a prison: *Special forces were finally sent in to bust out the hostages.*

3 **bust out**

AmE *informal* to improve your situation or do something different from what you usually do: *Even as a child Scott couldn't wait to bust out, while his brother Brian was happy staying close to home.*

+ *of* *CBS busted out of its usual last-place standing to become the number two network.*

4 **bust out**

AmE *informal* to have to stop playing a game of cards, especially because you have lost all your money: *If you bust out of this game, we'll have no money to get a cab home.*

bust up1 **bust up**

BrE *informal* if people bust up, they separate and end their relationship, especially after an argument: *I'm not with Jan any more – we bust up a while back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **split up**

bust-up N [C]

informal when people separate because of a disagreement: *Shelly moved to New York after the bust-up with her husband.*

bust-up N [C]

informal an angry argument: *McEnroe faces a big fine following his bust-up with the umpire at last week's final.* | *The Mail had run a sensational story about a bust-up between Morgan and his boss.*

2 **bust up** sth **bust** sth up

BrE to prevent something from continuing by interrupting it, often in a violent way: *Angry*

protesters bust up the meeting. | *Gloria was always trying to bust up their conversations – she wanted to be the only significant person in Jeff's life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break up**

B

3 **bust up sth** **bust sth up**

AmE *informal* to damage or break something: *Morgan busted up his arm in a skiing accident last Sunday.*

4 **bust up**

AmE *informal* to laugh a lot at something: *I bust up every time he tells the joke about the man on the bicycle.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up**

5 **bust up**

AmE *informal* to separate a large company or organization into smaller parts: *A Federal judge busted up AT & T in a ruling on monopolies.*

BUSTLE

bustled, bustled, bustling

bustle around/about**bustle around/about****bustle around/about sth**

to move around in a busy way doing something, for example preparing a meal or tidying a room: *She watched him as he bustled about the kitchen.*

bustle around/about doing sth *Waitresses bustled around carrying trays loaded with food and drink.*

BUTT

butted, butted, butting

butt in1 **butt in**

to interrupt a conversation or someone who is speaking in a rude way, by saying something when it is not your turn to speak: *The Minister complained that the interviewer kept butting in while he was trying to answer the questions.* | *Sorry, I don't mean to butt in, but if you want a lift, Sarah, I need to leave now.*

* SIMILAR TO: **interrupt, butt in, muscle in**

2 **butt in**

AmE *informal* to become involved in a situation when you are not wanted, for example because it is private: *My neighbors are always butting in, wanting to know exactly what I'm doing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **interfere**

buttninsky N [C]

AmE *informal* a person who tries to become involved in a situation when they are not wanted: *Dealing with Buttninsky is never easy. Be firm without being hostile.*

butt out**butt out!**

AmE *spoken informal* used to tell someone to stop trying to become involved in a situation when they are not wanted, for example because it is private: *This doesn't concern you, so just butt out!*

butt up**butt up**

to be in a position with one end or edge against something else, and no space between them

+ **against/to** *The tiles butt up against the door frame.* | *He bought a house for his parents with a garden that butted up to his own.*

BUTTER

battered, buttered, buttering

butter up**butter sb up****butter up sb**

informal to say nice things to someone or try to please them so that they will do what you want: *You need his help, so butter him up a bit; get him on your side.* | *Top dealers are inviting big clients into their offices and buttering them up with expense account lunches.*

BUTTON

buttoned, buttoned, buttoning

button up**button up sth****button sth up**

to fasten all the buttons on a coat, shirt etc: *You'd better button up your jacket – it's cold outside.* | *His mother helped him on with his coat and buttoned it up for him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fasten, do up**

BUY

bought, bought, buying

buy in1 **buy in sth** **buy sth in**

BrE to buy a large amount of something, especially food or drink, because you may need a lot for a special occasion or it may become difficult to obtain: *We'd better buy in some more beer for the party.* | *People are buying in stocks of food for the winter.*

2 buy in sth buy sth in buy in

BrE to pay someone else to do or produce something rather than doing it yourself: *They don't actually make computers – they just buy in components and assemble them.* | *More and more women are going out to work and buying in domestic help.*

buy into

1 buy into sth

informal to completely accept an idea or belief and allow it to influence you: *Ar around fourteen, a lot of boys buy into the idea that they are failures.* | *You don't have to buy into the 'If you have a bigger house, you have a better life,' theory.*

2 buy into sth

to buy part of a business or organization, especially because you want to control it: *British Airways' plans to buy into United Airlines have ended in failure.* | *American car makers wanted to buy into Japanese firms.*

buy off

buy off sb buy sb off

to pay someone money or give them something that they want, in order to stop them causing trouble or threatening you: *In the US employers tried to buy off the unions by offering them higher and higher wage settlements.* | *Chamberlain and Daladier believed they could buy Hitler off by letting him have Austria and Czechoslovakia.*

buy out

1 buy out sb/sth buy sb/sth out

to buy someone's share of a business or property that you previously owned together, so that you own all of it: *In 1965, ICI bought out Courtaulds' share of BNS, and set up ICI Fibres.* | *After the war, he bought out his brother Bill's interest in the machine shop.*

buyout N [C]

when a group of people join together to buy a company, especially one they used to work for or manage

a management buyout *The company is threatening to close the mine, but there are rumours of a management buyout.*

2 buy out sb buy sb out

to pay money so that someone can leave an organization such as the army, or a sports team, before their contract has finished: *The first time he joined the army, his parents bought him out, and then he went and signed on again!*

+ of *The club wants to buy him out of his current contract with Inter Milan.*

buy up

buy up sth buy sth up

to quickly buy as much as you can of something, especially because there is not a lot available, or because you think you can make money from it: *People are buying up stocks of food in case the storm hits their area.* | *Developers have been buying up villas on the island in anticipation of a tourist boom.*

BUZZ

buzzed, buzzed, buzzing

buzz around

ALSO **buzz about/round** BrE

1 buzz around/about/round sth

buzz around/about/round

if something, especially an insect, buzzes around, it moves around making a continuous noise, especially one that is annoying: *He was kept awake by a mosquito, which was buzzing around his hotel room all night.* | *Jet skis were buzzing around on the bay.*

2 buzz around/about/round sth

buzz around/about/round

especially BrE if thoughts or ideas are buzzing around in your head, you are thinking quickly about a lot of things and it is difficult to think clearly: *I've got a million and one things buzzing around my head at the moment.*

3 buzz around/about/round

to move quickly around a place doing a lot of jobs in a busy way: *The director buzzed around checking the cameras and lighting.*

buzz off

buzz off!

spoken informal to go away – used to rudely tell someone to go away because they are annoying you: *Why don't you just buzz off and leave me alone?*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away, clear off** spoken, especially BrE

buzz round

SEE **buzz around**

C

CALL

called, called, calling

call after

1 call after sb

to shout something to someone as they are moving away from you: "Please!" he called after her. "Don't leave me!" | The clerk called after him, but he took no notice.

2 call sb/sth after sb/sth USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to give someone or something the same name as another person or thing, often a famous person or thing: He was called after St Francis of Assisi. | The gallery is called after Mrs Boehm's late husband, Edward Boehm.

* SIMILAR TO: name after

call around/round

1 call around/round

to go to someone's house for a short time to visit them: Is it all right if I call round again some time next week?

call around to do sth Her 20-year-old son, Neil, calls around to visit her regularly.

2 call around

especially AmE to telephone different people or businesses in order to get information: Kurt had to call around for a while, but he finally found someone who can fix our washer today.

+ to I started calling around to different farmers to see what kind of prices I could get for fresh produce.

* SIMILAR TO: ring round/around BrE, phone round/around

be called away

be called away

to be suddenly asked to leave the place where you are working and go somewhere else, especially in order to deal with an urgent problem: Peter is not in the office today – he's been called away to deal with a problem at our Birmingham branch. | The firecrew had to leave because they were called away to an emergency.

call back

1 call back call sb back call back sb

especially spoken to phone someone again at a later time, or to phone someone who has

already phoned you: Can you call back later? Mrs Cohen is in a meeting at present. | Call me back as soon as you've got the results of the test.

* SIMILAR TO: ring back BrE, phone back

2 call back

especially BrE to return to a place at a later time, for example in order to see someone who was not available earlier, or to collect something or someone: I'll call back on my way home from work. | If you call back this afternoon the suit should be ready for you. | The driver dropped her at the hotel and said he would call back for her in a couple of hours.

call by

call by

BrE to stop and visit someone for a short time, especially when you are on your way to somewhere else: I just called by to give Guy a message. | Dan called by today. He says his mother's not well.

* SIMILAR TO: drop by, stop by

call for

1 call for sth

to publicly demand that something should happen or be done: Peace campaigners have called for an end to the bombing. | The Lawrence family are not satisfied with the police chief's explanation and are calling for a public enquiry.

* SIMILAR TO: demand

2 call for sth

if something calls for a particular ability, quality, or action that is what it needs or deserves: jobs which call for specialist skills and qualifications | The company was facing a financial crisis, and the situation called for some tough decisions.

this calls for a celebration You didn't tell me it was your birthday – this calls for a celebration!

* SIMILAR TO: require

3 call for sb

BrE to go to someone's house to collect them because you are going somewhere together: The film starts at 8.00 so I'll call for you at 7.30.

* SIMILAR TO: collect, pick up

4 call for sth

AmE to say that something is likely to happen, especially when talking about the weather: The forecast calls for more rain.

* SIMILAR TO: predict

call forth

call forth sth call sth forth

formal to make people have a particular kind of feeling or reaction: *What emotion is the author trying to call forth in the reader?* | *The recent power struggle in Moscow has called forth concern in Western countries.*

call in

1 call in

BrE to make a short visit to a person or place, especially when you are going somewhere else: *Is it all right if I call in to see you tomorrow after work?*

✦ for *You're welcome to call in for a chat anytime you like.*

✦ at *On the way home, he called in at the florist to buy some flowers for Sara.* | *To discuss your financial needs, call in at your local branch and make an appointment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop in, stop by, call around/round**

2 call in

to phone somewhere, especially the place where you work, to tell them where you are or what you are doing, or to find out news about something: *Daniel called in to say that he was going to be late.* | *Get a detective to follow the suspect, and have him call in every three hours.*

call in sick (=phone the place where you work to say that you are too ill to go to work) *On Monday morning she called in sick and said she'd be off all week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **phone in** BrE, **ring in** BrE

3 call in

to phone a radio or television programme to say what you think or to ask for advice: *Following last night's programme on cancer, thousands of people called in to ask for more information.* | *A Mrs Trellis from Birmingham called in to say that she thoroughly enjoyed the show.*

* SIMILAR TO: **phone in**

4 call in sb call sb in

to ask someone who has special skills or knowledge to come and deal with a problem: *At 6am I called in Dr Minden, and he examined the patient.*

call in sb to do sth *Troops were called in to control the demonstration.* | *The company has called in environmental experts to carry out an investigation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send for**

5 call in a loan

to ask for a debt to be paid at an earlier date than was originally agreed: *He failed to make regular payments and the bank eventually*

called in the loan. | *When the credit company collapsed, the loan was called in, causing huge problems for our business.*

6 call in sth call sth in

if a company calls in a product, it asks people who have bought it to take it back to the store because there is a problem with it: *The manufacturer has called in the new model, launched last year, because of an electrical fault.*

* SIMILAR TO: **recall**

call off

1 call off sth call sth off

to stop an event that has been arranged from taking place, especially because of a problem: *Diana had seriously considered calling off the wedding two days before her marriage.* | *The fight may have to be called off because the champion is suffering from a back injury.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cancel**

2 call off sth call sth off

to stop doing something that you have already started doing

call off a search/strike *Rescuers were forced to call off the search because of bad weather.* | *The film crew called off a three-month strike after reaching a deal with their employers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **abandon**

3 call off sth/sb call sth/sb off

to order an animal or person to stop attacking someone: *A fierce-looking dog rushed out of the house towards us – fortunately the owner called it off just in time.*

call on

1 call on sb

to visit someone for a short time: *He stopped in Chicago in order to call on an old friend.*

2 call on sb

AmE to ask someone in a class or group to answer a question: *Adrian looked down at his paper, but Mrs. Danielson called on him anyway.*

call on/upon

● **Call upon** is more formal than **call on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 call on/upon sb to do sth

to formally and publicly ask someone to do something: *Russia called on NATO to end the bombing of Serbia.* | *The conference passed a resolution calling on Western governments to cut pollution levels.* | *I call upon the persons here present to witness the marriage of Sarah and James.*

2 **call on/up** sth/sb

to use something or someone's help in order to achieve what you want: *Our staff are able to call on the latest technology to help them in their work.* | *The team has many other talented players whose skills it can call on.*

call out1 **call out** **call out** sth

to say something loudly so that other people will hear it: *Adam called out her name, but there was no reply.* | *"Hey," she called out to him as he got into his car, "don't forget to pick me up tomorrow."*

† for *I thought I heard someone call out for help.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call, shout**

2 **call out** sb/sth **call** sb/sth **out**

to ask someone skilled, such as a doctor, the army, or the fire service, to come and deal with a problem: *When the police failed to control the rioters, the Governor called out the National Guard.* | *Doctors often get called out in the middle of the night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call in**

call-out ADJ

BrE a call-out service is one where someone goes to the place where someone lives or works in order to deal with a problem rather than the job being brought to them: *We operate a 24-hour call-out service for emergency repairs.* | *What's your call-out fee?*

3 **call out**

AmE informal to call a restaurant and order food to be delivered to your home or office

† for *Let's call out for Chinese food tonight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **order out**

4 **call out** sb/sth **call** sb/sth **out**

BrE if a union calls its members out, it tells them to stop working because of a disagreement with their employer. A union is an organization which workers join in order to protect their rights: *The union has threatened to call its members out on strike from midnight tomorrow.*

call out for**call out for** sth

BrE if something calls out for a particular kind of treatment, that is clearly what it needs: *The company had been in the same family for decades, and called out for modernization.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cry out for**

call over**call over** sb **call** sb **over**

to ask someone to come to where you are,

for example in order to talk to you or look at something: *Do you want to ask him? Shall I call him over?*

† to do sth *The sunset was so beautiful – she called Dan over to the window to look.*

call roundSEE **call around/round****call up**1 **call** sb **up** **call** up **sb** **call** up

especially AmE to phone someone: *Call me up as soon as you get the results.* | *If you have computer problems, call up the technician at the helpdesk.* | *Someone called up to say that they had seen a cat just like ours in their front garden.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call, phone up, ring up** BrE

2 **be called up**

to be officially ordered to join the army, navy, or airforce by the government: *When he was 21, Stan was called up for National Service.*

get called up *During the war, most men between 19 and 38 got called up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drafted** AmE

call-up N [C,U]

BrE when people are officially ordered to join the army, navy, or airforce: *Because of his illness, Kaye managed to avoid the military call-up.*

call-up N [C]

when someone is officially asked to take part in something, especially to play for a team in an important game: *Pears has played well this season and thoroughly deserves his call-up.*

3 **call up** sb **call** sb **up**

to officially ask someone to take part in something, especially to play for a team in an important game: *Cole has been called up to play for England.* | *Manager Jack Charlton called him up because of doubts about the fitness of the other players.*

4 **call up** sth **call** sth **up**

especially BrE if you call up information on a computer, you ask the computer to find it and show it on the screen: *The system will allow you to call up information about the latest share prices.* | *Rex called up the menu and clicked on 'New Message'.*

5 **call up** sth **call** sth **up**

if something calls up an idea or memory of something else, it makes you think of it: *The music calls up memories of Paris in the early '50s.* | *Each Chinese character calls up a mental image of the thing that it represents.*

* SIMILAR TO: **conjure up, evoke** formal

call uponSEE **call on/upon****CALM**

calmed, calmed, calming

calm down1 **calm down** **calm sb down****calm down** sb

to stop feeling angry, upset, or excited, or to make someone stop feeling like this: *Calm down and tell me what happened.* | *Matt was trying to calm the baby down by singing to it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cool down, cool off**2 **things calm down**

if things calm down, people become less busy or rushed: *It's always like this before Christmas – things will calm down after the January sales.*

3 **things calm down**

if things calm down, or if someone calms things down, people stop arguing or fighting, or stop being excited or upset: *Better wait till things have calmed down between those two before you go in.* | *The police arrived and managed to calm things down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **quieten down, settle down**4 **calm down**

if the wind or weather calms down, it stops being windy or stormy: *The fishermen were waiting for the weather to calm down before they went out to sea.*

CAMP

camped, camped, camping

camp out1 **camp out** ✕

to sleep outdoors, especially in a tent: *We used to camp out in my grandma's garden when we were kids.* | *Hundreds of people camped out on the sidewalk, hoping to get tickets for the concert.*

2 **camp out** ✕

to stay somewhere for a short time, because you cannot stay where you usually live: *The refugees camped out at St Peter's School in Northampton.* | *Foreign journalists camped out at the Intercontinental Hotel for weeks hoping for an interview with Ortega.*

camp up**camp it up**

BrE informal if an actor camps it up, he or she deliberately behaves in an extreme way in

order to make people laugh: *The best thing in the film is Alan Rickman, camping it up as the evil Sheriff of Nottingham.* | *We all remember David Bowie camping it up as Ziggy Stardust.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ham it up** informal**CANCEL**

cancelled, cancelled, cancelling BrE

canceled, canceled, canceling AmE

cancel out**cancel out** sth **cancel sth out**

if one thing cancels out another, it has an opposite effect to it, so that the situation does not change: *Increases in tuition fees are likely to cancel out tax benefits for college students.*

cancel each other out/cancel one another out *Capital gains and losses can be expected to cancel each other out.*

CAPITALIZEalso **CAPITALISE** BrE

capitalized, capitalized, capitalizing

capitalised, capitalised, capitalising BrE

capitalize on**capitalize on** sth

to use a situation or something good that you have, in order to get an advantage for yourself: *Ecuador has capitalised on its natural beauty to attract tourism.* | *TV chef Ken Yan has just opened another restaurant, and is hoping to capitalize on the popularity of his show 'Cook with Ken'.*

CARE

cared, cared, caring

care for1 **care for** sb

to look after someone because they are too young, old, or ill to look after themselves: *She cared for her father all through his long illness.* | *As the average age of the population increases, there are more and more old people to care for.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look after****well cared for** ADJ

if a person or animal is well cared for, people look after them well: *The animals in the zoo are well cared for.*

2 **not care for** sb/sth

formal to not like someone or something: *I was fond of Uncle Geordie, but I didn't care for his wife.* | *She never cared much for Woody's sense of humour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dislike**

3 would you care for sth?

spoken formal used when politely offering someone something, especially food or drink: *Would you care for ice with your martini, Madam?*

* SIMILAR TO: **would you like**

4 care for sb

old-fashioned to love someone in a romantic way: *I really love you, Celia. I've never cared for anyone else.*

* SIMILAR TO: **love**

CARRY

carried, carried, carrying

get carried away**get carried away**

to become so excited that you do something you would not normally do, especially something silly: *Andrew got a bit carried away and started dancing.* | *Mother seemed to have bought the entire contents of the store. "I saw so many nice things. I just got carried away."*

carry back**carry sb back**

if something carries you back, it reminds you strongly of a time in the past

+ to *The smell of that perfume carried her back to her youth, and the first time that she had been to Paris.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take back**

carry forward**1 carry forward sth carry sth forward**

to include an amount of money in a later set of figures or calculations: *\$7000 is carried forward to next month's accounts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring forward**

2 carry forward sth carry sth forward

if you carry a plan forward, you succeed in making progress with it: *Mr Starr set up the program, then left others to carry it forward.* | *We are looking for a graduate with the ability to lead a team and carry work forward, within deadlines and to budget.*

carry off**1 carry it off**

to succeed in doing something difficult, especially when there is a good chance that you will fail: *I was delighted to be offered the job, but I wasn't sure if I could carry it off.* | *She was sent to pose as a Russian diplomat and she almost carried it off.* | *The company's expansion plans are extremely ambitious, but director Paul Redstone believes that he can carry it off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull off, bring off**

2 carry off sth carry sth off

to win a prize: *Gwyneth Paltrow carried off the prize for best actress, for her role in the film 'Shakespeare in Love'.* | *The winner will carry off a cheque for £3000.*

3 carry off sth carry sth off

to look good in a particular piece of clothing or style: *Those long straight dresses are beautiful, but you have to be tall to carry them off.*

4 carry off sth carry sth off

to steal something – used especially in news reports: *Thieves broke into the museum, and carried off paintings worth millions of pounds.*

* SIMILAR TO: **steal, make off with**

5 be carried off

old-fashioned if someone is carried off by a disease, they die from it: *Little Horace Charles was carried off by pneumonia at the age of eight.*

carry on**1 carry on**

to continue doing something: *Don't stop – carry on!* | *They carried on until all the work was finished.*

carry on doing sth *I waved at him, but he didn't seem to notice and carried on talking.*

+ with *Look, we're going to have to stop now. We can carry on with this in next week's class.*

carry on regardless (=continue doing something even though you know it is dangerous or there is a problem) *The doctor told Kevin to stop drinking, but he carried on regardless.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on**

2 carry on

BrE to continue going somewhere in the same direction or on the same road: *We carried on down the freeway for a while, enjoying the drive.* | *Carry on until you get to the traffic lights, then turn left.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on, continue**

3 carry on

to do the things that you usually do, even though you are very upset about something or are in a difficult situation: *After my wife died, I felt as if I just couldn't carry on.* | *Even though the country is at war, people still try to carry on as normal.*

+ with *The divorce was very traumatic, but I was determined to carry on with my life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on**

4 carry on sth carry sth on

to continue something that someone else has

started: *He's hoping his son will carry on the family business.*

carry on a tradition *In 1814, Samuel Webb leased the mill to Stephen and Edward Blackwell, who carried on the tradition of cloth making.*

5 carry on

spoken to behave in a silly or excited way: *We won't get anything done if you two don't stop carrying on!*

a carry-on N [SINGULAR]

BrE *informal* behaviour or a situation that is silly and annoying: *He was out in the street, and she was throwing things out the window at him. What a carry-on!*

6 carry on sth

BrE if you carry on a particular kind of work or activity you do it or take part in it: *The authorities discovered that Stephens was carrying on a food business without a license.*

carry on a conversation *I hate it when she calls me at work. - I'm always too busy to carry on a conversation with her.*

7 carry on

old-fashioned spoken to have a sexual relationship with someone - used to show disapproval

+ **with** *She's been carrying on with the milkman - I'm certain of it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have an affair**

8 carry on

informal to keep talking about something in a way that is annoying

+ **about** *I wish everyone would stop carrying on about it! | She suddenly noticed that Ruth was crying. "Oh Ruth! And here's me carrying on about my problems."*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on** *informal*

carry out

1 carry sth out carry out sth

to do something that you have organized or planned - used especially in the following phrases

carry out an attack *During the 1970s, the group carried out a series of attacks around the world, including the massacre in 1972 at Lod Airport in Israel.*

carry out a search/investigation *The Interior Ministry has ordered two of its chief inspectors to carry out an investigation into the death of a journalist whilst in police custody.*

carry out research/an experiment/a survey *Extensive research is being carried out, which will hopefully result in a cure for this disease. | A survey carried out last week*

found that 60% of Americans still supported the President, despite the scandal.

carry out a task/job *Why is it that whenever I attempt to carry out a simple repair job at home it always seems to cause big problems?*

2 carry out a threat/promise/intention

to do something that you have said you will do, or intend to do: *Nicholson never carried out his threat to sue Hugo. | The government has failed to carry out its election promises. | Jane carried out her intention of going to Afghanistan, despite the war.*

3 carry out instructions/an order

to do what you have been told to do: *At his trial, Bousquet claimed that he had only been carrying out orders. | "I want two bodyguards in each car." Masala nodded then went off to carry out Whitlock's instructions.*

carry over

1 carry over/be carried over

if something from one situation carries over or is carried over into another situation, it continues to exist and affects the other situation

+ **to** *In the 1940s CBS radio set up a news broadcasting service of the highest quality, a tradition that was later carried over to television.*

+ **into** *His childhood was a story of pain, rejection, and violence, and these patterns carried over into his marriage. | Many of the old aristocratic values were carried over into the industrial age, so that trade and commerce were regarded as socially inferior occupations.*

carry-over N [SINGULAR]

something from the past that still continues to happen, or continues to affect the way things are done now: *South Korea maintained a curfew until the 1980s, a carry-over from the Korean War days.*

2 carry over sth carry sth over

to make an official arrangement to do something or use something at a later time

+ **to** *Up to five days' holiday can be carried over from one year to the next. | The Council is unable to carry over funds from one fiscal year to the next. | The game had to be cancelled due to bad weather, and will be carried over to next week.*

carry through

1 carry through sth carry sth through

to complete something successfully: *Educational reforms were proposed, but never carried through because of the economic crisis. | It is thought that a sum of about £5,000 will be needed to carry the scheme through successfully.*

2 carry sb through

carry sb through sth NOT PASSIVE

if your determination or other people's support carries you through, it helps you to deal with a difficult situation: *The course was tough, but Amelia's determination and enthusiasm carried her through.* | *The support of his family had carried him through those difficult times.*

C CART

carted, carted, carting

cart off

cart off sb cart sb off

informal to take someone away, especially to prison or hospital: *I collapsed on the pitch, and was carted off on a stretcher.* | *Kirk was arrested and carted off to prison.*

* SIMILAR TO: take off

CARVE

carved, carved, carving

carve out

carve out sth carve sth out

to succeed in achieving or obtaining something for yourself, especially with difficulty: *New products like their electronic water filter have helped Kenwood carve out a bigger share of the UK market.*

carve out a career *Comedian Keith Allen has carved out a successful career as a straight actor, appearing in several acclaimed TV dramas.*

carve out a niche (=find an activity or type of business where you are successful) *Rank's attempt to carve out a niche in the US market failed because his films were too slow for American tastes.*

carve up

1 carve up sth carve sth up

to cut cooked meat into pieces: *Dad carved up the turkey.*

2 carve up sth carve sth up

to divide land into smaller parts - used to show disapproval: *Hitler and Stalin carved up Poland and the Baltic states between them.* | *Much of the English countryside has been destroyed, carved up by ugly motorways.*

3 carve sb up carve up sb

BrE informal to drive past another car going in the same direction, then turn in front of it too quickly, so that it has to slow down suddenly: *Some idiot carved me up on the motorway.*

* SIMILAR TO: cut up

4 carve sb up carve up sb

informal to seriously wound someone with a knife: *A couple of years ago five gang members got carved up in a fight outside a pub.*

CASH

cashed, cashed, cashing

cash in

cash in sth cash sth in

to exchange something such as shares for their value in money: *He cashed in all his bonds and his insurance policy to raise the money to buy a boat.*

cash in on

cash in on sth

to make a profit from a situation or get an advantage from it, especially in a way that other people think is unfair or dishonest: *Criminals should not be allowed to cash in on their crimes by selling their life stories to filmmakers.* | *The bookshops were suddenly full of books about Princess Diana, all hoping to cash in on the princess's tragic death.*

cash out

1 cash out

AmE to count all the money taken by a shop or business at the end of a day, in order to check that it is the correct amount: *It's time to cash out and lock up.*

2 cash out

AmE to sell something valuable and get all the money for it immediately: *Argentine stocks fell as some local investors cashed out.*

cash up

cash up

BrE to count all the money taken by a shop or business at the end of the day, in order to check that it is the correct amount: *Let's cash up and then we can go home.*

* SIMILAR TO: cash out AmE

CAST

cast, cast, casting

cast around/about for

ALSO cast round for BrE

1 cast around/about/round for sth

to try to think of something to do or say, especially when this is difficult and you need to think of something quickly: *"Where's your homework, Jackie?" Jackie cast around for an excuse.* | *He cleared his throat, casting about for something to say.*

2 cast around/about/round for sb/sth

to try to find someone or something, especially when this is difficult: *Meanwhile the bank has been casting around for a new chief executive.* | *Miles suddenly felt faint, and cast around for a chair.*

cast aside

1 cast aside sb/sth cast sb/sth aside

formal to get rid of someone or something because you do not like them or need them any more: *When Henry became King, he cast aside his former friends.* | *Cast aside his military ambitions, Von Langen now launched himself on a political career.*

2 cast aside sth cast sth aside

formal to get rid of negative feelings: *Peace campaigners hope that one day Catholics and Protestants will cast aside centuries of hostility, and live together in peace.* | *Every year thousands of northern Europeans cast their inhibitions aside, and head for Greece's nudist beaches.*

* SIMILAR TO: cast off

be cast away

be cast away

to be left on an island where there are no other people, because your ship has sunk: *If you were cast away on a desert island, do you think you'd be able to survive?*

castaway N [C]

someone who has been left on an island where there are no other people, because their ship has sunk: *In stories the castaway always puts a message in a bottle and throws it out to sea.*

cast back

cast your mind back

to try to remember something that happened in the past

+ to *If you cast your mind back to your school chemistry lessons, you may recall that a 'catalyst' is a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction.*

cast down

1 be cast down

formal to be sad and upset because something bad has happened: *Churchill was obviously cast down by the news of this defeat.* | *"What is the matter?" asked Betty anxiously. She couldn't remember ever seeing Lydia so miserable and cast down.*

downcast ADJ

sad and upset because something bad has happened: *the sad, downcast faces of disappointed men*

2 cast your eyes/a glance down

formal to look down, especially because you are shy or ashamed: *Diana cast her eyes down demurely and started blushing.* | *She cast a glance down at the table to avoid his stare.*

3 cast down sth cast sth down

old-fashioned formal to destroy something completely: *All across the continent, earthquakes cast down the cities and levelled the mountains.*

cast off

1 cast off sth cast sth off

formal to get rid of something because you do not need it any more, or because it is stopping you from making progress: *It was time to grow up, time to cast off childish things.* | *Under colonial rule, the people had been encouraged to cast off their old traditions and adopt a western lifestyle.*

* SIMILAR TO: cast aside

cast-offs N [PLURAL]

clothes that you do not wear any more and give to someone else: *When I was a kid I always had to wear my older brother's cast-offs.*

2 cast off

to untie the rope that fastens your boat to the shore, so that you can sail away: *It was perfect sailing weather. We cast off from San Diego and set sail for the Philippine Islands.*

3 cast off cast off sth cast sth off

to finish something you have been knitting by taking the last stitches off the needle in a way that stops it from coming undone. When you knit, you make something out of wool using two long needles: *Knit three rows in plain knitting. Cast off all stitches. Cut off wool.*

● COMPARE: cast on

cast on

cast on cast on sth cast sth on

to start something that you are knitting by making the first stitches on the needle. When you knit, you make something out of wool using two long needles: *Cast on and knit a few rows of stocking stitch in your main yarn.*

● COMPARE: cast off

cast out

1 cast out sb cast sb out

formal to force someone to leave a place, especially the place where they live, because you disapprove of them or something they have done: *He had been cast out by his family when they discovered that he was gay.*

+ of Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden after eating the forbidden fruit.

outcast N [C]

someone who is not accepted by the other people in their society: *In these health-conscious times, smokers are often treated like social outcasts.*

2 cast out sth **cast sth out**

literary to force something to go away or disappear: *Jesus had the power to heal diseases and cast out demons.*

cast round BrE

SEE **cast around**

cast up

cast up sth **cast sth up** USUALLY PASSIVE

especially BrE if the sea casts something up, it brings it to the shore: *The body was cast up a few miles down the coast.*

+ on a beautiful shell that had been cast up on the shore

* SIMILAR TO: **wash up**

CAT

catted, catted, catting

cat around

cat around

AmE old-fashioned informal to have sex with a lot of different people: *Mike just cats around and never gets serious with any woman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw around** informal, **sleep around** informal

CATCH

caught, caught, catching

catch at

catch at sth

to try to hold or pull something quickly, especially someone's arm or clothes: *Ruth caught at his arm. "Don't go! Please don't go!" | The path was thickly overgrown, and thorns caught at his clothes. | As he fell, he caught at a branch, and miraculously it held his weight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grab at**

catch on

1 catch on

to become popular and fashionable: *A new fitness craze from Australia called Body Pump is catching on in the UK. | Netscape's accessible, easy-to-use web tools are catching on fast.*

2 catch on

to begin to understand or realize something, especially after a long time: *The technique was introduced in America as early as 1956, but the British were slow to catch on. | Joe didn't know anything about oil when he joined the company. But he was smart – he caught on fast.*

+ to *Eventually Val caught on to what her husband was doing, and thought about how she could get her revenge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cotton on** BrE informal, **latch on** BrE informal

catch out

1 catch sb out

to trick someone so that they make a mistake, especially in order to prove that they are lying: *As for lying in court, don't even think about it – the prosecuting attorney will only catch you out. | One of the people at work is always asking me really technical questions, as if he's trying to catch me out.*

2 be caught out

if you are caught out by an unexpected event, it puts you in a difficult situation that you were not ready to deal with: *Even the most experienced sailor can get caught out by the weather. | Many people were caught out by the collapse in the housing market.*

catch up

1 catch up **catch sb/sth up**

to gradually get closer to a moving person or vehicle in front of you, by moving faster than they move: *Schumacher is still in front, but the other Ferrari is catching up. | You go ahead, and I'll catch you up later.*

catch up with *Looking back, I could see that the other walkers were catching up with us.*

2 catch up **catch sb up**

to improve so much that you reach the same standard as someone else who was better than you: *Ali was 6 when he started in my class and he couldn't speak any English, but eventually he caught up.*

+ with *The US spent billions of dollars trying to catch up with the Soviet Union in space exploration in the early '60s.*

be caught up in

1 be caught up in sth

to be involved in a situation when you did not intend to become involved in it, and often when you do not want to be: *1,000 people were killed each month in Burundi. Most were civilians caught up in the fighting. |*

Katherine was soon caught up in a dangerous web of suspicion, lies, and love.

get caught up in sth *I decided to keep quiet – I didn't want to get caught up in another endless, petty argument.*

2 be caught up in sth

if you are caught up in something, it stops you from moving or making progress: *The country seemed to be caught up in its medieval past.*

get caught up in sth *Sorry I'm late – I was caught up in the traffic.*

catch up on

1 catch up on sth

to do something that you did not have time to do earlier: *I need a couple of days to catch up on my letter writing.* | *The train journey to work takes 80 minutes, so he uses the time to catch up on his reading.*

catch up on your sleep *It had been a frantic week, and I spent most of the weekend trying to catch up on my sleep.*

2 catch up on sth

to get the most recent information about something

catch up on the news/gossip *On Saturday nights his Gran always went down to the village, to catch up on all the gossip.* | *It's Jill's birthday on April 2nd and they're having a party, so I'll catch up on the news then.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up with**

catch up with

1 catch up with sb NOT PASSIVE

if something bad catches up with you, it starts to cause problems which you have been able to avoid for a period of time, but are now forced to deal with: *Footballer Paul McGrath admitted that his long-term knee problems are finally beginning to catch up with him.* | *It seems she has a dark secret from her past which now threatens to catch up with her.*

2 catch up with sb

if someone in authority or the police catch up with you, they discover that you have been doing something wrong and punish you for it: *Hughes had been avoiding paying his taxes for years before the authorities finally caught up with him.* | *When the police caught up with him, they found his flat full of pornographic magazines and videos.*

3 catch up with sb

to meet someone you know after not seeing them for a period of time: *Brian is returning from New Zealand for the first time in 12*

years, and is keen to catch up with family and friends, especially his mother, Dolly.

I'll catch up with you later *spoken (=used to tell someone that you will talk to them later) I've got to dash off to a meeting now – I'll catch up with you later.*

4 catch up with sth

to do something that needs to be done, because you did not have time to do it earlier: *Friday is a fairly quiet day, so I usually have a chance to catch up with my paperwork.* | *Third-year students desperately trying to catch up on second-year work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up on**

5 catch up with sth

to get the most recent information about something: *The dinner was a pleasant opportunity for members to catch up with each other's news.* | *The Computer Show is a good opportunity to catch up with the latest software developments.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up on**

6 catch up with sb

to meet someone and ask them questions – used by newspaper and television reporters: *Ferruccio Furlanetto is one of the world's leading operatic singers. I caught up with him in his villa just outside Salzburg.*

CATER

catered, catered, catering

cater to

ALSO **cater for** BrE

cater to/for sb **cater to/for sth**

to provide something, especially a service, that a particular type of person wants or needs: *A number of bars and shops catering to a gay clientele have grown up along the waterfront.* | *La Renta caters to the tastes of women who want to look pretty and feminine.* | *a holiday company that caters for the disabled* | *The education system does not cater for exceptionally intelligent pupils like Emma.*

CAVE

caved, caved, caving

cave in

1 cave in cave sth in cave in sth

if a roof, ceiling, or wall caves in, or if something caves it in, it breaks and falls down: *The blast caused the roof of the Grand Hotel to cave in.* | *The tunnel had to be closed after an explosion caved the roof in.*

cave in on sb/sth *The whole building shook and I thought the walls and ceiling were going to cave in on me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall in**

2 **cave in**

to agree to do something that you opposed before, because someone has persuaded you or threatened you: *The council refused to give permission for a new stadium to be built, but then caved in when the baseball team threatened to leave town.*

cave in to sb's demands *Successive personnel managers had always caved in to Clasper's demands, because they knew that he would win in the end.*

cave in to pressure *The government caved in to pressure from property developers, and abandoned the proposed new building restrictions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give in, capitulate** formal

CENTRE BrE **CENTER** AmE

centred, centred, centring BrE
centered, centered, centering AmE

centre around

ALSO **centre round** BrE

centre around sth

be centred around sth

to happen mainly in a particular place, or to be mainly about a particular subject or person: *Village life is centred around one main street, lined with bars and restaurants overlooking the sea.* | *The Marxist theory of history centres around the notion of social class.* | *The story is centered around a group of single professional women in New York, who are all searching for someone to love.*

centre on/upon

● **Centre upon** is more formal than **centre on** and is used mostly in writing.

centre on/upon sb/sth

be centred on/upon sb/sth

to be mainly about a particular subject or person: *The story centers on a journalist called Cameron Colley, who struggles to save his failing marriage.* | *The talks will centre on the problem of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.*

centre round BrE

SEE **centre around**

centre upon

SEE **centre on**

CHAIN

chained, chained, chaining

chain up

chain up sb/sth **chain** sb/sth **up**

to fasten a person, animal, or thing to something with a chain, so that they cannot escape or be stolen: *The dog barked ferociously, and I was relieved to see that it was chained up.* | *Gareth left his bike chained up outside the college.*

CHALK

chalked, chalking, chalking

chalk up

1 **chalk up** sth **chalk** sth **up**

to succeed in winning or achieving something, especially in sport or business: *The company chalked up net profits of \$451 million.*

chalk up a win/victory *The Oxford Saints chalked up their third win of the season, and are on target for making the National League playoffs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **notch up, clock up** especially BrE

2 **chalk up** sth **chalk** sth **up**

if a company chalks up debts or losses, it gets them or has them: *After chalking up debts of \$3.5 billion, the Tokyo-based company is being rescued by five large Japanese banks.*

chalk up to

1 **chalk** sth **up to** sth

chalk up sth **to** sth

AmE to think or say that something happened because of something else: *The instructor couldn't understand Katz's strange behaviour but chalked it up to boredom.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put down to, attribute to** formal

2 **chalk it up to experience**

to accept a failure or disappointment calmly and consider it as an experience that you can learn something from: *Our relationship didn't work out, but oh well – chalk it up to experience.*

CHANCE

chanced, chanced, chancing

chance upon/on

chance upon/on sth

chance upon/on sb

formal to find something or meet someone when you are not expecting to: *Recently I*

was wandering around a department store, when I chanced upon an old school friend. | One day Allen chanced upon an advert in the Evening Standard inviting aspiring new actors to audition for a new play.

* SIMILAR TO: **happen on/upon**

CHANGE

changed, change, changing

change around

ALSO **change round** BrE

1 a change around/round sth

change sth around/round

to move things into different positions: *When we'd changed the furniture around, the room looked quite different. | You can create different effects by changing the plants around, creating contrasts in form and colour.*

2 b change sth around

if you change a room around, you move the furniture in it into different positions: *I'm going to change my room round, and put my desk next to the window.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rearrange, switch around**

change down

change down

BrE to put the engine of a vehicle into a lower gear because you are driving more slowly, or are driving up a hill: *It is important to change down in plenty of time to prevent having to brake fiercely.*

+ into *Slow down when you approach the junction, and change down into second gear.*

● OPPOSITE: **change up**

change into

1 change into sth

to become something completely different: *When the princess kissed the frog, it changed into a handsome prince. | In less than 20 years, Japan had changed into one of the world's leading economies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn into**

2 change sb/sth into sth

to make someone or something become something different: *Churches are being changed into apartments, and warehouses are being converted into offices. | The husband who constantly criticizes you is probably trying to change you into the kind of person he wants you to be. | Circe, a beautiful and dangerous witch, changed Odysseus' men into pigs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn into**

change over

1 change over

especially BrE to stop doing or using one system or thing, and to start doing or using a different one instead

+ to *Wheat was no longer profitable, and many farmers were forced to change over to dairy farming.*

change over from sth to sth *We changed over from gas to solar heating because it's cleaner and cheaper in the long term.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch over**

changeover N [C]

a change from one way of doing something to another: *The changeover from analogue to digital television should be complete by 2006.*

2 change over

especially BrE if two people change over, they each start doing the job or activity that the other one was doing before: *You navigate and I'll drive halfway, and then we'll change over. | One of us would do the digging and one of us would pull up weeds, then when we got bored we'd change over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **swap over** informal, **switch over**

change round

SEE **change around**

change up

change up

BrE to put the engine of a vehicle into a higher gear because you want to drive more quickly

+ into *When you're on the motorway, change up into fifth.*

● OPPOSITE: **change down**

CHARGE

charged, charge, charging

charge up

1 charge up sth charge sth up

charge up

if you charge up a battery or a piece of electrical equipment, or it charges up, electricity is put into it and stored so that it has power: *How long will it take for the batteries to charge up? | The shaver can be charged up overnight.*

2 charge up sth

AmE if you charge up a credit card, you use it a lot to buy things, with the result that you owe a lot of money. A credit card is a small

plastic card you use to buy goods or services and pay for them later: *When I lost my job I had to charge up all my credit cards just to pay the bills.* | *Karen charged up her Visa card on a shopping trip to Macy's.*

3 be charged up

AmE to feel excited and very eager to do something: *We came out onto the playing field, charged up and determined to win.*

charge with

1 charge sb with sth

to state officially that you think someone is guilty of a crime, especially so that a court of law can decide whether they should be punished: *Police arrested Reid and charged him with murder.* | *He was charged with possession of illegal drugs.*

charge sb with doing sth *Ames was charged with spying for the Russians.*

2 be charged with sth

formal to officially have a particular responsibility or duty: *The Committee is charged with investigating the causes of the accident.* | *The board was charged with the task of seeing that new courses were of the right standard.*

3 be charged with emotion/anger/excitement

formal to be full of emotion, anger, or excitement: *Sabrina's voice was charged with emotion, and I could see that she was still upset.*

CHASE

chased, chased, chasing

chase after

1 chase after sth

to use a lot of time and effort trying to get something that you want: *During elections, politicians have to chase after thousands of dollars to support their campaign.* | *We spend the morning chasing after bargains in the sales.*

2 chase after sb

to try very hard to have a romantic or sexual relationship with someone: *Jacob never stopped chasing after young women, even when he was married.* | *If you keep chasing after guys like that, they're never going to be interested in you.*

chase away

chase sb/sth away chase away sb/sth

to make a person or animal go away by running towards them in a threatening way: *The storekeeper chased the men away with his gun.* | *Two large dogs brutally attacked a*

10-year-old boy until a neighbor chased them away.

* SIMILAR TO: **chase off**

chase down

chase down sb/sth chase sb/sth down

to succeed in finding or catching someone or something: *Police departments concentrate on chasing down criminals, rather than helping communities to prevent crime.* | *Latapy broke through the 49ers defense, chased down the ball, and scored a touchdown.*

chase off

chase off sb/sth chase sb/sth off

to make a person or animal go away by scaring them or running towards them in a threatening way: *We still talk about the time Grandpa chased off a gang of boys with the kitchen broom.* | *A Navy ship was attacked by two smaller boats, but managed to chase them off before any harm was done.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chase away**

chase up

1 chase up sb chase sb up

BrE to remind someone to do something they promised to do for you: *I had to chase Dick up to get the reports I asked for last week.*

2 chase sth up chase up sth

BrE to try to find something because people need it: *Can you chase up that file for me?*

3 chase up sth chase sth up

BrE to try to make sure that something is paid or done, especially when it has taken too long: *The company employs a team of 20 people to chase up unpaid bills.*

CHAT

chatted, chatted, chatting

chat up

1 chat up sb chat sb up

BrE informal to talk to someone who you feel sexually attracted to and try to persuade them to start a sexual relationship with you: *We found Doug in the bar, trying to chat up a waitress.* | *He said I had nice eyes, and I thought he was trying to chat me up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hit on** AmE spoken informal

2 chat up sb chat sb up

AmE informal to talk with someone in a friendly way, especially when you want them to help you or give you something: *Malone will chat up anyone who walks into his store.* | *Gwen felt obligated to chat her boss up after work.*

CHEAT

cheated, cheated, cheating

cheat on**1 cheat on sb**

to deceive your husband, wife, or sexual partner by secretly having sex with someone else: *A recent study shows that a third of all married people have cheated on their husbands or wives at least one time. | When Sherry discovered that her boyfriend had been cheating on her, she finished with him immediately.*

2 cheat on sth

AmE to behave in a dishonest way in order to get better results in a test: *Fred confessed to his parents that he had cheated on his biology test. | Chris got a good grade on the Spanish quiz, but I know he cheated on part of it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cheat****3 cheat on your taxes**

AmE to hide information or lie about how much money you make in order to pay less tax: *Perkins spent five years in jail for cheating on his taxes.*

CHECK

checked, checked, checking

check in**1a check in**

to go to the desk at an airport in order to show your ticket and give them your bags to put on the plane: *For international flights you'll need to check in two hours in advance. | Where do we check in for flight 409?*

check-in N [SINGULAR]

the place at the airport where you show your ticket and give them your bags to put on the plane: *We rushed over to the check-in and showed the man our tickets.*

check-in time N [C]

the time when you have to check in at an airport: *Check-in time is 9.30, one hour before take-off.*

1b check in sth check sth in

to give your bags to a person who works at the desk in the airport, so they can weigh them and put them on the plane: *People were waiting to check in their luggage. | How many bags do you want to check in?*

1c check sb in check in sb

to look at someone's ticket and take their bags, before they get on a plane: *I can check you in over here, sir.*

2 check in

to go to the desk at a hotel and say that you have arrived, and get the keys to your room: *Bernstein checked in at Miami's most expensive hotel. | There was a long wait at the reception desk, where everyone was checking in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check into, book in/into** BrE● OPPOSITE: **check out****3 check in sth check sth in**

AmE to return a book, video etc to the library after you have borrowed it: *I need to check my books in by Friday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return****check into****1 check into sth**

to go to the desk at a hotel and say that you have arrived, get the keys to your room etc: *It was about 11pm when I got to Burlington and checked into the Holiday Inn. | Travelers were forced to check into motels Thursday because of icy roads and snow.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check in, book in/into** BrE**2 check into sth**

to try to get more information about something: *Blackman said he'd check into the matter and call me back. | Tyson checked into the possibility of a summer holiday in Greece, but decided it was too expensive.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look into****3 check into sth**

especially AmE if you check into a hospital or medical centre, you go there to stay for a while because you need medical help: *Riley checked into Shands Hospital with severe stomach pains. | Lionel checked into a drug treatment center in an attempt to get himself off heroin.*

check off**a check off sth check sth off**

to make a mark next to something on a list to show that you have dealt with it or looked at it: *Once each job has been completed, you can check it off and begin to work on something else. | His wife checked off the names of the guests as they arrived.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tick off** BrE**b check off sth check sth off**

AmE to make a mark next to an answer on a list of choices or answers to a question, in order to show which one you have chosen: *Look over the list and check off the ten issues that seem most important to you. | If you'd like a representative to call you, please check off the box on the right.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check** AmE, **tick off** BrE

check on**1** **check on** sb/sth

to find out if someone is doing what they are supposed to be doing, or that something is happening the way that you want: *Company executives sometimes come to the office to check on employees.* | "Dinner's almost ready," Alice said, opening the oven door to check on the roast.

* SIMILAR TO: **check up on**

2 **check on** sb/sth

to make sure that someone or something is safe, or has everything they need: *Adrienne often checks on her elderly neighbours across the street.* | *Honey, can you go upstairs and check on the kids?* | *Would you mind checking on our house a couple of times while we're on holiday?*

3 **check on** sth

to try to get more information about something: *I stopped at the camping store to check on the price of tents.* | *Please do not call our office to check on the status of your application.*

check out**1** **check out** sth/sb **check** sth/sb **out**

to get more information about something or someone, especially so that you can find out if they are suitable or good, or whether what you have been told about them is true: *After checking out several colleges, Karen decided on Iowa State University.* | *Check us out on our new website!* | *The man in the store said he needed to check out my credit background.*

2a **check out** sth **check** sth **out**

to make sure that information is true or correct: *You should check out all the facts before you make a decision.*

* SIMILAR TO: **investigate**

2b **check out**

if information checks out, it is shown to be true or correct: *As long as your references check out, we'll give you the job.* | *Anyone whose credit history checks out can get a low-interest loan.*

3 **check out** sb/sth **check** sb/sth **out**

AmE to look at someone or something because they are interesting, attractive, unusual etc: *Let's check out the castle before we go back to the hotel.* | *I turned around and caught Bill checking me out.*

check it out/check this out spoken, especially AmE *Hey, check it out!* *Bob has a new haircut!*

4 **check out**

to return your room keys and pay your bill at a hotel so that you can leave: *What time do*

we have to check out? | *After checking out, I realized I had left my purse in the room.*

● OPPOSITE: **check in**

checkout N [SINGULAR]

when you prepare to leave a hotel by paying your bill and returning your room keys: *Checkout is at 10am.*

5 **check out** sth **check** sth **out**

AmE to borrow or rent something from a business, such as books from a library: *The library allows you to check out six books at a time.*

6a **check** sb **out** **check out** sb

AmE to add up prices of a customer's products in a store and take payment for them: *I can check you out on cash register 5.*

6b **check out**

AmE to let a store worker add up the prices of products you want to buy, and then pay for them: *It's going to take forever to check out!* *This line has 10 people in it!*

checkout N [C]

the place in a supermarket (=a large shop that sells food) where you pay for the goods that you have collected: *We had to wait for ages at the checkout.*

7 **check out**

AmE informal to die: *My grandmother just checked out one day without any warning.*

check over**1** **check over** sth **check** sth **over**

to examine something to make sure it is correct, acceptable, or working properly: *Mechanics checked over the engine before the plane took off.* | *Would you mind checking over my application for me before I send it off?*

* SIMILAR TO: **look over**

2 **check** sb **over** **check over** sb

to examine someone to make sure they are healthy: *I'd like Dr Harris to check you over once more before you leave the office.* | *Dunston was pulled off the football field and checked over by a doctor.*

* SIMILAR TO: **examine**, **look over**

check through**1** **check through** sth

to examine a collection of things or the contents of something, because you are trying to find something: *I've checked through all my drawers, but there's no sign of my red sweater.* | *The police checked through the suspect's bank statements, and discovered that she had received a payment of \$200,000 on July 6th.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look through**

2 check through sth check sth through

to examine something to make sure that there are no mistakes in it or no problems with it: *I just want to check through my work before I hand it in to the teacher.*

check up

check up check up sth

check sth up

BrE to make sure that you have the correct information about something: *I don't know if you need a visa for India – you'd better check up first before you buy your ticket.*

checkup N [C]

when a doctor examines you to see if you are healthy: *Doctors recommend a yearly checkup for most adults.*

check up on

1 check up on sb/sth

to try to find out if someone is doing what they should be doing, especially secretly: *Immigration officials checked up on him and found that he was using a stolen passport. | My boss doesn't trust anyone and he's always coming into the office to check up on me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check on**

2 check up on sb

to make sure that someone is still safe and healthy: *"I'll be back in a few minutes to check up on you," promised Dr Finnegan. | Munson encouraged college students who go out drinking to stay together and check up on each other.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check on**

CHEER

cheered, cheered, cheering

cheer on

cheer on sb/sth cheer sb/sth on

to shout in order to encourage someone who is taking part in a game, race, or competition: *6,000 fans cheered on their teams in the high school basketball championship game. | With friends and family cheering me on, I finished the marathon in less than four hours.*

cheer up

1 cheer up cheer sb up cheer up sb

to feel happier after you have been feeling sad or upset, or to make someone do this: *Cheer up, Jerry. It can't be that bad. | We took Randy for a weekend trip to New Orleans to cheer him up after his divorce. | Listening to music always cheers me a up a bit. | Craig needs cheering up. What should we do?*

2 cheer sth up cheer up sth

to make a place look more attractive and cheerful: *I've brought some flowers. I thought they'd cheer the place up a little.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up**

CHEESE

be cheesed off

be cheesed off

BrE informal to be bored, annoyed, or disappointed with something: *What's wrong with David? He looks really cheesed off.*

+ with/about *I'm totally cheesed off with this class. | He's a bit cheesed off about having to work every Saturday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fed up**

CHEW

chewed, chewed, chewing

chew on

chew on sth

informal, especially AmE to think about a question, problem, or idea carefully for a period of time: *The movie ended suddenly, leaving the audience to chew on the disturbing scenes they had just watched. | Why don't you chew on it over the weekend, and make a decision by Monday?*

* SIMILAR TO: **ponder formal, chew over**

chew out

chew sb out chew out sb

AmE informal to talk angrily to someone to show that you disapprove of what they have done: *My boss chewed me out for not getting the report in on time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bawl out AmE informal, tell off, lay into**

chew over

chew over sth chew sth over

to think about a question, problem, or idea carefully for a period of time, or to discuss it in detail: *I can't give you an answer right away – I need some time to chew it over. | Commentators have been chewing over the implications of the chancellor's announcement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ponder formal, chew on informal, mull over**

chew up

1 chew up sth chew sth up

to crush food with your teeth in order to break it into smaller pieces before swallowing it: *Tommy chewed up his vegetables without*

complaining. | I tried to chew up the meat, but it tasted so horrible I had to spit it out.

2 **chew up** sth **chew** sth **up**

to crush something with your teeth, with the result that it is broken into small pieces or has a lot of holes in it: *The dogs will chew up the furniture if we don't watch them carefully. | Be careful to keep the papers away from the baby or she'll chew them up.*

3 **chew up** sth **chew** sth **up**

if a machine chews something up, it damages or destroys it, especially by crushing or breaking it into small pieces: *The printer is chewing the paper up again. | Be careful – that engine could chew your finger up.*

CHICKEN

chickened, chickened, chickening

chicken out

chicken out

informal to decide not to do something because you are too afraid – used especially to show disapproval: *Foreman's opponent chickened out at the last minute and said he didn't want to fight.*

chicken out on sb *Tomorrow's the race – you're not chickening out on us, are you?*

chicken out of doing sth *At the last minute I chickened out of going to Africa and decided instead to take a holiday in Italy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wimp out** *informal*

CHILL

chilled, chilled, chilling

chill out

1 **chill out**

spoken informal to relax: *"What are you doing?" "Nothing much. Just chilling out." | The band were chilling out in their hotel room after the concert.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax**

2 **chill out!**

spoken informal used to tell someone not to worry or not to get annoyed or too excited: *Hey girl, chill out, okay! He's not worth worrying about.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down**

CHIME

chimed, chimed, chiming

chime in

chime in

to say something in a conversation, especially by agreeing with or adding to what someone

has just said: *"It's a great idea," my sister Rose chimed in. | At the teachers' meeting Mrs Larsen complained about the low pay, and soon all the other teachers were chiming in as well.*

chime in with

chime in with sth

especially BrE to be similar to someone else's opinions or feelings, or be similar to what someone has just said: *Churchill's speeches chimed in with the national mood at the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **agree with**

CHIP

chipped, chipped, chipping

chip away at

chip away at sth

to gradually reduce something or make something disappear: *Book sales over the Internet are chipping away at the profits of retail bookstores. | The Rockets were slowly chipping away at their opponents' lead. | Smokers complain that anti-smoking campaigns have chipped away at their rights.*

chip in

1 **chip in**

informal if each person in a group chips in, they all give a small amount of money in order to pay for something together: *When Mona retired, all her co-workers chipped in and bought her a going away present. | If we all chip in, we should be able to get something really nice.*

* SIMILAR TO: **contribute**

2 **chip in**

especially BrE to interrupt a conversation in order to say something: *"Chris is also a really good football player," Alex chipped in. | With everyone trying to chip in at once, it was difficult to hear what anyone was saying.*

CHIVVY

chivvied, chivvied, chivvying

chivvy along/up

chivvy sb **along/up**

BrE to try to make someone do something more quickly, especially because you think they are taking too long: *Go and see if you can chivvy the kids up a bit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hurry along/up**

CHOK

choked, choked, choking

choke back**choke back tears/anger/
disappointment etc**

to force yourself not to cry or show your feelings about something: *Dole choked back tears as he announced his resignation. | Choking back his own disappointment, he congratulated his opponent on his victory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **choke down, force back, hold back**

choke down**1** **choke down sth** **choke sth down** <

to eat or drink something with difficulty, especially because you do not like it, or because you are ill or upset: *I managed to choke down part of the soup and promised to try to finish the rest of it later. | Trying to be polite, Janie took a small portion of the meat and began to choke it down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **force down**

2 **choke down sth** **choke sth down**

to force yourself not to show your feelings: *"All right," I said, choking down my tears, "I'll apologise to Mrs James."*

* SIMILAR TO: **choke back, hold back, fight back**

choke off**choke off sth**

to stop the supply of something: *The government is increasing its efforts to choke off the flow of cocaine from Latin America to the United States.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop, block**

choke up**1** **choke up** **choke sb up**

to have difficulty speaking because you are almost crying, or to make someone do this: *When she was thanking her family for all the help over the years, she started to choke up. | Louis Armstrong's song 'Wonderful World' chokes me up every time I hear it.*

choked up ADJ

when you have difficulty speaking because you are almost crying: *Bill wanted to thank the woman, but he was too choked up to speak.*

2 **choke up sth** **choke sth up**

to block a street or area etc so that people or traffic cannot easily move through it: *Commuter traffic chokes up the freeways during rush hour.*

CHOOSE

chose, chosen, choosing

choose up**choose up sth** **choose up**

AmE to divide a group of people into teams, usually to play a game or sport: *We chose up different teams, and started a new game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pick**

CHOP

chopped, chopped, chopping

chop down**chop down sth** **chop sth down** ✕

to make a tree fall to the ground by cutting it with an axe (=a sharp heavy tool) *The American legend says that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut down**

chop off**chop off sth** **chop sth off**

to remove something using a knife or other sharp tool: *Chop off the ends of the carrots before you peel them. | The thieves threatened to chop her fingers off if she didn't give them her rings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut off, hack off**

chop up**chop up sth** **chop sth up**

to cut something, especially food or wood, into smaller pieces: *Dad was chopping up wood for the fire. | Chop up a cup of green or black olives and add them to the sauce. | You should chop the onion up into tiny pieces and mix it with the peppers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut up**

CHOW

chowed, chowed, chowing

chow down**chow down**

AmE informal to eat – especially to eat a lot of food with enjoyment: *It's not the nicest place in town to chow down, but they do serve a good steak dinner.*

+ on *Manhattan diners can chow down on Southwestern food at The Lone Cactus Restaurant on Houston Street.*

CHUCK

chucked, chucked, chucking

chuck away**chuck away sth** **chuck sth away**

informal, especially BrE to get rid of something you no longer need: *We had to chuck a lot of our stuff away when we moved.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw away**, **chuck out** *informal*

chuck down**it's chucking (it) down**

BrE spoken informal used to say that it is raining very hard: *It's been chucking down for days now – when is it going to stop!*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour down**

chuck in**chuck in sth** **chuck sth in**

BrE informal to suddenly stop doing something, especially your job or your course of study: *She chucked in a perfectly good job and went to live with her boyfriend.*

chuck it (all) in *Sometimes I feel like chucking it all in and going off to India for a year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **quit**, **give up**, **throw in** *BrE*

chuck out**1 chuck out sth** **chuck sth out**

informal to get rid of something you no longer need: *Instead of just chucking out your old clothes, why not give them to charity? | You can chuck out the milk – it's been in the fridge for weeks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw out**, **chuck away** *informal*

2 chuck out sb **chuck sb out**

BrE informal to force someone to leave a place, especially because they are behaving badly: *She found out he was having an affair, and so she chucked him out.*

+ of *We got chucked out of the pub last night for making too much noise.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw out**, **kick out**

chucking-out time *BrE informal* N [U]

when a pub (=a place where you can drink alcohol) closes for the night: *They stayed at the pub until chucking-out time.*

chuck up**chuck up** **chuck up sth** **chuck sth up**

BrE informal to vomit (=bring food or drink up from your stomach and out through your mouth, because you are ill) *I was chucking up all night – I think it must have been the shellfish.*

* SIMILAR TO: **vomit**, **throw up**

CHUG

chugged, chugged, chugging

chug along**chug along** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal to continue doing something or developing in the same way as before, but very slowly and steadily: *Economists expect Japan's economy to keep chugging along, although at a slower pace than before. | "We're chugging along, trying to resolve all these problems," said Gary Hansen, who is leading the campaign to build a new sports stadium.*

CHUM

chummed, chummed, chumming

chum around**chum around**

AmE informal to be friendly with someone or to do things together with someone as a friend

+ with *"Saunders is always chumming around with me. He's cool," says the Giants' batboy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pal around** *AmE informal*

chum up**chum up**

old-fashioned to become friends with someone

+ with *Lani soon chummed up with the girl in the room next door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pal up** *BrE informal*

CHURN

churned, churned, churning

churn out**churn out sth** **churn sth out**

to quickly produce large quantities of something, especially without caring about quality: *In recent years, large corporations have built overseas factories to churn out clothing and toys. | She used to churn out at least one novel each year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crank out** *AmE informal*

churn up**1 churn up sth** **churn sth up**

if something churns up the ground, water, dust etc, it moves it around with a lot of force: *Strong winds have churned up huge dust storms in southern California this week. | The storm churned up 10-foot waves off southern Thailand, sinking more than 20 boats.*

2 churn up sth churn sth up

to damage the surface of something, especially by walking on it or driving over it: *Heavy trucks and buses are churning up the freeways.* | *They put up a fence to keep the neighbourhood kids from churning up the lawn.*

* SIMILAR TO: **plough up**

CLAM

clammed, clammed, clamming

clam up

clam up

informal to suddenly stop talking or to refuse to say anything about a subject, because you do not want to talk about it or because you are shy: *Howard clammed up as soon as the others came into the room.* | *I tried asking him about Eileen, but he just clammed up completely.*

clam up on sb (=suddenly stop talking to someone about something) *Celia wondered why her mother clammed up on her whenever she asked what had happened to her father in the war.*

CLAMP

clamped, clamped, clamping

clamp down

clamp down

if the authorities clamp down on something or someone they take action in order to stop them or limit them – used especially in news reports

+ **on** *The new French government has announced plans to clamp down on illegal immigrants.* | *The police are really clamping down on drunk drivers.* | *South African leaders vowed to clamp down on the violence sweeping the province.* | *The government's clamping down on tax evasion.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack down**

clampdown

clampdown *n* [C]
when the authorities suddenly take action to stop something happening or to limit it

+ **on** *calls for a clampdown on gun ownership*

+ **against** *a clampdown against opposition groups in Burma*

CLAP

clapped, clapped, clapping

clap out

clap out sth clap sth out

BrE to hit your hands together in order to produce a pattern of sound

clap out the rhythm/beat *My piano teacher always made me clap out the rhythm first before I tried to play a new tune.*

CLAW

clawed, clawed, clawing

claw at

1 claw at sth/sb

to tear or pull at something, using your fingers or nails: *Jenna suddenly raised her hand and clawed at his face.* | *I was woken up by the cat clawing at the bedroom door.*

2 claw at sb/sth

literary if an emotion or feeling claws at you, you feel it very strongly in a way that is unpleasant: *Jealousy clawed at her, and she wanted to scream.*

claw back

1 claw back sth claw sth back

to gradually get back something that you had lost by working hard and in a very determined way: *Through heavy advertising, the company managed to claw back its share of the market.* | *Two months before the election, Yeltsin started to claw back the lead gained by his Communist rival.*

2 claw back sth claw sth back

BrE if a government or organization claws back money which it has spent, it finds a way of gradually getting it back: *The government is attempting to claw back the budget deficit, which currently stands at £50 billion.* | *Although he cut income tax, the Chancellor was able to claw back the money through hidden charges on investments and pensions.*

CLEAN

cleaned, cleaned, cleaning

clean down

clean down sth clean sth down

BrE to clean the surface of something thoroughly: *Make sure that you clean the walls down before you start painting.* | *All the machines are cleaned down at the end of each day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wash down**

clean out

1 clean out sth clean sth out

to clean the inside of something and throw away anything in it that you do not need or want: *I spent Saturday morning cleaning out the fridge and the food cupboards.* | *When are you going to clean out your room – it's in a terrible mess!*

clean-out N [SINGULAR]

when you clean a place thoroughly and throw away things in it that you do not need or want: *It's time we had a thorough clean-out in this house.*

2 clean out sth **clean sth out**

to remove dirt, dust, leaves etc from a place when they are blocking it: *Before the winter, you should check the gutters and clean out any rubbish.* | *The nurse carefully washed the wound and cleaned out the dirt and grit.*

3 clean out sth **clean sth out**

to clean the place where an animal is kept: *The stables have to be cleaned out every day.*

clean out the fish/horses/chickens etc BrE
It's your turn to clean out the fish.

4a clean sb out **clean out sb**

informal if something cleans you out, it costs so much money that you have no more left: *It was a great holiday, but it really cleaned us out.* | *When I pay the bills, I'll be cleaned out.*

4b clean sb out

if someone cleans you out, you have to give them all your money: *The divorce was very expensive – my wife cleaned me out completely.*

5 clean sth out **clean out sth**

informal to steal everything from a place, or all of someone's possessions

clean the place out *The thieves had completely cleaned the place out.*

clean up**1 clean up** **clean up sth** **clean sth up**

to make a place or person clean and tidy, after they have become very dirty: *We spent all Saturday morning cleaning up after the party.* | *A lot of money needs to be spent on cleaning up our beaches.*

clean yourself up *You'd better clean yourself up before dinner!*

clean up the mess BrE *I don't mind you having a party, as long as you clean up the mess afterwards.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clear up**

clean-up N [SINGULAR]

when you clean a place thoroughly and make it tidy, especially when it is very dirty: *This kitchen could do with a bit of a clean-up.*

2 clean up sth **clean sth up**

to remove dirt, water, poisonous gases etc from something in order to make it clean again: *There was mud all over the carpet and it took me ages to clean it up.* | *The way to clean up pollution in our cities is to limit the amount of traffic allowed in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clear up**

clean-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

concerned with removing the dirt, water, poisonous gases etc caused by a disaster: *Equipment was sent to help with the clean-up operation at Chernobyl.*

3 clean up sth **clean sth up**

to improve the moral standards in a place or organization and stop people behaving in an illegal or dishonest way: *The new governor was determined to clean up Arizona's politics.* | *New laws aimed at cleaning up the financial services industry will soon be in place.*

clean-up ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

concerned with getting rid of dishonest or criminal activities: *a clean-up campaign to prevent the sale of illegal drugs*

4 clean up your act

informal to improve the way in which you do something and start behaving in a more acceptable way: *The industries that are responsible for this pollution must clean up their act.* | *Lou was really wild as a teenager, but recently he's started to clean up his act.*

5 clean up

informal to win or earn a very large amount of money: *We really cleaned up at the races today.*

CLEAR

cleared, cleared, clearing

clear away**1 clear away sth** **clear sth away****clear away**

to put away the things that you have been using so that a place looks neat again, especially after a meal: *By ten-thirty we'd cleared away the breakfast things and everyone was ready to go out.* | *You'd better clear all these toys away before your grandmother gets here.* | *Mum was watching television, so the rest of us cleared away and washed up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clear up** BrE, **tidy away**

2 clear away

to move away from a place: *The protesters slowly cleared away from the building when the police arrived.*

clear off**1 clear off!**

spoken, especially BrE used to tell someone rudely and angrily to go away: *Clear off and don't come back!*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away, push off!** BrE *spoken informal*, **buzz off!** *spoken informal*

2 clear off clear off sth

informal, especially BrE to leave a place quickly: *Frank cleared off at about ten o'clock, without saying where he was going.*

✦ to I couldn't stand the English climate, so I cleared off to America as soon as I could.

clear out

1 clear out sth clear sth out

to make a room, cupboard etc tidy and throw away the things in it you do not need or want anymore: *While I was clearing out the attic, I found some old photographs of my mother. | It took them hours just to clear out the hall cupboards.*

clear-out N [SINGULAR]

when you make a place tidy and throw away the things in it that you do not need or want anymore: *Look at this mess – it's time we had a big clear-out in here.*

2 clear out

informal to leave a place or building quickly or suddenly, especially permanently: *By the time the police arrived the men had already cleared out.*

✦ of I'll give you two hours to collect your things and clear out of here!

clear out! (=used to tell someone rudely and angrily to leave a place) *Clear out! I don't want to see you again!*

* SIMILAR TO: get out

clear up

1 clear up clear up sth clear sth up

BrE to put things back where they are usually kept and make a place clean and tidy, especially after a meal, party etc: *Let's clear up as quickly as possible and then watch the film on TV.*

clear up the mess BrE *I went through to the front room to clear up the mess.*

clear up after sb (=make a place clean and tidy after someone else has made it dirty and untidy) *I'm tired of clearing up after other people all the time!*

* SIMILAR TO: tidy up BrE

2 clear up sth clear sth up

to solve a problem or deal with a disagreement or a situation in which people have become confused: *Talks continued late into the night in an effort to clear up the remaining difficulties. | Why don't you phone him and clear up the confusion? | There are various problems of organization that still need to be cleared up.*

* SIMILAR TO: sort out

3 clear up sth clear sth up

to find an explanation for something that is strange and hard to understand: *Officials have been unable to clear up the mystery of how the ship caught fire. | The case was never cleared up completely and no one knows what happened to the man suspected of her murder.*

* SIMILAR TO: solve

4 clear up clear up sth clear sth up

if an illness or infection clears up, or if medicine clears it up, it gets better and disappears: *Keep taking the antibiotics and the infection should clear up within a week. | The doctor prescribed a cream which will help to clear it up.*

5 the weather clears up/it clears up

if the weather clears up, it stops raining and becomes more pleasant: *If the weather clears up, why don't we go to the beach this afternoon? | The weather forecast said that it would clear up later in the day.*

* SIMILAR TO: brighten up

CLEAVE

cleaved, cleaved, cleaving

cleave to

cleave to sth

formal to continue to believe that a particular idea, method etc is right, even when most other people have stopped believing this: *There are people in the former Soviet Union who still cleave to the old Marxist ideology of a one-party state.*

CLICK

clicked, clicked, clicking

click on

click on sth

to make a computer perform an operation by pressing a button on the mouse in order to choose something on the screen. A mouse is a small object connected to a computer, which you move with your hand to give commands to the computer: *Once you have entered your data, click on OK. | Click on the printer icon with the right mouse button.*

CLIMB

climbed, climbed, climbing

climb down

climb down

BrE to admit that you were wrong in an argument, or agree to accept other people's demands: *Neither side in the dispute has been willing to climb down.*

* SIMILAR TO: back down

climbdowN N [C]

when you admit that you were wrong, or agree to accept other people's demands: *This change in policy has been seen as a humiliating climbdowN by the government.*

CLING

clung, clung, clinging

cling to/cling on to**1 cling (on) to the idea/hope/belief etc**

to continue to have a particular idea, belief, or hope even when it seems unlikely to be true or right: *He was clinging desperately to the hope that his family might be alive and safe somewhere.* | *The government clung on to the idea of a negotiated settlement as a way out of their difficulty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold onto/on to sth**

2 cling (on) to the past/to tradition/ to the old ways etc

to continue to do something in the way you always have done because you do not want to change, even when most other people have changed: *He accused me of clinging to the past, instead of looking to the future.* | *It was a small community, which still clung on to its traditions.*

3 cling (on) to power

to stay in a position of power with great difficulty: *The reforms were seen as an attempt by the Communists to cling to power.*

4 cling (on) to your lead/the championship/the gold medal etc

to stay ahead of the other people or teams in a competition, race etc with great difficulty: *Tiger Woods managed to cling on to his lead, despite a late challenge from the Europeans.*

5 cling on to life

to struggle to stay alive after an accident, operation etc, especially when you are very ill and likely to die: *An eighteen-year-old man was still clinging to life after being shot in the head in Santa Clara.*

CLOCK

clocked, clocked, clocking

clock in

ALSO **clock on** BrE

clock in/on

to record the time that you arrive at work, especially by putting a special card into a machine: *Staff are expected to clock in when they arrive at the factory.* | *I used to clock on at eight in the morning every day.*

● OPPOSITE: **clock off/out**

clock in at**clock in at sth**

to have a particular time, weight etc, when this information is being officially recorded: *The next time she ran the race, she clocked in at 41.81 seconds.* | *At £699, the Olivetti PG404 clocks in at less than half the price of the LaserJet 4.*

clock out

ALSO **clock off** BrE

clock off/out

to record the time that you leave work, especially by putting a special card into a machine: *She clocks off at 7.15 and goes home to cook her family's supper.*

● OPPOSITE: **clock in/on**

clock up**clock up sth**

especially BrE to reach or achieve a large number or amount of something over a period of time: *The England team clocked up their third successive win.* | *Jeremy Smith was jailed for six months after clocking up his twelfth drink-driving offence.*

* SIMILAR TO: **notch up, chalk up**

CLOG

clogged, clogged, clogging

clog up**1 clog up clog up sth clog sth up**

if something such as a road or tube clogs up, or something clogs it up, it becomes blocked and nothing in it is able to move: *The coffee machine keeps clogging up.* | *Fallen leaves had clogged up the drains.*

+ **with** *The town centre was completely clogged up with traffic this afternoon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block up**

2 clog up the system

if a lot of things clogs up the system, they prevent it from working smoothly and prevent things from being dealt with as quickly as usual: *All the extra applications for passports have clogged up the system.*

CLOSE

closed, closed, closing

close down**1 close down**

if a business or organization closes down, it stops operating for a short time or permanently: *Even in Washington, cafes, shops and*

offices closed down during the recession. | *The Bowes was a thriving rock disco during the eighties, but it closed down two years ago.* | *The college has closed down for the summer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut down**

2 **close down sth** **close sth down**

to stop a business or an organization operating for a short time or permanently: *The restaurant was closed down by the Environmental Health Department.* | *In the end, they had to close down a number of the company's European offices.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut down**

3 **close down**

BrE when radio or television closes down, it stops broadcasting at the end of the day: *BBC2 closes down at 12.45 tonight.*

closedown N [U]

BrE when radio or television stop being broadcast at the end of the day: *the late-night closedown*

close in

1 **close in**

to move closer and closer to someone or something, especially in order to attack them or stop them escaping: *The lions were running faster and faster, closing in for the kill.*

+ on *I knew that the gang was closing in on me – there was nowhere for me to run.* | *Serb forces began closing in on Srebrenica and the UN was powerless to stop them.*

2 **close in**

if bad weather closes in, it starts to get worse: *Sarah glanced at the sky, anxious to get home before the weather closed in.* | *The fog began to close in and we couldn't see a thing.*

3 **the night closes in**

if the night closes in, it gradually becomes darker: *It was 8 o'clock, and the night was already starting to close in.*

4 **close in**

if trees, mountains, walls etc close in, they seem to surround you and be close together or be very close to you: *At Urepele the mountains close in and the road ends.* | *The path got narrower and narrower as the trees closed in on all sides.*

5 **the days close in**

BrE if the days close in, it gradually gets darker earlier because it is the autumn: *It was the beginning of September, and already the days were closing in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **draw in** BrE

close off

close off sth **close sth off**

to block the entrance to a particular area or road in order to prevent people from going there: *Police closed off the whole road while they dealt with the accident.* | *With more than 5,000 fans waiting to see Schwarzenegger, the area around Planet Hollywood had to be closed off.*

+ to *Parts of the palace were closed off to the public for redecoration and repair.*

* SIMILAR TO: **seal off**

close on

close on sb/sth

BrE to gradually get closer and closer to a person or an animal, especially in a race or when you are trying to catch them: *He ran the length of the pitch with Steve Hackney closing on him every second.* | *The other plane was only about one hundred feet above the sea, and we closed on it rapidly.*

close out

1 **close out sth** **close sth out**

to prevent light or noise from reaching a place by closing windows, curtains etc: *He shut the windows, closing out the noise from the schoolyard across the road.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block out, shut out**

2 **close out sth** **close sth out**

to make something end, especially a sports game or competition: *Friday's game against Texas will close out the regular season.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

3 **close out sth** **close sth out**

AmE if a store closes out on a type of goods, it sells all of them cheaply: *Manufacturers who want to close out a line of goods can often sell them to discount stores.*

+ on *Marshall's usually closes out on their summer lines in August.*

4 **close out sth**

AmE if you close out a bank account, you take all your money from it and say that you no longer want the account: *At the year's end, all temporary accounts are closed out.*

5 **close sb out** **close out sb**

AmE to refuse to include someone in a group or an activity: *Swedish companies fear that the EU will close them out of trade agreements.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exclude, shut out** especially BrE

C

close up

- 1** **close up sth** **close sth up** **close up**

if someone closes up a house, shop, or other building, or it closes up, they shut and lock it and leave it: *I managed to get to the store just before it closed up for the night.* | *We decided to close up the house for the winter and go abroad.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut up**

- 2** **close up sth** **close sth up**

if you close up a book, bag etc, you shut it: *She quickly put her money away and closed up her bag.* | *Mr Martin closed up the file and handed it to me across his desk.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut, close**

- 3** **close up**

if people close up, they move nearer together: *The crowd around me had closed up, and there was no way that I could leave.*

- 4** **close up**

if something such as a wound or a hole closes up, the sides join together and it disappears: *It'll take a few weeks for a deep cut like this to close up completely.*

- 5** **close up sth** **close sth up**

if you close something up, for example a wound or a hole, you join the sides together or you cover it: *One of the student doctors was given the task of closing up the wound.*

CLOUD

clouded, clouded, clouding

cloud over

- 1** **the sky clouds over/it clouds over**

if the sky clouds over, it becomes covered with clouds and the sun disappears: *The sky was starting to cloud over and we decided to go indoors.* | *In the afternoon it clouded over and cooled down a bit.*

- 2** **sb's face clouds over/sb's eyes cloud over**

if someone's face or eyes cloud over, they suddenly look sad, worried, or angry: *When I mentioned her name, his face suddenly clouded over.* | *Her eyes clouded over with the pain of the memory.*

CLOWN

clowned, clowned, clowning

clown around

ALSO **clown about** BrE

clown around/about

to behave in a silly or funny way, especially in order to make people laugh: *He was one of*

those people who are always clowning around, never taking anything seriously. | *She loves clowning around in front of an audience.*

CLUB

clubbed, clubbed, clubbing

club together**club together**

BrE if a group of people club together to pay for something, they all give some money and share the cost together: *We all clubbed together to buy her a leaving present.*

CLUE

clued, clued, clueing

clue in**clue sb in**

informal to give someone information about something new or something that they need to know

+ on *Mark's already clued me in on what's been happening while I've been away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fill in**

clued up/in

ALSO **be clued up** BrE

be clued in AmE

informal to know a lot about something and understand it well: *Ask Margaret, she's pretty clued up about that sort of thing.*

+ on *Choosing the right wine can be confusing, especially if you're not sufficiently clued in on all the different brands available.*

CLUMP

clumped, clumped, clumping

clump together**clump together** **clump sth together****clump together sth**

if you clump things together or they clump together, they form a tight group or a solid mass: *Grow the plants clumped together rather than singly.* | *These cells tend to clump together in the blood.*

CLUSTER

clustered, clustered, clustering

cluster around

ALSO **cluster round** BrE

cluster around/round sb/sth

to form a very close group around someone or something: *Afterwards, dozens of people clustered around the speaker, waiting to ask*

him questions. | Everyone was clustering around fires, trying to keep warm.

* SIMILAR TO: **gather around/round**

CLUTCH

clutched, clutched, clutching

clutch at

1 clutch at sth

to try to get hold of something by moving your hand quickly and suddenly, especially to save yourself from falling: *She clutched at a branch as she felt herself falling.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grasp at, grab at**

2 clutch at sth

to hold a part of your body firmly, because it is hurting: *In the middle of the night Max woke up groaning, clutching at his stomach.*

CLUTTER

cluttered, cluttered, cluttering

clutter up

clutter up sth clutter sth up

to fill a room, or cover an area with too many things in an untidy or disorganized way: *Can't we get rid of these boxes – they've been cluttering up the office for weeks now.* | *Try not to let your computer screen get too cluttered up.*

COAST

coasted, coasted, coasting

coast along

coast along

to be fairly successful but without trying very hard and without making as much progress as you could: *In recent years the team has been content to coast along in the middle of the first division.* | *John Major coasted along to a fourth Conservative victory on the back of Thatcher's achievements.*

COBBLE

cobbled, cobbled, cobbling

cobble together

cobble together sth

cobble sth together

to make or produce something quickly and often not very well, especially using whatever you have available: *We cobbled together some lunch from the food that was left in the fridge.* | *It was hoped that the two leaders would cobble together some kind of agreement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock up** informal

COCK

cocked, cocked, cocking

cock up

cock up sth cock sth up cock up

BrE informal to do something badly, or to spoil an arrangement or plan, especially by making a stupid mistake: *We would have won the contract if I hadn't cocked it up!* | *Shearer cocked up the shot and missed by a mile.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** informal

cock-up N [C]

BrE informal something that has been done very badly, especially in an unnecessary and stupid way

make a cock-up of sth *He made a real cock-up of his speech.*

COIL

coiled, coiled, coiling

coil up

coil up sth coil sth up

to wind or twist something into a series of rings: *I helped him coil up the rope and put it away.* | *Her long fair hair was coiled up on top of her head.*

COLLECT

collected, collected, collecting

collect up

collect up sth collect sth up

BrE to gather several things together: *Martin collected up the coins, and put them in his pocket.* | *Collecting up the papers lying on the desk, she left the office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gather up**

COLOUR BrE COLOR AmE

coloured, coloured, colouring BrE
colored, colored, coloring AmE

colour in

colour in sth colour sth in

to fill a shape or picture with colour using coloured pencils or paints: *The children were told to colour in the shapes they had drawn.*

+ **with** *Sam had coloured the roofs in with a red crayon.*

colour up

colour up

if someone colours up, their face becomes red because they are embarrassed or angry: *He stared at Mary, and she coloured up instantly.* | *Seeing the huge crowd in front of her, she colored up with embarrassment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blush**

C

COMB

combed, combed, combing

comb out**comb out** sth **comb** sth **out**

to comb someone's hair or an animal's fur thoroughly, in order to make it straight or to remove things from it: *She was sitting in front of the mirror, combing out her long fair hair.* | *I washed my hair and combed out the tangles.*

comb through**comb through** sth

to search through a lot of information or objects in order to try and find the information that you need, or an object that you want: *Police spent more than a day combing through every piece of evidence they could find.* | *We combed through Beatrice's possessions, trying to find an address or a phone number that could help us.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sift through****COME**

came, came, coming

come about**come about**

to happen, especially in a way that was not planned or expected: *The discovery of penicillin came about entirely by chance.* | *The Cold War came about because America and the Soviet Union were deeply suspicious of each other.* | *This increase in food production has come about through the use of technology.*

how did sth come about? *When did life begin on Earth, and how did it come about?*

come across**1** **come across** sth/sb NOT PASSIVE

to find something or meet someone by chance, when you are not expecting it: *I came across a fascinating book in the library.* | *Jill came across her son's diary when she was tidying his room one day.* | *You must have come across some weird and wonderful people while you were there.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stumble across****2** **come across** sth

to experience a particular type of problem, situation etc: *I expect you'll come across all sorts of difficulties, but it's still worth trying.* | *The judge said that he'd never come across a case quite like that before.*

* SIMILAR TO: **meet****3** **come across**

to seem to be a particular type of person or thing, or to have particular qualities

come across as (being) sth *Lisa's teachers always complain that she comes across as lazy.* | *In the interview, Madonna came across as being very intelligent.* | *His comments came across as rather unsympathetic.*

come across well/badly (=make people have a good or bad opinion of you) *People say he's a very nice man, but he comes across badly on television.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come over** especially BrE**4** **come across**

if an idea or emotion comes across, people understand or notice it because it is clearly expressed: *What comes across very strongly in her letters is her wonderful sense of humour.* | *The Prime Minister's message came across with absolute clarity.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come over** especially BrE**come after****come after** sb

to chase or search for someone, often in order to get something from them or punish them: *Ned looked round and saw two police officers coming after him.* | *Isabel knew that Fitzlan would come after her, wherever she went.*

come along**1** **come along**

to go somewhere with someone or to go to the same place as them: *We're going to watch the football – do you want to come along?* | *You go ahead if you're in a hurry – I'll come along later.*

2 **come along**

if something new such as a job or an opportunity comes along, it becomes available for you: *This job came along just at the right time.* | *If a deal came along obviously I would consider it.* | *You really must take advantage of any opportunities that come along.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come up****3** **come along**

to arrive or appear somewhere – use this especially about something or someone that you have been waiting for: *A bus usually comes along every ten minutes, so you shouldn't have to wait long.* | *The police eventually came along and took the man away.*

4 **be coming along**

to be making good progress or developing in the way you want: *The doctor said that Richard was coming along nicely and would be able to go home on Friday.*

how's sth coming along? (=used to ask whether something is making good progress) *How are your guitar lessons coming along?*

* SIMILAR TO: **come on**

5 **come along!**

spoken, especially BrE used to tell someone to hurry or make more effort: *Come along, girls! We'll be late if we don't go now.* | *Come along, Rob. I'm sure you know the answer!*

* SIMILAR TO: **come on**

come apart

1 **come apart**

if a situation, relationship, agreement etc comes apart, it is not possible to make it work successfully any more: *The terrorists refused to hand in their weapons, and the peace agreement seemed to be coming apart.*

come apart at the seams (=used to emphasize that something has a lot of problems and is likely to fail completely) *His whole life seemed to be coming apart at the seams.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall apart**

2 **come apart**

if something comes apart, it breaks or separates into pieces, often by accident, especially because it is not very strong or is in bad condition: *Bruce grabbed the book from me and it came apart in his hands.* | *You can't use this old suitcase – it's coming apart!*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall apart**

come around

ALSO **come round** BrE

● In British English, people usually use **come round**. In American English, people use **come around**.

1 **come around/round**

to come to someone's house in order to see them: *Valerie and John said they might come around this evening.*

+ **for** *Why don't you come round for a drink after work?*

+ **to do** *Could I come around and have a chat with you sometime?*

* SIMILAR TO: **come over**

2 **come around/round**

to move around a group of people or houses in order to give them something or to collect something from them: *The mailman usually comes around at about 8 o'clock.*

+ **with** *A waiter came around with glasses of champagne.*

3 **come around/round**

to start to agree with an idea that you did not agree with before, or to like someone that you did not like, because someone has persuaded you to change your opinion or you have thought about it for a long time: *My mother stopped speaking to me when I first married Tom, but she's slowly coming around now.*

come around to the idea/view etc that A *lot of companies are coming around to the view that older employees tend to be more reliable.*

come around to doing sth *We're hoping that they will eventually come round to accepting our offer.*

4 **come around/round**

if a particular time or event comes around, it arrives or happens as usual or as expected: *By the time spring comes around, I always feel ready for a holiday somewhere hot.* | *The World Cup will be coming round again soon.* | *The big day for my talk soon came around.*

5 **come around/round**

● In British English, people only use **come round** in this meaning. In American English, people only use **come around**.

to become conscious again, for example after an accident or operation: *She was in hospital for two weeks before she finally came round.* | *"It'll take a couple of hours for him to come around," the doctor said.*

6 **come around/round**

if a letter or message comes around, it is sent to a group of people: *An e-mail came around, telling us that the meeting had been cancelled.*

come at

1 **come at** sb

to move towards someone in a threatening way, especially in order to attack them: *I was just leaving the club when this guy came at me with a knife.*

2 **come at** sb

if a lot of information, problems, ideas etc come at you, you have to deal with them all at the same time, and this is often confusing or difficult: *Consumers have so much information coming at them about different products, that it is often difficult for them to choose which one to buy.*

3 **come at** sth

informal to consider or try to deal with a problem or situation in a particular way: *We need to come at the problem from a different angle.* | *New trainees, who come at the job fresh, can often teach us something too.*

* SIMILAR TO: **approach**

come away

1 come away

to leave a place: *"Come away," said the children's father, "it doesn't look very safe."*

+ from *We came away from the meeting feeling very optimistic.*

come away with the impression that/feeling that *I came away with the impression that they were not very happy together.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leave**

2 come away

if something comes away, it breaks and separates from something else, especially because it is not very strong or is in bad condition: *Alex pulled at the door handle, but it came away in her hands.*

+ from *Large sections of the tiles had come away from the roof.*

come away with

come away with sth

to succeed in winning something, or in getting something that you want: *Nadia Comaneci competed for Romania in the 1976 Olympics, and came away with seven gold medals.* | *The negotiations should be fair and open, so that all sides come away with something.*

come back

1 come back

to return to a place: *My sister lived in Italy, and only came back home at Christmas.* | *When do you think you'll be coming back to work?*

+ from *He's just come back from a holiday in Mauritius.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return**

2 come back

to start to happen or be present again: *As soon as I do any exercise, the pain comes back again.* | *It took a long time for my confidence to come back after the accident.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return**

3 come back

to become fashionable or popular again, after being unfashionable for some time – used especially about styles of clothes, hair, music etc: *Apparently, the styles of the '60s and '70s are coming back.*

come back in *Some of the words that we used at school have come back in again recently.*

come back into fashion *I never throw away old clothes in case they come back into fashion.*

● OPPOSITE: **go out**

comeback ^N[C]

when something becomes fashionable again, or a famous person becomes popular again: *Aerosmith's comeback tour was a huge success, and won them a whole new generation of fans.*

make a comeback *Long boots are expected to make a comeback in the autumn.* | *The group made a terrific comeback when they were in their fifties.*

4 come back

if something from the past comes back to you, you remember it

it all comes back to you *She looked at the photograph, and suddenly it all came back.*

+ to *His name will come back to me if I think about it.*

5 come back

to reply with humour or anger to something someone says

+ with *When Maria insulted him, Billy came back with a witty reply.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reply, respond**

comeback ^N[C USUALLY SINGULAR]

especially AmE a humorous or angry reply: *I can never think of a good comeback until it's too late.*

come back to

come back to sth

to talk about or consider a particular point or subject again, after you have stopped talking about it: *"Now," she said, "coming back to your original point..."* | *Spence kept coming back to the same old argument again and again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return to**

come before

come before sb/sth

to be brought to a person or group in authority in order to be judged or discussed: *Murphy's case came before Judge Holden at the Crown Court.* | *It was some of the most important civil rights legislation to come before Congress.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go before**

come between

1 come between sb

to spoil the relationship between two or more people, by causing problems or arguments: *In the end it was Jed's jealousy and pride that came between us.* | *My girlfriend's mother doesn't like me – she's always trying to come between us.*

2 come between sb and sth

to prevent someone from giving enough attention to something: *He was an ambitious*

man, who never let anyone come between him and his work.

come by

1 come by sth

to get something, especially something that is unusual or difficult to get: *How on earth did you come by these photographs – they're extraordinary!* | *I wonder how he came by so much money at his age.*

be hard/difficult etc to come by *Exact figures for unemployment are hard to come by.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get, obtain** *formal*

2 come by

especially AmE to make a short visit to a place on your way to somewhere else: *Can I come by tonight and get my stuff?*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop by**

come down

1 come down

to fall down from a higher position to a lower one, often to the ground: *Snow was coming down in huge flakes which soon covered the ground.* | *The ceiling looked like it might come down at any moment.*

2 come down

if a price or the level of something comes down, it becomes lower: *Do you think property prices might come down even further?* | *Interest rates have come down considerably over the past year.* | *Lottie had a terrible fever in the night, but by the next morning her temperature was coming down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall, decrease** *formal*

3 come down

to visit or move to the place where the person speaking is – use this especially when the place is further south: *Would you like to come down for the weekend?*

+ from *Corinne's coming down from New York for Thanksgiving.*

4 come down

to accept a lower price than you have asked, for something that you are selling: *They're asking £150,000 for the house, but they might come down a bit.*

+ to *In the end he agreed to come down to \$2000.*

5 come down

if a building, wall etc comes down, it is destroyed because it is not wanted any more: *The Berlin Wall came down in 1989.* | *Eventually the old farm cottages came down, and modern housing developments went up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be demolished**

6 come down

if a plane comes down, it crashes to the ground, or it lands somewhere where it had not planned to land: *The plane came down in Bilmermeer, and there were no survivors.* | *Due to a severe sandstorm, the plane had to come down in the desert.*

7 come down

to reach as far as a particular point or place: *I'd love to have a garden that comes down to the river here.* | *His fine blond hair came down almost to his shoulders.*

8 come down

if knowledge, tradition, ideas etc come down to people, they have been passed from older people to younger people over a long period of time

+ to *Most of what we know of this civilization comes down to us in stories.* | *It's a tradition that has come down to us through several centuries.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be handed down**

9 come down in favour of/against sth/sb

to decide to support or oppose something or someone, after thinking about it carefully

come down in favour of sth/sb *The President is expected to come down in favor of military intervention in Kosovo.*

come down on the side of sth/sb *When the German people had to decide whether Berlin or Bonn should be their capital, they came down on the side of Berlin.* | *The judge in the case came down on the side of the unions.*

come down against sth/sb *The Board of Directors came down against the merger.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come out**

10 come down

informal to gradually stop feeling the excitement caused by taking an illegal drug or by a very enjoyable experience

+ off *An addict coming down off heroin is in a dangerous and deeply depressed state.*

+ from *International matches are incredibly exciting, and players have to learn how to come down from them afterwards.*

come-down *N [SINGULAR]*

BrE something that is much less enjoyable or interesting than what you have been doing before, or than what you expected: *My next job was a bit of a come-down, but I needed the money.*

11 come down

if an order, message etc comes down, it is sent to people from someone in authority: *The order came down from the boss that we were to speed up the production and worry less about the quality.* | *It'll be ages before a decision comes down to us about it.*

12 **come down**

BrE old-fashioned to leave a university after finishing your course

+ from *Adrian joined the family firm after coming down from Cambridge.*

* SIMILAR TO: leave

come down on**come down on sb**

to criticize or punish someone for something, especially severely and often unfairly: *Your manager will really come down on you if the job isn't finished in time.*

come down on sb like a ton of bricks (=criticize or punish someone extremely severely) *He made one tiny mistake and they came down on him like a ton of bricks.*

come down hard/heavily on sb *The judge came down hard on Davis, and sentenced him to six months imprisonment.*

come down to1 **come down to sth**

if a problem or difficult situation comes down to something, that is the most important point or idea to consider

it all comes down to sth *It all comes down to money when you're trying to buy a house. | Sure, you have to have talent, but in the end it all comes down to having confidence in yourself.*

when it comes down to it (=this is the most basic and important point) *When it comes down to it, you have to remember she's only sixteen.*

* SIMILAR TO: boil down to

2 **if it comes down to it...**

spoken used to say that if something becomes really necessary, that is what you will have to do: *If it comes down to it, we'll just have to sell the house.*

come down with**come down with sth**

to get an illness, especially one that is not very serious and is passed from one person to another: *Almost everyone in the office came down with flu. | I think I'm coming down with something - I feel really hot.*

come for1 **come for sth/sb**

to come to collect something or someone and take them away: *The taxi's coming for us at 6 o'clock. | I've come for the curtains I ordered.*

2 **come for sb**

to move towards someone with the intention of harming them or making them go somewhere with you: *What would you do if a lion was coming for you? | He threatened to come for my daughter, unless I gave him the money.*

come forth1 **come forth**

formal to appear or be produced from somewhere

+ from *Letters like this came forth from every corner of the nation.*

forthcoming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] a forthcoming event, product etc is one which will happen or be produced soon: *the forthcoming election | the band's forthcoming album*

forthcoming formal ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN] if money, information, help etc is forthcoming, it is given by someone or offered when it is needed: *Morris was informed that he was no longer in the team, but no explanation was forthcoming. | We've been assured that sufficient financial support will be forthcoming.*

2 **come forth**

AmE to give important information or ideas to someone

+ with *"Today I call on the congressional Democrats to come forth with their proposed spending cuts," Quayle said. | A group of Englishmen came forth a few months ago with claims that the UFO sightings were all a hoax.*

come forward1 **come forward**

to offer or be willing to do something

+ for *Fewer and fewer people are coming forward for teacher training.*

+ to do sth *No one came forward to compete with Perot for the nomination.*

2 **come forward**

to offer to help the police or people in authority, by giving information to them: *People who are bullied at work are often too frightened to come forward.*

+ with *The police are hoping that new witnesses will come forward with more information.*

come forward with**come forward with sth**

to suggest an idea or plan, or to give the money needed for something, especially after you have been officially asked for it: *The Guggenheim Foundation came forward*

with the funds necessary for the research. | Delors came forward with detailed proposals for a range of reforms.

come from

1 come from sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

if you come from a particular place, you were born there or have your home there: *Most of our students come from Europe.* | "Where do you come from, Jose?" "I'm from Brazil."

* SIMILAR TO: **be from**

2 come from sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

to belong to a particular type of family or a particular social class: *Penelope came from a very rich family, who lived in Atlanta.* | *In our school we have kids who come from all kinds of backgrounds.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be from**

3 come from sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

to be made or produced in a particular place: *It was a beautiful nineteenth century vase, which came from Italy.* | *Their electricity comes from three power stations on the coast.*

4 come from sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

to be obtained from somewhere, or to develop from something: *Where did your information come from?* | *Three important lessons came from this experience.* | *A lot of English words come from Latin.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be derived from**

5 understand know where sb's coming from

spoken informal to understand someone's character or attitude to something, or why someone says something: *I find I disagree with her all the time – I just don't understand where she's coming from.* | *I've had a few problems with Lisa in the past, so I know where you're coming from.*

come in

1 come in

to enter a room or a building – used especially when asking someone to enter the room or building that you are in: "Come in!" *said a deep voice from inside the room.* | *Would you like to come in and have a drink?*

2 come in

to come to the place where you work: *Which days are you coming in this week?* | *Don't forget to telephone the office if you're not coming in.*

3 come in

if a train, bus, plane, or ship comes in, it arrives at a station, airport, or port: *What time should the train from Boston come in?* |

Crowds of people were down at the port, waiting for the ship to come in.

* SIMILAR TO: **arrive**

incoming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
travelling towards a place and arriving soon: *incoming passengers* | *incoming flights*

4 come in

to come to your house, office etc in order to do some work for you: *Tina, the housekeeper, comes in three times a week.* | *The builders are coming in during August, while we're on holiday.*

5 come in

if something such as a report, a letter, a telephone call etc comes in, you receive it: *The call I was waiting for came in at 9 o'clock on Saturday.* | *When reports of the disaster first came in, people found it hard to believe.* | *Several job offers had come in, but none of them were what I wanted.*

incoming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
an incoming message or telephone call is one that you receive: *incoming messages*

6 come in

to become involved in or part of a plan, organized activity etc

+ on *Everyone who joins the company is asked if they want to come in on the share purchase scheme.*

where/how sb/sth comes in (=what someone or something's part in a plan is) *It sounds interesting, but I'm afraid I still don't see how I come in.* | *We need someone who knows the area well, and that's where Mick comes in.*

7 come in

if money or work comes in, you earn it or get it: *We never had enough money – we spent it as soon as it came in.* | *Have you got much work coming in at the moment?* | *Engineering firms say they have a lot of new orders coming in this year.*

income N [C]
the amount of money that you earn each month or year: *an annual income of £28,000*

8 come in

to finish a race, competition etc in a particular position, or within a particular time: *The favourite horse only just finished the race, coming in way behind the others.*

come in first/second etc *In the women's competition, Irina Slutskaya of Russia came in first.*

9 come in

if something in a shop comes in, a supply of it reaches the shop and becomes available: *Our winter coats don't usually come in until*

September: | Thousands of copies of the song sold out as soon as they came in.

10 come in

BrE if a new law or something that has recently been invented comes in, it starts to be used and to have an effect: *A new law came in today requiring all bars and restaurants in Athens to close by 2 am.* | *In the early '80s, computers were just starting to come in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be introduced**

C 11 come in

if a new fashion comes in, it starts to be fashionable: *Bright colours are coming in again for this summer.* | *When did short skirts first come in?*

12 come in useful/handy

to be useful for something: *Keep that box – it might come in handy for something.* | *My medical training's come in very useful in a lot of different ways.*

13 come in

to get a position of power, or start to do an important job: *"The last thing we need now is for the Socialists to come in and wreck the economy," Michael said.*

+ as *Bastiaens came in as chief executive and took over the running of the company.*

incoming AD [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

an incoming government, official etc has recently been elected or chosen for that position: *the incoming government*

14 come in

BrE to join a conversation or discussion, often by interrupting someone: *Excuse me, can I come in here?*

+ on *Then George suddenly came in on the conversation too.*

15 come in

to cost or be a particular amount – used in business to talk about the figures involved in something

+ at *We were quoted \$60 a square yard to do this work, and now it's coming in at \$150.* | *If the national wheat crop comes in at only 30 bushels an acre, prices will stay high.*

16 the tide/sea comes in

when the tide comes in, the sea moves towards the land. The tide is the regular movement of the sea, caused by the moon: *It's only safe to swim here when the tide's coming in.*

● OPPOSITE: **go out**

incoming AD [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

an incoming tide is coming further in to the land: *The rocks were slowly being covered by the incoming tide.*

17 come in

BrE if a season or a month comes in, it begins: *The winter came in early that year, and lasted through till April.*

come in for

come in for criticism, praise etc

to be criticized, praised etc for something: *The police have come in for criticism for not providing enough officers.* | *In Dr Yates' speech, Samuel Whitbread came in for special praise.*

come into

1 come into effect/force/operation/use

if a new law, tax, agreement, or system comes into effect etc, it begins to be used and to have an effect: *The new tax came into operation on April 1st.* | *In 1952, the peace treaty came into effect.* | *New restrictions designed to make it more difficult for people to smoke, came into force today.*

2 come into being/existence

if something, for example a country or organization, comes into being, it starts to exist: *The Mali Empire soon came into being, and spread along the banks of the Niger.* | *Weinreich argues that the Yiddish language came into existence when Jews moved to Germany around the year 1100.*

3 come into sight/view

if something comes into sight or view, you begin to be able to see it: *We finally reached the top of the hill, and the town came into view.*

4 come into it

spoken to be an important part of a situation, or be something that you must consider: *You have to consider my feelings too – don't they come into it?* | *I didn't want to be unemployed, not only because of the money – pride came into it as well.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enter into**

5 come into office/power

to start to have a position of power – used especially about governments: *When the government came into power, unemployment was 1.25 million.*

6 come into money/land/a fortune etc

to receive money, land etc from someone who has died: *Apparently she came into an enormous sum of money from her grandmother.* | *When the Duke dies, his oldest son will come into the estate.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inherit**

come of**come of sth**

to happen as the result of a situation, or of something that you do

something/nothing comes of sth *I've written a long letter to the school, and I hope something comes of it. | If nothing came of the interview, Joe knew he could always work for his father.*

that's what comes of sth *BrE Lisa failed her music exam – that's what comes of not practising.*

come off**1 come off come off sth**

to stop being connected to something, or to stop sticking to sth: *My bicycle chain's come off again. | This white paint will never come off my clothes.*

2 come off well/badly/best/worst etc

to be more or less successful or fortunate compared with someone else, for example in an argument, fight, or competition: *Anthony wasn't as intelligent as Geoffrey, and always came off worse in an argument. | Even leopards sometimes come off second-best in a fight with a bear. | Compared to its competitors, the company has come off badly, with profits of only \$17.9 million.*

3 come off

if something that you have been planning or intend to do comes off, it happens or is successful: *We've been thinking of going on a trip to Africa for years, but I don't think it'll ever come off. | Apple wanted to merge with Sun Microsystems, but the deal hasn't come off yet. | The ceremony had been carefully organized and it came off without any problems. | Irene was trying to be funny, but the joke didn't quite come off.*

4 come off it!

spoken informal used to tell someone that what they have just said is wrong or stupid, in your opinion: *"I'm thinking of studying medicine." "Come off it! You can't even stand the sight of blood!"*

5 come off sth

to stop taking drugs, medicine, or alcohol, especially after taking them for a long time: *It can take years to come off heroin. | Clapton finally came off the booze and the drugs and started playing great music again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get off**

come off as**come off as sth**

AmE to seem like you have a particular attitude or quality because of something you say

or do: *Miller sometimes comes off as egotistical and unkind, but he's really a good person.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across**

come on**1 come on!**

spoken

a used to tell someone to come with you somewhere, or to hurry: *Come on, Luke, let's go inside. | Come on, you two! It's time to get up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come along**

b used to encourage someone to do something, or to try harder: *Come on, George, give me a kiss. | "Come on," urged Marie. "You can tell me what's wrong." | Come on United! Let's have another goal!*

c used to tell someone that you do not believe or agree with what they have just said: *Come on, John. You didn't think I'd believe that, did you? | Oh, come on. She's a lot older than that.*

d used to comfort someone or tell them not to worry: *Come on. Everything's going to be fine.*

2 come on in/over/up etc

spoken used to tell someone to come in, over, up etc: *"Come on in," Miller said. "Make yourself at home." | Karen leaned out of her bedroom window. "Come on up," she said.*

3 come on

to start working – use this especially about lights, a piece of equipment, or a heating system: *The front door light will come on automatically when it gets dark. | My hi-fi comes on and wakes me up at 7 o'clock. | Why hasn't the heating come on yet?*

● OPPOSITE: **go off**

4 come on

if a television or radio programme comes on, it begins: *The news usually comes on after 'Neighbours', doesn't it?*

5 come on come on sth

to appear on a stage, in a film, or on television or radio: *He's one of those actors that make you laugh every time they come on.*

come on stage/television/radio *Then President Clinton came on television and repeated Gore's message.*

* SIMILAR TO: **appear**

6 come on

especially *BrE* to start to take part in a game of football, especially instead of another player: *When Batty came on, Fairclough dropped back into the centre of defence. | The game changed in Villa's favour when Paul Merson came on as substitute after half-time.*

7 **come on**

to improve, especially in something you are learning, or to make progress: *Joe's really come on a lot since he went to his new school.*

how's sth/sb coming on? (=what progress is something or someone making) *How's all your building work coming on?*

* SIMILAR TO: **be coming along**

8 **come on strong**

to start to be very successful, or do something very well: *In recent months, Cuba have been coming on strong, twice beating the US in World League play.* | *Los Angeles, coming on strong as an arts centre, is getting its first big antiques fair in May.*

9 **come on**

if an illness or a pain comes on, you start to get the illness or feel the pain: *I think I have a cold coming on.* | *Nick said he had a headache coming on, so he's gone back to the house.*

10 **come on** **come on sth**

to start speaking to you on the telephone, often after someone else has just finished: *Then my mother came on, and started asking me if I was eating properly.*

come on the line/phone *Sherman dialled the number in front of him, and waited for Levy to come on the line.*

11 **come on**

if a particular season, period of time, or type of weather comes on, it starts or is nearly starting: *A lot of birds fly further south as winter comes on.* | *Evening was coming on, so we found some dry wood and lit a fire.* | *The rain suddenly came on so hard that we stopped and sheltered in a doorway.*

* SIMILAR TO: **approach**

12 **come on sb/sth**

literary to meet someone or find something by chance or when you do not expect it: *Turning the corner, we came on a group of about fifty cyclists.* | *I was just in the library one day, when I came on this quite extraordinary book.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across, come upon, chance upon/on**

come on to**1** **come on to sb**

informal to make it very clear to someone that you are sexually interested in them, from the way you behave: *There was this girl at the bar - we'd only just met and she started coming on to me!*

come-on N [SINGULAR]

informal something that you do or say that is clearly intended to attract someone sexually

give sb the come-on *She was definitely giving me the come-on, with her gorgeous big green eyes.*

2 **come on to sth**

spoken to start talking or writing about a particular subject or idea, especially after talking or writing about other things: *I'll come on to that point in more detail later.* | *We began to wonder whether the speaker would ever come on to the subject we had come to hear about.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get onto/get on to**

come out**1** **come out**

to leave a room, building, or place where you are hiding: *"Come out!" shouted the police officer.* *"We know you're in there!"*

+ of *Donald came out of his office, looking tired and worried.*

2 **come out**

to leave prison, hospital, the army etc after completing the amount of time you have to spend in it: *I'm going to pick up my Mum from hospital.* *She's coming out today.*

+ of *Nelson Mandela came out of jail without having changed any of his demands.*

3 **come out**

to go somewhere with someone in order to enjoy yourself socially: *Jack said he couldn't come out tonight because he has an exam tomorrow.*

+ for *What about coming out for a meal with all of us?*

4 **come out**

if something comes out of somewhere, it is produced there and spreads out from there: *The window was open onto the street, and music was coming out.*

+ of *I looked and saw that blood was coming out of his mouth.* | *Our companies should take a close look at the new technology coming out of Japan.*

5 **come out**

if a book, piece of music, film etc comes out, it becomes available to buy in the shops, or to see at the cinema: *People are always waiting for Terry Pratchett's next book to come out.* | *When the movie came out, it was an instant success and made a lot of money.* | *The National Geographic comes out once a month.*

6 **come out**

if something comes out, it is removed or separated from its place or the place where it should be: *I gave the tooth a sharp pull, and it came out really easily.* | *The key had got stuck in the door and it wouldn't come out.*

+ of *Just a minute* – the plug's come out of its socket.

7 **come out**

if the true information about something comes out, it becomes known, especially after being kept secret: *I knew that Ruth had problems, but it was several months before the truth came out.* | *The President had publicly promised that the full facts would come out.*

it came out that *It eventually came out that Mandelson had borrowed nearly £400,000.*

8 **come out**

if results, figures etc come out, they are given to people or made public: *The exam results don't come out until the end of August.* | *I'd like to see our latest sales figures as soon as they come out.*

9 **come out**

if a particular quality or fact comes out, you notice that it exists for the first time, or more than you did before: *He's a very quiet man, but his understanding of people comes out in his writing.* | *None of these difficulties came out until we were half way through the project.*

10 **come out**

used when saying how good or bad something was

come out well/badly/ahead etc *It took him a long time to write the book, but it came out really well.*

come out on top (=be judged to be better than the others) *Of all the washing-machines in the survey, this one came out on top.*

how did sth come out? *How did that dress you were making come out?*

11 **come out**

if something you say comes out in a particular way, you say it in that way, or that is how it sounds: *I tried to explain how I feel, but it all came out wrong, and she just walked out and left me.*

+ as "But why?" *Kelly's question came out as a loud protest.*

12 **come out**

if the sun, moon, or stars come out, they appear in the sky after being hidden: *Just as we were about to leave the beach, the sun came out.*

● OPPOSITE: **go in**

13 **come out**

if marks or colours come out of something, especially something made of cloth, they disappear or become less strong when you clean or wash them: *I don't think this stain will come out, whatever I do.* | *You should really wash dark clothes separately, in case the colour comes out of them.*

14 **come out in favour of/against sth/sb**

to publicly support or oppose a particular idea, plan, person, or organization

come out in favour/favor of sth/sb *Many Democrats, concerned about their popularity, have come out in favor of the anti-gay-marriage bill.*

come out in support of sth/sb *Bardot has come out in support of Le Pen, the leader of the French National Front party.*

come out against sth/sb *Martin Luther King came out against the Vietnam War.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come down**

15 **come out**

to tell people that you are gay, instead of keeping it secret. People who are gay have sexual relationships with people of their own sex: *Nigel had been gay for years before he finally decided to come out.*

16 **come out**

to admit something that you feel embarrassed or ashamed about, after keeping it secret

come out and say/tell/talk etc *Months later Julie came out and talked about what had happened.*

17 **come out**

to succeed in living through an unpleasant experience without being seriously harmed: *The two girls had been kidnapped and were lucky to come out alive.*

+ of *Of course there are arguments in every family, but most children come out of the experience without permanent damage.*

18 **come out**

if flowers come out, they develop and open: *Roses come out at the end of June, and again later in the summer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bloom**

19 **come out**

if a photograph comes out, the photograph is successful and the picture is clear: *That photograph I took of you came out really well.* | *The view didn't come out because there wasn't enough light.*

20 **come out**

if someone comes out to the country where you are, they travel there to visit or stay: *You're welcome to stay if you ever want to come out to Hong Kong.* | *Our daughter and her family came out to visit us for three weeks.*

21a **come out**

if something comes out at a particular place, it leads towards that place and often ends there: *Do you know where this road comes out?* | *The pipes from the bathroom come out at the back of the house.*

C

21b come out

if something comes out from a particular place, it appears there and leads away from that place: *There were several loose wires coming out from the wall.*

22 come out

BrE if workers come out, they refuse to work, especially until their employer agrees to their demands: *Other workers came out in support of the miners' strike.*

come out on strike *When their pay claims were refused, the teachers came out on strike.*

23 come out

old-fashioned if a young woman comes out, she spends time going to a lot of dances and other social events in order to be introduced to upper-class society: *Eighteen was considered the right age for a young lady to come out.*

coming-out party/dance etc ^N[C] a coming-out party or dance is one given by a young woman's parents when she is being formally introduced to upper-class society: *I went to Ellen's coming-out party last week.*

come out in**come out in spots/a rash etc**

BrE to develop spots etc on your skin, especially a lot of them: *I tend to come out in a rash if I eat certain foods.* | *Children should definitely see the doctor if they come out in spots.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break out**

come out of**1** come out of sth

to result from an activity, event, or process, especially one that has been deliberately organized: *A lot of interesting new ideas came out of the meeting.* | *Scientists are hoping that a new vaccine will eventually come out of their research.* | *I don't think any good at all has come out of this war.*

2 come out of sth

to stop being in a particular situation or state – used especially to say that a country stops being in a bad economic situation, or that someone stops being in a bad mood: *Various signs suggest that the economy may be coming out of recession.* | *The US was just coming out of a major financial panic.* | *"She seems very depressed."* "Don't worry, she'll soon come out of it."

3 come out of sth well/badly etc

if you come out of a situation well, you get a good result, or people have a good opinion of

you: *Water companies come out of the study well, with profits of between 25%–54% of sales.* | *"Irene's gone to Hawaii on vacation."* "Oh – she must have come out of her divorce quite well then." | *I've just read a book about him. He doesn't come out of it very well – he seems very arrogant and selfish.*

come out with**1** come out with sth

to produce a new product, idea, plan etc: *Hewlett-Packard is coming out with a new version of its HP/UX operating system.* | *The German naturalist, Ernst Heinrich Haeckel, came out with a similar theory.*

2 come out with sth

to say something suddenly, especially something that is unexpected: *When I asked for his opinion, he came out with a long list of criticisms.*

come out with it *Martia took a deep breath and came out with it: "I've met another man."*

come over**1** come over

if someone comes over, they move to where you are in a room or other place, especially in order to speak to you: *Miguel came over and put his arm around me.*

+ **to** *An official came over to him and asked him what was in his bag.*

2 come over

to visit you at your house: *Why don't you come over this evening and we'll talk about it then?* | *Some of our relatives are coming over for lunch this weekend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come around/round**

3 come over

to travel to the country where you are now from a different country, especially one that is across the sea

+ **from** *A lot of unskilled workers came over from Ireland to work in the construction industry.*

+ **to** *Greg and Pippa came over to America, and stayed with us for eight days.*

4 come over sb

if a feeling or a change comes over you, you experience it and it affects the way you behave or look: *She knew he was watching her, and a feeling of panic came over her.* | *It was six months since I'd seen Bruce, and a change had come over him in that time.*

what has come over sb? (=used when you are surprised because someone has suddenly started behaving in a way that is very

different from usual) *I don't know what's cover over Mr Wechsler – he actually smiled at me this morning!* | *I don't know what came over me – I slipped my hand inside the dead man's jacket, and took his wallet.*

5 come over

especially BrE to seem to be a particular type of person or thing, or to have particular qualities

+ as *Mrs Robins came over as a cold strict woman who was always giving orders.* | *The band's new album comes over as both traditional and modern at the same time.*

come over well/badly (=make people have a good or bad opinion of you) *I was so nervous – I think I came over really badly in the interview.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across**

6 come over sth come over

if someone's voice or a message comes over a phone, radio etc, it is sent or broadcast and you hear it: *The terrible news came over the radio that the President had been shot.* | *I picked up the phone and Will's voice came over loud and clear.*

7 come over

especially BrE if an idea, meaning, or quality comes over, it is clearly expressed and easy to notice or understand: *I know what you're trying to say, but I don't think it really comes over in this essay.* | *There was an air of sadness about her, that came over very strongly.* | *The same message is coming over again and again: we are slowly destroying the planet.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across**

8 come over

to leave a group, team, or organization and join one that is competing against it

+ **from** *Patrice Tardif was one of the three players who came over from the Blues.*

+ **to** *By July large numbers of Charles' opponents had been captured or had come over to him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **defect** formal

9 come over a bit funny/all romantic/rather faint etc

informal, especially BrE to suddenly start to feel a little strange, start behaving in a romantic way etc: *I came over a bit funny after I'd had that second drink.* | *Towards the end of the evening he started coming over all romantic.*

come round BrE

SEE **come around/round**

come through

1 come through

if something comes through, you receive it – use this about something such as a message, phone call, official document, or permission to do something: *I was in Boston when the news came through about President Kennedy's son.* | *It was November before Philip's visa finally came through.* | *Hank's divorce came through sooner than he had expected.*

2 come through sth

to succeed in getting to the end of a dangerous or difficult situation without being badly harmed or damaged: *Chris was the only one who had come through the war unharmed.* | *Amazingly, our house came through the storm without much damage.*

3 come through sth come through

BrE to succeed in passing a test, or in proving that you are able to do something difficult: *Dwyer was allowed to take part in the final after coming through a fitness test without any problems.*

come through with flying colours (=do something very successfully) *This was Reagan's first tough presidential decision, and he came through with flying colours.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass**

4 come through

to move from one room to another: *Do you want to come through and have your dinner?*

+ **to/into** BrE *Come through to the sitting-room, there's more room in there.*

5 come through

to provide something that someone needs or has asked for, or to do what you have promised

+ **with** *The oil companies say they could come through with a cleaner fuel, but it would cost more.* | *The US came through with \$1 billion in aid.*

come through for sb (=provide someone with the support or help that they need) *When Jim asked Donato for help, she came through for him, pointing out where more work was needed and offering suggestions.*

6 come through

if a quality, feeling, or idea comes through, it is noticeable to other people: *Bob was such a comedian – his humour came through so clearly.* | *What came through about the refugees was their courage and determination.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across, come over** especially BrE

come to

1 come to sth

to reach a particular state or situation – used especially in the following phrases:

come to an end (=finish) *My stay in San Francisco was coming to an end, and I decided to visit Natalie one last time.*

come to an agreement (=agree about something, especially formally) *It was several months before we eventually came to an agreement.*

it comes to the point where (=used to say that you have reached a particular situation) *It came to the point where we could no longer bear to talk to each other.*

2 come to a decision/conclusion/verdict

to make a decision about something, or to decide what you think about something: *All the candidates were good, and it took us a long time to come to a decision.* | *By the end of the holiday, we'd come to the conclusion that camping in England isn't much fun.*

3 when it comes to sth

especially spoken used to introduce the particular subject that you are going to talk about or deal with: *When it comes to relationships, everyone makes mistakes.* | *Joe didn't sing or play guitar particularly well, but when it came to songwriting, he was a genius.* | *The government has had little success when it comes to education.*

4 come to power

to officially start to rule a country – used about leaders, parties, or groups: *The Communists came to power in China in 1949.* | *Nasser came to power in a nationalist revolution, which signalled the end of European domination of Egyptian affairs.*

5 come to nothing/not come to anything

to develop or not develop into something successful: *It was obvious that the relationship would come to nothing in the end.* | *I had a great idea for a book once, but it never came to anything.*

6 come to sth

spoken if you come to a particular point or subject in a discussion or speech, you start to talk about or deal with it after talking about others first: *There are reasons for our decision, which I'll come to later.* | *I'm coming to the Labour party's proposal in a minute.* | *We now come to item three on the agenda.*

7 come to sth

to be a particular total when the numbers or amounts are added together: *At the end of the evening the bill came to \$50.*

8 come to sb

if a thought or idea comes to you, you think of it or remember it, especially suddenly: *I've forgotten the name of the restaurant – it'll come to me in a minute.* | *The idea for the programme first came to us when we were in America.*

9 come to

to become conscious again after an accident or operation: *When I came to, I was lying in a hospital bed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come around/round**

come together

1 come together

if two or more people, groups etc come together, they join together, especially in order to do something: *Palmer and Jones came together and started work on the research.*

+ to do sth *Several local groups had come together to form the new party.*

2 be coming together

if something is coming together, it is finally starting to be successful or develop as you want, especially when you have been trying to get it right for a long time: *Linda was just beginning to feel that her life was coming together.* | *A plan for an International Trade Centre is at last coming together.*

it's coming together *After five years of hard work it's all coming together, and their latest album has been a huge success.*

come under

1 come under attack/criticism/threat/pressure etc

if someone or something comes under attack, criticism, threat, pressure etc, they are attacked, criticized, threatened, face pressure etc: *Oil tankers and trucks on the roads from Iraq to Jordan came under air attack on January 29.* | *The report came under severe criticism.* | *Bush came under pressure to negotiate with Noriega.* | *Thousands of jobs came under threat when Powergen announced that it was cancelling its contract with British Rail.*

come under fire (=be criticized or attacked) *TV companies have come under fire for the amount of violence on our screens.*

2 come under scrutiny/review etc

to be examined or considered carefully, in order to make a decision or form an opinion: *During the coming year, all areas of the company will come under review.* | *The new policy came under intense scrutiny.*

3 **come under sth**

to be controlled or dealt with by a particular rule, authority, country, or person: *All doctors come under the same rules of professional conduct.*

come under sb's control/jurisdiction *Moldavia became a part of the Ottoman Empire, and then came under Russian control.*

4 **come under sth**

if something comes under a particular group of things, it belongs to that group, or is kept with that group: *Excuse me, do his novels come under fiction or literature?*

come under the heading/category of sth *Anger, jealousy and fear all come under the heading of negative emotions.*

come up**1** **come up**

to move towards someone or something until you are near them or next to them: *She came up and put her arms around him.*

+ to/behind/beside sb *A lot of people came up to me and started asking questions. | I looked in the mirror and saw a police car coming up behind us.*

* SIMILAR TO: **approach**

2 **come up**

to travel to or visit a place that is further north than where you are now, or that is in a city: *I thought I might come up to London for the weekend and see a show. | You must come up and visit us some time.*

3 **come up**

if an opportunity comes up, for example for a job, it becomes available: *Let me know if you hear of any suitable jobs coming up. | An opportunity came up to work in Ethiopia for a year, so I went. | If you keep on trying, I'm sure something will come up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **arise** *formal*

4 **come up**

if a subject, name etc comes up in a conversation or meeting, it is mentioned or discussed: *We'd been going out together for two years before the subject of marriage came up. | The school needs some new governors, and your name kept coming up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be mentioned, arise** *formal*

5 **come up**

if a problem or difficulty comes up, it suddenly appears and you have to try and deal with it: *It's been one of those days when problems keep coming up all the time.*

something's come up *I'm afraid I'm going to be home late – something's come up at work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crop up, arise** *formal*

6 **be coming up**

if a particular event or occasion is coming up, it is going to happen soon at a definite time in the future: *Your birthday's coming up next month, isn't it? | The Annual Folk Festival is coming up on Saturday May 3rd. | Coming up in a few minutes on Central News: plans to make the centre of Oxford into a traffic-free zone.*

7 **come up**

if a legal case comes up, it is dealt with in a court of law: *Kate's divorce is coming up before the courts next week. | When the Louise Woodward case came up, the newspapers were full of it.*

8 **come up**

if information comes up on a computer screen, it appears there: *Click on 'Search', and a list of your options comes up.*

+ on *It was only half an hour until our plane left, and the number of our boarding gate still hadn't come up on the screen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **to appear**

9 **come up**

to reach a particular point or level: *When the river flooded, how far did it come up?*

+ to *Ed's quite tall now – he comes up to my shoulders!*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach**

10 **come up**

if the sun or moon comes up, it moves up into the sky where you can see it: *We got up early to watch the sun come up behind the mountains.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rise**

● OPPOSITE: **go down set**

11 **come up**

if a plant or seed comes up, it begins to appear above the ground: *If you plant the seeds now they should come up in about ten days' time.*

12 **come up**

if a wind or storm comes up, it starts and gradually gets stronger or worse: *It was hard work walking, with a strong wind coming up. | We were a mile out to sea when the storm came up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blow up**

13 **come up**

if a question or a subject comes up in an examination, it is one of the questions or subjects in the examination: *Did any questions on geographical locations come up in the exam?*

14 **come up**

to gradually become more successful by improving your position in your job or in society: *Douglas had spent twenty years coming up through the company to where he was now.*

come up in the world *Jo smiled as she parked her brand new Mercedes outside her house – she was coming up in the world at last.*

up-and-coming ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]
likely to be very successful in the future:
up-and-coming young artists

15 **come up**

BrE if the lights come up in a theatre or cinema, they are turned on at the end of the play or film: *The show finally ended and the lights came up.*

16 **come up**

if a number comes up in a competition, you win something if you have a ticket with that number on it: *You'll win about sixty dollars if three of your numbers come up.*

17 **come up**

BrE if something comes up in a particular way, that is how it looks after you have done something to it: *I've washed all the curtains and they've come up like new.* | *If you let your hair dry in the sun, it should help it come up even blonder.*

18 **come up**

if food comes up, it rises from your stomach after you have eaten it, especially because you are sick: *Ben had eaten too many hamburgers, so it wasn't surprising when the whole lot came up again.*

19 **coming (right) up!**

spoken used to tell someone that the drinks or food they have just ordered will be ready very soon: *"Two Martinis, please." "Coming up, sir!"*

20 **come up**

BrE old-fashioned to begin studying at a university: *I came up in the autumn of 1953, to study medicine.*

come up against**1** **come up against** sth/sb NOT PASSIVE

to be faced with a problem, or a difficult situation or person, and have to find a way of dealing with them: *Women in the police force often complain that they come up against a lot of prejudice.* | *Thompson described his commander as one of the cruellest men he'd ever come up against.*

2 **come up against** sb NOT PASSIVE

to have to compete against a person or team

that is very good and hard to defeat, especially in a sports competition: *The team were doing well at first, but then they came up against last year's World Champions.*

come up for**1** **come up for sale/auction**

if property, especially houses or land, comes up for sale or auction, it becomes available to buy. An auction is a public meeting where things are sold to the person who offers to pay the most money for them: *I'd really love to buy that house, if it ever comes up for sale.* | *A painting by Van Gogh came up for auction in 1990, and fetched £43 million.*

2 **come up for discussion/debate**

to be discussed, especially at a formal meeting, so that a decision can be made: *The issue came up for debate in Parliament three days later.*

3 **come up for** sth

to reach the time when something should be dealt with or done, according to an official system of agreement: *The case came up for review, and the men, who had already spent fifteen years in jail, were found innocent.* | *In November, one third of the Senate comes up for re-election.* | *When Checkland's contract came up for renewal, it was extended for only a year.*

come upon**1** **come upon** sb/sth

literary to meet someone or find something by chance or when you do not expect it: *On the second day we came upon the remains of a Roman villa.* | *Lozage and his men came upon a group of Mexicans camped somewhere in Fresno county.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come across**, **come on** literary, **stumble across**

2 **come upon**

literary if a feeling or idea comes upon you, you suddenly feel it or think of it: *A wave of tiredness came upon her.* | *The idea for a party came upon them one Saturday morning over breakfast.*

come up to**1** **come up to** sth USUALLY NEGATIVE

BrE to reach a particular standard, or be as good as you expect something to be

come up to sb's/sth's standards *Many of Britain's beaches do not come up to EU standards.*

come up to expectations *We loved the island, but the hotel didn't really come up to our expectations.*

come up to scratch (=be as good as expected or as something should be) *Over a third of the schools in the survey didn't come up to scratch.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach**

2 be coming up to sth

BrE to be getting near a particular time or age: *It was coming up to two o'clock by the time everyone had left.* | *My oldest son's just coming up to sixteen.* | *Frank will be coming up to retirement in a year or two, won't he?*

* SIMILAR TO: **be approaching** *formal*

come up with

1 come up with sth

to think of an idea, plan, solution, or answer: *A good leader has to be able to identify problems and come up with solutions.* | *Morrissey was really good at coming up with great titles for songs.* | *I'm sure I can get the money, if you give me one more day to come up with something.*

* SIMILAR TO: **think up, think of**

2 come up with sth/sb

to produce a particular sum of money, or to find a suitable person or thing: *Anyone wishing to buy the company would have to come up with \$8.5 million.* | *We've advertised several times, but so far we haven't been able to come up with a suitable candidate.*

come with

1 come with sth

if something that you can buy comes with another thing, it always includes the second thing: *All our garden furniture comes with a four-year guarantee.* | *Both models come with sixteen megabytes of memory.*

2 come with sth

if one thing comes with another, it develops or results from it: *Experience comes with age.* | *Good exam technique only comes with practice.*

3 come with sth

if one thing comes with another thing, the first thing is a natural part of the second: *Long hours just come with the job, I'm afraid.* | *Lack of sleep tends to come with being a new mother.*

come within

1 come within seconds/inches/a few points etc of doing sth

used to say that someone very nearly does something, or something very nearly happens to someone: *Clinton came within two percentage points of winning Arizona.* | *Afterwards I realized I'd come within seconds*

of death. | *The plane came within thirty feet of disaster, when it just missed a skyscraper.*

2 come within sight/range/reach

to be close enough to something to see it or reach it, or to be seen or reached

+ of *As Beatty came within sight of his office, he was surprised to see a small group waiting at the door.* | *Parts of Seoul were coming within range of North Korean heavy artillery.*

3 come within the powers/scope etc of sb/sth

to be included in what a person or group has the power or ability to do: *It doesn't come within their power to authorize such a large sum of money.* | *The course is only for a week, so certain areas will not come within its scope.*

COMPOSE

be composed of

1 be composed of sth

formal to be made of a particular substance or substances: *Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen.* | *The marble from which the Taj Mahal is built is composed of large crystals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be made up of**

2 be composed of sth/sb

formal to consist of a particular number or type of things, people, organizations etc: *The Kingdom of Tonga is composed of about 170 islands.* | *It's an association composed of more than 400 managers, bankers, lawyers and accountants.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be made up of, consist of**

CONCEIVE

conceived, conceived, conceiving

conceive of

1 conceive of sth

formal to imagine that it is possible for a particular event or situation to happen or exist: *Yuan found it difficult to conceive of life with any other woman but his wife.*

can/cannot conceive of (doing) sth *"I cannot conceive of a situation where the United States would want to use chemical weapons," Defense Secretary, Richard Cheney said.* | *Many Romanians couldn't conceive of voting for anyone except the party in power.*

* SIMILAR TO: **imagine**

2 conceive of sth

formal to think of a new idea, plan etc: *Dr Barnett conceived of the idea for the exhibition while she was working on a catalogue of Kandinsky's works.*

* SIMILAR TO: **think of, come up with**

3 **conceive of** sth/sb

formal to think of something in a particular way or as being a particular thing

+ as *The Christian God has traditionally been conceived of as masculine.* | *Foch conceived of war as 'a struggle between moral forces'.*

* SIMILAR TO: **think of**

C **CONCENTRATE**

concentrated, concentrated, concentrating

concentrate on**concentrate on** sth**concentrate** sth on sth

to give more attention to something or do more work on it than anything else, for example because it seems more important, or it interests you more: *She left the band in order to concentrate on her solo career.* | *Doctors are increasingly concentrating on the prevention rather than the cure of diseases.* | *The course is designed so that students can concentrate on the subjects that interest them most.*

concentrate on doing sth *The airline says it wants to concentrate on improving the quality of its service.*

concentrate your attention/efforts etc on sth *Lewis decided to concentrate his efforts on winning the World Heavyweight title.*

* SIMILAR TO: **focus on**

CONDEMN

condemned, condemned, condemning

condemn to1 **condemn sb to death/prison/hard labour etc**

to give someone a severe punishment after deciding they are guilty of a crime: *In 1814, Joseph Guillotin was arrested, tried and condemned to death.* | *Thousands of people were condemned to hard labour in the mines at Nerchinsk.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sentence to**

2 **condemn sb/sth to sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are condemned to an unpleasant situation or way of life you are forced to accept it and there is nothing you can do to change it: *The island was condemned to centuries of colonial rule.* | *Animals used for experiments are often condemned to a life of misery and kept in tiny cages.* | *The accident condemned her to a lifetime of pain and disability.*

CONDOLE

condoled, condole, condoling

condole with**condole with** sb

BrE old-fashioned formal to tell someone that you feel sympathy for them because they have problems or because a member of their family has died: *Mrs Williams died that night, and the next day the priest came to condole with her family.*

+ on *Aunt Dorothy would condole with my mother on my father's drinking.*

CONDUCE

conduced, conduced, conducting

conduce to**conduce to** sth

BrE old-fashioned formal to help to produce a particular quality or state: *thoughts that conduce to unhappiness*

* SIMILAR TO: **lead to, promote**

CONE

coned, coned, coning

cone off**cone off** sth **cone** sth off

BrE to put a line of cones (=large plastic objects) on part of a road, in order to stop cars from using it: *The fast lane had been coned off because of the accident.* | *The streets around the stadium were coned off by the traffic police.*

CONFER

conferred, conferred, conferring

confer on/upon

● **Confer upon** is more formal than **confer on** and is used mostly in writing.

1 **confer sth on/upon sb**

formal to officially give a title, degree, or honour to someone, especially as a reward for something they have achieved: *Oxford degrees were first conferred on women in 1920.* | *the highest honour which the country could confer on one of its citizens* | *Otto had the title of emperor conferred upon him by the Pope.*

2 **confer sth on/upon sb****confer on/upon** sb sth

formal to officially give someone the power or right to do something: *The Constitution confers on Congress the power to declare war.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give**

3 confer sth on/upon sb

confer on/upon sb sth

formal to give someone a particular quality or feeling: *the sense of superiority that living in the area confers on some of its residents* | *Pregnancy seems to confer a feeling of contentment on some women.*

CONFESS

confessed, confessed, confessing

confess to

1 confess to sth

to admit that you have done something wrong or illegal, especially to the police

confess to a murder/crime/robbery etc *One of the men broke down during questioning and confessed to the murder.*

confess to doing sth *Kim Hyon Hui confessed to having planted the bomb which resulted in the death of all 115 passengers*

* SIMILAR TO: admit

2 confess to sth

to admit something that you feel embarrassed about: *During an interview the Princess confessed to a passion for bacon and tomato sandwiches.*

confess to doing sth *In the end, Mitchell confessed to not knowing the answer to my question.*

* SIMILAR TO: admit

CONFIDE

confided, confided, confiding

confide in

confide in sb

to tell someone something that you have not told other people, especially a personal problem, because you feel you can trust them: *Vera confided in me that she was pregnant, and was thinking of getting an abortion.* | *He had no one to confide in, no one to turn to for advice.*

CONFINE

confined, confined, confining

confine to

1 be confined to sth

to affect only one group of people, or to exist in only one place: *Domestic violence is not confined to any one group in society.* | *The drug problem is no longer confined to major cities, and has now spread to many rural areas.*

* SIMILAR TO: be restricted to sth, be limited to sth

2 be confined to sth

to have to stay somewhere because you are ill or injured: *The Prime Minister has been confined to a hospital bed for almost seven weeks now.*

be confined to a wheelchair *Curtis is now confined to a wheelchair after a car accident in 1990.*

3 be confined to sth

to be forced to stay in a place such as a prison, and not be allowed to leave: *Lopez was sent to a maximum security prison where prisoners are confined to their cells almost 23 hours a day.* | *Once married, women are confined to their husband's house, and can't even go out on the street.*

4 confine yourself to sth

if you confine yourself to something, you only do that thing or only talk about that thing: *The examples are too numerous to quote, so I shall confine myself to two.* | *Margaret's paintings are most striking when she confines herself to a few bold colours, and a few bold strokes of the brush.*

* SIMILAR TO: limit

CONFRONT

confronted, confronted, confronting

confront with

1 be confronted with sth

if you are confronted with a difficult problem, decision, situation etc, you have to deal with it or face it: *Aid workers are now confronted with the task of feeding all the refugees.* | *She was confronted with a seemingly impossible choice.* | *If people are confronted with the realities of war, their attitude towards it changes completely.*

* SIMILAR TO: be faced with

2 confront sb with sth

to show someone evidence that they have done something wrong or illegal, in order to make them admit it: *When she confronted her husband with the photographs, he suddenly became very quiet.*

CONJURE

conjured, conjured, conjuring

conjure up

1 conjure up sth conjure sth up

to make a picture, idea, or memory appear in someone's mind: *The word 'Mediterranean' conjured up images of sunshine, olive trees, and a crystal clear sea.* | *Summer for me conjures up thoughts of green meadows, the scent of freshly cut hay and the buzzing of busy insects.*

* SIMILAR TO: evoke formal

2 conjure up sth conjure sth up

to produce or make something very quickly and suddenly in a way that is surprising: *In the 59th minute Van Den Horne conjured up a magnificent goal that brought his team to victory.* | *Grandma went into the kitchen, and within minutes had conjured up a delicious meal for everyone.*

CONK

C conked, conked, conking

conk out

1 conk out

informal if a machine or car conks out, it stops working: *The washing machine has finally conked out.* | *Our car conked out on the way home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **break down**

2 conk out

informal, especially AmE to fall asleep quickly and completely because you are very tired: *Natalie conked out at around four a.m. in the middle of watching the movie.*

* SIMILAR TO: **zank out** informal, especially AmE, **crash out** informal

CONNECT

connected, connected, connecting

connect up

connect up sth connect sth up

BrE to join something to the main supply of power, or to the telephone system, or to another machine: *We only moved in yesterday so the phone isn't connected up.*

† to **Is the cooker connected up to the gas yet?** | **I've connected my speakers up to the television, so I get better sound.**

CONNIVE

connived, connived, conniving

connive at/in

connive at/in sth

formal to allow something illegal or wrong to continue by deliberately not trying to stop it: *The government knew about weapons deals with Iraq, and connived in arms exports instead of controlling them.* | *The report claims that drugs are freely available in our prisons, and that prison warders connive at drug abuse.*

CONSIGN

consigned, consigned, consigning

consign to

1 consign sth/sb to sth

formal to put something or someone somewhere, especially in order to get rid of them: *Natalie read his letter with increasing annoyance, and then consigned it to the trash can.* | *He preferred to take care of his mother at home, rather than consigning her to an old people's home.* | *Viv pulled out a purple dress that had long been consigned to the back of the wardrobe.*

2 consign sb to sth

formal to cause someone to be in a bad situation: *Poor education has consigned them to a life of poverty and street crime.* | *Cambodia was consigned to a decade of bloody civil war.*

* SIMILAR TO: **condemn to**

CONSIST

consisted, consisted, consisting

consist in

consist in sth

formal if something consists in a particular thing, that is the main part of it or the most important reason for it: *The beauty of Venice consists in the fact that it has so many different styles of architecture.* | *Freud's greatest achievement probably consisted in taking neurotic patients seriously and exploring their individual psychology.*

consist of

consist of sth NOT PASSIVE, NOT PROGRESSIVE

if something consists of particular things or people, they are the things or people that it includes: *a sauce consisting of minced beef, tomatoes, onion, garlic and seasoning* | *Her furniture consisted of a large brass bed, a wooden chair, and a small Chinese table.* | *The team consists of an editor, three full-time journalists, and a photographer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be made up of**

CONSORT

consorted, consorted, consorting

consort with

consort with sb

formal to spend time with someone who is an enemy, a criminal, or other person who people disapprove of: *They suspected that he had been consorting with the enemy.* | *The prince had spent his youth drinking in bars and consorting with prostitutes.*

CONSULT

consulted, consulted, consulting

consult with**consult with sb**

to discuss something with someone before you make a decision, especially an important official decision: *The President consulted with European leaders before taking action.* | *After consulting with his lawyers, Harrison decided to plead guilty.*

CONTEND

contended, contended, contending

contend with**contend with sth**

if you have to contend with a problem or a difficult situation you have to deal with it

have to contend with sth *The Prime Minister has to contend with constant criticism from members of his own party.* | *People who live near the stadium have to contend with crowds and damage to their cars.*

have sth to contend with *She's had a lot to contend with during the last few weeks. No wonder she's stressed.*

* SIMILAR TO: deal with

CONTENT

contented, contented, contenting

content with**content yourself with sth**

to decide to accept something or do something, even though it is not what you really wanted: *Meredith could not afford a new dress, and had to content herself with wearing the one she had bought last year.* | *Francis, who had hoped to be made Chancellor, had to content himself with the post of Minister for Agriculture.* | *Meredith was too tired to argue so she contented herself with an angry glare.*

* SIMILAR TO: make do with

CONTRACT

contracted, contracted, contracting

contract in**contract in sth contract sth in**

if a company or organization contracts in a service such as cleaning, it arranges for another company to come into its building and provide that service: *Many companies now contract in services such as catering and cleaning.*

● OPPOSITE: contract out

contract in/into**contract in contract into sth**

BrE to officially agree to take part in a system, for example for pensions or health insurance: *The company pension scheme was started last June, and since then 1500 employees have contracted in.*

● OPPOSITE: contract out

contract out**1 contract out sth contract sth out**

if a company or organization contracts a job out, it arranges for another company to do it: *The hospital has contracted the cleaning and catering services out to a private company.*

● OPPOSITE: contract in

2 contract out

BrE formal to officially agree to not take part in a system, for example for pensions or health insurance: *The government is encouraging people to contract out of the state pension scheme and into personal pension plans instead.*

● OPPOSITE: contract in/into

CONTRIBUTE

contributed, contributed, contributing

contribute to/towardsALSO **contribute toward** AmE**contribute to/towards/toward sth**

to be one of the causes of something: *Bill's drinking contributed to the end of his marriage to his first wife, Tammy Stone.* | *The new drug, one of the company's most successful products, contributed to a 7% rise in profits this year.* | *Scientists are trying to find ways of reducing our dependence on energy sources that contribute towards global warming.*

CONVERGE

converged, converged, converging

converge on/upon

● **Converge upon** is more formal than **converge on** and is mostly used in writing.

converge on/upon sth

if a lot of people converge on a place, they come there from different places and form a large crowd: *More than half a million sports fans converged on the capital today for the London Marathon.* | *In summer people from all over the area converge on Fernandina Beach.*

COOK

cooked, cooked, cooking

cook up

1 cook up sth cook sth up

to make a meal quickly: *Neneh was in the kitchen cooking up a dinner of rice, chicken and black-eye peas.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rustle up**

2 cook up sth cook sth up

to think of a lie or an excuse, especially to stop someone from blaming you for something: *Rachel cooked up some excuse about her car breaking down, but I guessed that she'd been seeing Rupert.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make up, concoct** formal, invent

COOL

cooled, cooled, cooling

cool down

1 cool down cool sb/sth down

cool down sb/sth

to become cool or cooler, or to make something or someone cool or cooler: *We jumped into the swimming pool to cool down. | Let the engine cool down, and then put some water in the radiator. | Is your tea too hot? Do you want some more milk to cool it down?*

* SIMILAR TO: **cool off**

2 cool down cool down sb

cool sb down

to become calm after feeling angry, or to make someone calm: *Perhaps when they have had time to cool down and think about it, they will reconsider. | McKim lost his temper so badly that he punched his friend George, who was trying to cool him down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, cool off**

3 cool down cool down sth

cool sth down

to stop developing or increasing, or to stop something from developing or increasing: *Greenspan raised interest rates last month to cool down the US economy and make it more expensive for businesses and consumers to borrow money.*

cool off

1 cool off

to become cool or cooler: *We'd been in the sun all day, so we went for a swim to cool off. | I took the bread out of the oven, and left it out on the table to cool off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cool down**

2 cool off

to become calm after being angry: *Maybe you should go away and cool off before we talk anymore.*

* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, cool down**

3 cool off

if you cool off or your relationship with someone cools off, you stop feeling attracted to someone: *I know it was Valerie who finished with Rob, but I think he was beginning to cool off.*

COOP

cooped, cooped, cooping

be cooped up

be cooped up

to be in a place which is too small or does not give you enough freedom, and be unable to leave it

+ in *The prisoners are cooped up in their cells for most of the day. | It was lovely to be out in the fresh air after being cooped up in the house all day.*

COP

copped, copped, copping

cop off

cop off

BrE informal to meet someone and have sex with them or start a sexual relationship with them: *So, what's the gossip? Did you cop off while you were in Manchester?*

+ with *Who was it he copped off with at the Christmas party?*

* SIMILAR TO: **get off with** BrE informal

cop out

cop out

informal to avoid doing something that you should do or said you would do, because you think that it will be too difficult or you are too afraid: *We took a tent with us, but then copped out when it started raining and stayed in a hotel.*

+ of *He said that he wasn't going to cop out of making tough decisions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **duck out**

cop-out N [SINGULAR]

informal a way for someone to avoid doing something difficult or something that they should do – used to show disapproval: *The government lost its nerve, and in the end the Bill was just a cop-out. | The film raises interesting questions, but the sentimental ending is a complete cop-out.*

COPY

copied, copied, copying

copy down**copy down** sth **copy** sth **down**

to write something that someone has said or written on a piece of paper, especially so that you can remember it: *The teacher had written something on the board, and the children were copying it down.* | *Here's his address if you want to copy it down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **write down, note down****copy out****copy out** sth **copy** sth **out**

if you copy out something that has been written, you write it all again on a piece of paper: *Hilary really liked the cake I made, so I copied out the recipe for her.* | *Johanna copied out the poem by hand, and mailed it to her Aunt Mary in Minnesota.*

* SIMILAR TO: **write out****CORDON**

cordoned, cordoned, cordoning

cordon off**cordon off** sth **cordon** sth **off**

if the police or army cordon off an area, they put something around it to stop people from going into it: *Police have cordoned off the street where the murder took place.* | *The US embassy was cordoned off and ringed with dozens of armed security police.*

* SIMILAR TO: **close off****CORRESPOND**

corresponded, corresponded, corresponding

correspond to**correspond to** sth

if one thing corresponds to another, they are related or similar to each other: *The road took us past farmhouses, woods, and a lake, but nothing seemed to correspond to the map.* | *Employees' salaries correspond to their length of service, and how many children they have.* | *Reflexology is based on the principle that specific areas of the feet correspond to different parts of the body.*

COST

cost, cost, costing

cost out/up**cost out/up** sth **cost** sth **up/out**

BrE to do a calculation to find out how much something will cost: *We'll cost out the project and then see if we want to go ahead with it.* |

A builder came round to our house and costed up the job for us – he said it'd be about £2000.

COSY

cosied, cosied, cosying

cosy up to**cosy up to** sb

BrE to be friendly with someone who is your enemy or who you should not have a friendly relationship with, in order to get an advantage for yourself – used when talking about politics: *Blair has been accused of cosyng up to the Liberals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cozy up to** AmE**COTTON**

cottoned, cottoned, cottoning

cotton on**cotton on**

BrE informal to start to understand or realize something: *I dropped about six hints before he finally cottoned on.*

+ to *At last, fashion shops are cottoning on to the fact that it's not only slim women who want to buy their clothes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch on****cotton to****cotton to** sb/sth

AmE to begin to like a person, idea, activity etc: *Workers who quickly cotton to their company's corporate culture are likely to be promoted.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take to****COUCH**

couched, couched, couching

couch in**be couched in**

formal to be expressed in a particular style of language: *The letter was long and couched in incomprehensible legal jargon.* | *The treaty was couched in rather vague, ambiguous terms, and could be interpreted in a variety of ways.*

COUGH

coughed, coughed, coughing

cough up**1** **cough up** sth **cough** sth **up**

to bring something into your mouth from your lungs or throat by coughing: *He looked very weak and pale, and then he started coughing up blood.*

2 cough up cough up sth

cough sth up

informal to pay money for something or pay money that you owe, especially when you do not want to: *You owe me £10. Come on, cough up.* | *Waste Management Inc. told customers that they have to cough up another three bucks for December to cover the extra trash generated by Christmas.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pay up, shell out, fork out**
informal

COUNT

counted, counted, counting

count against

count against sb

if something counts against you, it is likely to stop you from being successful: *Always dress well for work – an untidy appearance will count against you.* | *It's hard work applying for jobs, and I am always worried that my age will count against me.* | *His lawyers thought that Woods' quiet, awkward manner could count against him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell against** BrE formal

count among

count sb/sth among sth

to consider that someone or something belongs to a particular group, or to include them in the group: *Les was a brilliant performer, and I was proud to count myself among his close friends.* | *The former President helped bring about the Middle East peace process, and he counts it among his chief foreign policy accomplishments.* | *Auspex Systems Inc. is a rapidly expanding new company that already counts IBM and DEC among its customers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **include**

count down

1 count down count down sth

count sth down

to count numbers backwards to zero before an important event starts to happen: *Ok, get ready to count down to midnight – five, four, three, two, one! Happy New Year!* | *The crowd were counting down the final seconds, when suddenly Eddie Johnson leapt up and scored.*

countdown N [C]

when someone counts backwards to zero before an important event, especially before a space vehicle is sent into the sky: *The countdown has begun at Cape Canaveral.*

2 be counting down the days/weeks etc.

to be waiting excitedly and impatiently for

something good that is going to happen: *Once December arrived, I started counting down the days until I would be home again with my family.*

+ to "How are you?" "Exhausted. I'm just counting down the weeks to my vacation."

count for

count for something

to be considered to be important or valuable: *It's nice to know that good old-fashioned moral values still count for something.*

count for nothing/not count for anything etc *The law counts for nothing in this part of town, where children as young as ten carry guns.* | *What I say doesn't count for much around here.*

count in

count me in!

spoken informal used to say that you want to take part in an activity that other people are planning to do: *If you're going to the beer festival this weekend, count me in!* | "Mark, how do you feel about playing volleyball tomorrow?" "Count me in!"

* SIMILAR TO: **deal me in** AmE informal

● OPPOSITE: **count me out**

count off

1 count off sth count sth off

to count people or things aloud, especially in order to check if they are all there or to make sure that you remember them all: *Miss Bradshaw stood counting off the children as they got onto the bus.*

count sth off on your hand/fingers (=point or touch your fingers to help you count things) *Dexter tried to remember the names of the Great Lakes, counting them off on his fingers.* "Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Superior..."

2 count off

AmE if soldiers or people in a group count off, they call out a number when their turn comes, to show that they are there: *The soldiers counted off before beginning their training exercises.*

* SIMILAR TO: **number off** BrE

count on/upon

● **Count upon** is more formal than **count on** and is used mostly in writing.

1 count on/upon sth

to expect something to happen and include it in your plans: *In Spain you can count on sunny, cloudless skies and a warm sea.* | *Waiters count on tips to supplement their wages.*

don't count on it! "Maybe soon I'll have a grandchild." "Don't count on it, Mom," Roz winked. "I'm not the marrying kind."

I wouldn't count on it "Perhaps she'll change her mind and give me a second chance." "I wouldn't count on it if I were you."

* SIMILAR TO: **rely on, figure on** AmE

2 can count on/upon sb

if you can count on someone, you know that they will help you or do what you want: *George's mum is great—you can always count on her if you have any problems.* | *You can count on me. I won't let you down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on, rely on**

count out

1 count me out!

spoken informal used to say that you do not want to take part in an activity that other people are planning to do: "Were going to the movies." "Count me out," said Jennifer, as she sank into the couch, exhausted. | "Tonight's special is duck feet soup." "Count me out!" said Albert. "I'll have the chicken."

● OPPOSITE: **count me in**

2 count out sth count sth out

to count things, especially money, one by one as you pick them up and put them into a pile: *The teller counted out \$500 in fifty dollar bills.* | *Joey took out a wad of banknotes and started counting them out on the table.*

3 count sb out

AmE to decide that someone is certain to fail: *Don't count the Colts out. This is going to be a tough, close game.* | *A lot of people count me out. They keep asking me: "When are you gonna retire?"*

* SIMILAR TO: **write sb off**

count towards BrE

count toward AmE

count towards/toward sth

to be part of and influence the final score, result, or total: *The work that you do over the three years counts toward your final degree.* | *Formula One has a new point-scoring system in which all 16 races count towards the title.*

count up

count up sb/sth count sb/sth up

to count the people or things in a group to find out how many of them there are: *The quiz master counts up the scores, and then announces which team is the winner.* | *We need to count up all the people that we want to invite to the wedding.*

* SIMILAR TO: **add up**

count upon

SEE **count on**

COUPLE

coupled, coupled, coupling

couple with

sth coupled with sth

used to say that two things together cause something to happen: *Lack of rain coupled with high temperatures cause the crops to fail.* | *Better eating habits coupled with lifestyle changes mean that people in the US are becoming much healthier.*

COVER

covered, covered, covering

cover over

cover over sth cover sth over

to cover the top of something completely with something else, in order to hide or protect it: *He made a hole in the ground, emptied the contents of the sack into it, and then covered it over.* | *The planes were hidden in thick bamboo and covered over so that they could not be seen from the air.*

cover up

1 cover up sth cover sth up

to stop people from finding out the truth about something such as a crime or a mistake: *Confidential information was stolen from an office in the Watergate building, and Nixon tried to cover it up.* | *Hemmings stole a total of \$150,000 from the company, falsifying the accounts to cover it up.* | *Although Yeltsin's heart attack was covered up by the Kremlin, it was obvious that he was not in day-to-day charge of the government.*

cover up for sb (=protect someone who has done something bad or wrong by trying to stop people from finding out about it) *Tammy Jones lied to cover up for her husband, saying that he had been at home with her on March 15th.*

cover-up N [C]

an attempt to prevent the public from discovering the truth about something: *The government immediately began a massive cover-up, blaming the demonstrators for the violence.*

2 cover up sth/sb cover sth/sb up

to cover something or someone with something, in order to hide or protect them: *We'd better cover up all the furniture while we're doing the decorating.* | *When the sun is very strong, it's best to cover yourself up rather than relying on sun screens.*

COZY

cozied, cozied, cozying

cozy up to

cozy up to sb

AmE to be friendly with someone who is your enemy or who you should not have a friendly relationship with, in order to get an advantage for yourself – used when talking about politics: *Bennett accused him of cozying up to the Democrats.* | *We cannot continue to cozy up to dictatorships just because there is money to be made.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cosy up to** BrE

CRACK

cracked, cracked, cracking

crack down

crack down

if people in authority crack down on an illegal activity, they become much stricter about making people obey the law, in order to stop it from happening – used in news reports

+ on *Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre wants to crack down on illegal immigration.* | *The Mexican authorities have been cracking down on drug-related crime.* | *He accused them of failing to crack down on terrorist organizations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clamp down**

crackdown N[C]

when people in authority become much stricter about something in order to prevent it from happening

+ on *a crackdown on drug trafficking*

crack on

crack on

BrE informal to continue working hard at something in order to try and finish it: *We've got a lot to do, so we'd better crack on.*

+ with *I'm hoping to crack on with the decorating this weekend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get on** especially spoken

crack up

1 crack up

informal to become mentally ill and unable to deal with your life or work: *Vince worked a 12-hour day and never took weekends off – eventually he just cracked up under the strain.* | *I've left my car keys in the car. I must be cracking up!*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall apart**

2 crack up crack sb up

informal to suddenly laugh a lot, or to make someone laugh a lot: *Everyone in the class*

cracked up when they saw what was written on the blackboard. | *Stuart's face is so funny – he really cracks me up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crease up** BrE informal

3 sth is not all it's cracked up to be

spoken used to say that something is not as good as people say it is: *"Being famous is not all it's cracked up to be," said Whitney.* | *"There's a lot of pressure on you."*

CRAM

crammed, crammed, cramming

cram in/into

1 cram in sth cram sth in

cram sth into sth

to push a lot of things into a very small space: *Jessica crammed her clothes into the bag.* | *Billy decided to see how many chocolates he could cram into his mouth at one time.*

2 cram in cram into sth

if a lot of people cram in or cram into a place, they go into it and fill it: *We all crammed in and Jill started the car.* | *Around 60,000 fans will cram into Lambeau Field today for the NFC Championship Game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crowd in/into**

3 cram in sth cram sth in

cram sth into sth

to do a lot of activities in a short period of time: *We were only in New York for two days, so we tried to cram in as much sightseeing as we could.* | *You can cram an awful lot into two weeks if you want.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pack in**

CRANK

cranked, cranked, cranking

crank out

crank sth out crank out sth

AmE informal to produce a lot of something very quickly: *He cranks out detective novels at the rate of three a year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **churn out**

crank up

1 crank up sth crank sth up >

informal to make the sound of something, especially music much louder: *We cranked up the volume and sang along at the top of our voices.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn up**

2 crank up sth crank sth up

to make an engine start working by turning a special handle: *Joe cranked up the engines, and the plane prepared for take off.*

CRAP

crapped, crapped, crapping

- **Crap** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

crap on**crap on**

BrE *informal* to talk about something for too long in a way that is boring and annoying

+ **about** *Steve was crapping on about how good he is at his job, and how wonderful his boss thinks he is.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang on** BrE *informal*

CRASH

crashed, crashed, crashing

crash aroundALSO **crash about** BrE**crash around/about**

informal to move around making a lot of noise: *The guy in the flat upstairs came home drunk last night. We could hear him crashing around at 4 o'clock in the morning.* | *Some kind of animal was crashing about in the long grass behind us.*

crash down

- 1 **sb's hopes/dreams/world come crashing down**

used to say that someone fails to achieve what they want, or something bad happens to someone and they are very unhappy or disappointed: *Rover's hopes of winning the championship came crashing down last night when they lost 3-0 to Liverpool.* | *When Toni left him, his whole world came crashing down.*

- 2 **come crashing down/bring sth crashing down**

to stop working well or being successful, or to make something do this: *One by one the royal marriages have come crashing down.* | *If the housing market collapsed, it would bring the whole economy crashing down.*

crash out**crash out**

spoken informal to go to sleep very quickly because you are very tired often in a chair or on the floor: *I was so tired last night, I got home and just crashed out on the sofa.*

* SIMILAR TO: **zonk out** *informal, especially AmE*, **conk out** *informal, especially BrE*

CRATE

crated, crated, crating

crate up**crate up sth** **crate sth up**

to pack something into a crate (=a big wooden box used for carrying goods): *The rhino was crated up and flown to the Mara game reserve in Kenya.*

CRAWL

crawled, crawled, crawling

be crawling with

- 1 **be crawling with sth**

if a place is crawling with insects, it is covered with them in a way that is very unpleasant: *I woke up and the sheet was crawling with lice.* | *I suddenly noticed that my pudding was moving – it was absolutely crawling with ants.*

- 2 **be crawling with sb**

if a place is crawling with a particular kind of people, it is full of them – used to show disapproval: *I went to look round the cathedral, but it was crawling with tourists.* | *We've got to get out of here – this place is going to be crawling with cops soon.*

CREAM

creamed, creamed, creaming

cream off

- 1 **cream off sth** **cream sth off**

BrE *informal* to take the profits from something or the best part of something for yourself, your company etc in a way that seems unfair or illegal: *Most of the profits are creamed off by insider dealers.* | *The suggested increase in tax would cream off a good deal of the extra money that people now have.* | *Private bus companies just cream off the most profitable routes, leaving many people without a decent bus service.*

* SIMILAR TO: **skim off**

- 2 **cream off sb** **cream sb off**

to take the cleverest or most skilful people in a group away from the others, and treat them in a special way or give them special training: *The more academic children were creamed off at the age of eleven and sent to grammar schools.* | *We employ lots of people at junior management level, and then cream off the best for top management positions.*

C

CREASE

creased, creased, creasing

crease up

crease up crease sb up

BrE informal to laugh a lot, or make someone laugh a lot: *When he took off his pants we all creased up with laughter!* | *Jo could imitate anybody and always made him crease up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up** informal

C CREDIT

credited, credited, crediting

credit with

1 credit sb with sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to believe that someone is responsible for something that has happened, especially an important change that has a big effect: *David Bailey is credited with changing British photography, breaking down class barriers with his striking images.*

2 credit sb with sth

to accept or believe that someone has a particular quality: *I wish you'd credit me with a little intelligence!*

CREEP

crept, crept, creeping

creep in/into

1 creep in creep into sth

if a feeling creeps in or into something, you gradually begin to feel or notice it: *Doubt started creeping into her mind. Maybe he was lying?* | *It was one week before I started my new job and anxiety was creeping in.* | *A note of bitterness had crept into his voice, and I became aware of how angry he was.*

2 creep in creep into sth

if something bad or unwanted creeps in or into something, it appears there even though people have tried to prevent it: *A few spelling mistakes always creep into every book.* | *Gang activity has slowly crept into the town over the past four years.*

3 creep in creep into sth

if a word or custom creeps in or into something, people gradually start to use it: *A lot of American words are creeping into British English.* | *Western customs and values are slowly creeping in, and it's difficult for local people to hang onto their native culture.*

creep out

creep sb out creep out sb

AmE informal to make someone feel nervous and slightly frightened: *The movie has a dark*

side that may creep out younger kids. | *His long fingernails and weird smile really creep me out.*

creep over

creep over sb

if an unpleasant feeling creeps over you, you gradually begin to feel it: *The boat began to sway, and a wave of nausea crept over me.* | *He looked at me with his cold blue eyes, and I felt a chill creep over me.*

creep (up) to

creep (up) to sb

BrE spoken to pretend to like someone, especially someone in authority, and be very friendly to them so that you can get an advantage for yourself: *Nigel makes me sick – he's always creeping up to Diane, the lab manager.*

* SIMILAR TO: **suck up to**, **kiss up to** AmE informal

creep up on

1 creep up on sb/sth

to move closer to someone until you are next to them, without making any noise and usually from behind, so that they do not know you are there: *You shouldn't creep up on people like that.* | *You nearly gave me a heart attack!* | *Armed men crept up on the van and opened fire with machine guns.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sneak up on**

2 creep up on sb

if a feeling or state creeps up on you, you experience it gradually, so that you do not notice it at first: *Old age is creeping up on me.* | *I'm getting slower and feeling more tired than I used to.* | *Fatigue creeps up on you when you're stressed at work, and destroys your body's ability to resist illness.*

3 creep up on sb

if a time or event creeps up on you, it seems to happen sooner than you expected: *The end of term seemed to creep up on us.* | *Christmas has crept up on me this year – I haven't bought any presents yet.*

CRISP

crisped, crisped, crisping

crisp up

crisp up crisp up sth crisp sth up

BrE if thin food crisps up or you crisp it up, it becomes pleasantly hard, because you have heated it at a high temperature: *Fry the bacon at a high temperature to crisp it up.* | *Thin pizza bases are best, because they crisp up nicely.*

CROP

cropped, cropped, cropping

crop up**1 crop up** ✕

if something, especially a problem, crops up, it happens or appears suddenly or when you did not expect it: *Please let me know if anything crops up while I'm away.* | *He's had to go back to the office – apparently something's cropped up.* | *Three more cases of the disease have cropped up in Germany and the Netherlands.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come up, arise** [formal]**2 crop up** ✓

if a name or subject crops up, you hear it being talked about or discussed: *Your name kept cropping up in conversation.* | *Has the subject of money cropped up yet?*

* SIMILAR TO: **come up, be mentioned****CROSS**

crossed, crossed, crossing

cross off**cross off** sth/sb **cross** sth/sb **off****cross** sth/sb **off** sth

to remove a word or someone's name from a list by drawing a line through it: *I've done the washing, so we can cross that off the list.* | *Jane said she won't be able to come, so I've crossed her off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cross out, delete****cross out****cross out** sth **cross** sth **out**

to draw a line through something that you have written, usually because it is wrong: *She crossed out the word 'Miss' and wrote 'Dr' instead.* | *He read the sentence again, then scowled and crossed it out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **delete****crossings-out** N [PLURAL]BrE words that have been crossed out: *His essay was full of crossings-out.***cross over****1 cross over** **cross over** sth

to go to the other side of something or a place: *Each year thousands of illegal immigrants cross over the border.* | *We crossed over the bridge and followed the wet and muddy path along the bank.* | *Braddock's plan was to cross over the rugged Appalachian mountains, and attack the French at Fort Duquesne.*

+ to *Wade stood up and crossed over to the living-room window.** SIMILAR TO: **cross****2 cross over** **cross over** sth

BrE to walk from one side of a road to the other: *Make sure you look both ways before you cross over.* | *We crossed over the road to look at the shops on the other side.*

* SIMILAR TO: **walk across, cross****3 cross over**

to start supporting a person or group that you opposed before: *The Republicans are putting forward a moderate candidate, in the hope that this will encourage disaffected Democrats to cross over.*

+ to *Churchill used to be a Liberal at one time, before he crossed over to the Conservative Party.** SIMILAR TO: **come over, defect** [formal]**4 cross over**

if an entertainer crosses over from one area of entertainment to another, they become successful in the second one as well as the first

+ into *David Duchovny is one of many television stars who are trying to cross over into the movies.***cross-over** ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]a cross-over musician or singer is one who plays a mixture of two different styles of music: *Cross-over jazz/blues artist Maria Muldaur will headline this year's festival.***5 cross over**

to change from being popular with just one particular group in society to being popular with people from all groups in society

+ to/into *Stevie Wonder and James Brown were among the first black acts to cross over to white audiences in the 1970s.***6 cross over**

if a disease that affects a particular type of animal crosses over, it starts to affect another type of animal as well

+ to/from *HIV had begun in African monkeys and crossed over to humans.* | *In the late 1980s, scientists discovered that the disease could cross over from cattle to humans.** SIMILAR TO: **pass****CROUCH**

crouched, crouched, crouching

crouch down**crouch down**

to bend your knees and lower your body so that you are very close to the ground: *I quickly crouched down behind the wall, hoping that they wouldn't see me.*

+ to do sth *Ben crouched down to examine something on the ground.*

CROWD

crowded, crowded, crowding

crowd aroundALSO **crowd round** BrE**crowd around/round****crowd around/round** sb/sth

if a group of people crowd around someone or something, they come very close to them and surround them, for example in order to hear or see them better: *Everybody crowded around to have a look at the baby.* | *Hundreds of people crowded round the stage door, waiting for the stars to appear.*

crowd in/into**crowd in** **crowd into** sth**crowd** sb **into** sth

to go into a place in large numbers so that it is very full, or to make people do this: *The doors opened, and everyone crowded in.* | *Several hundred people crowded into the church for the funeral service.* | *The prisoners were crowded into a tiny dark room and left there.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cram in/into****crowd in on/upon****crowd in on/upon** sb

if a lot of thoughts or feelings crowd in on you, you cannot stop thinking about them and they upset or worry you: *Too many thoughts were crowding in on her, and there was no solution to any of them.* | *Alvin tried to shut his mind against the fears that kept crowding in on him.*

crowd out**crowd out** sth/sb **crowd** sth/sb **out**

if one group of people or things crowd out another group, the first group is so big and strong that it makes it impossible for the second group to succeed or exist: *Bigger software firms are crowding out smaller businesses.* | *The weeds will crowd out your other plants, if you don't get rid of them.*

crowd roundSEE **crowd around/round****CRUMBLE**

crumbled, crumbled, crumbling

crumble away**1** **crumble away**

if something made of stone, brick, wood etc

crumbles away, it gradually breaks into little pieces and disappears, because it is very old: *The castle walls were slowly crumbling away.* | *Some of the floorboards were rotten and had crumbled away.*

2 **crumble away**

to gradually become weak and disappear, especially after being very strong: *Brigg's determination was slowly crumbling away.* | *The Roman Empire crumbled away over a period of about two centuries.*

CRUMPLE

crumpled, crumpled, crumpling

crumple up**1** **crumple up** sth **crumple** sth **up**

to crush a piece of paper or material, by pressing it into a ball in your hand: *George crumpled the page up and threw it in the bin.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw up** BrE, **wad up** AmE**2** **crumple up**

to bend over suddenly at the waist or fall over, for example because you have been hit by something or you are in pain: *A bullet ripped into his flesh and he crumpled up in agony.*

be crumpled up *I found Laura all crumpled up in a corner of the room.*

CRUSH

crushed, crushed, crushing

crush up**crush up**

BrE *informal* if people crush up, they move very close to each other so that their bodies are touching because there is not much space: *We can fit everyone into my car if you don't mind crushing up.*

be crushed up *The train was so full that we were crushed up against complete strangers.*

CRY

cried, cried, crying

cry off**cry off** **cry off** sth

BrE *informal* to decide not to do something that you have agreed or arranged to do: *We'd arranged to go to Spain together and he cried off at the last moment.* | *Josh cried off the trip to town, saying he had a headache.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop out**

cry out**cry out** **cry out** **sth**

to suddenly shout something or make a loud noise, especially because you are afraid or in pain: *Did you hear anyone scream or cry out?* | *Sammy saw her in the distance and cried out her name.*

cry out in fear/horror/pain etc *Even the smallest movement made him cry out in pain.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scream out**

cry out against**cry out against** **sth** ✕

to complain or protest strongly about something: *People have been crying out against the use of chemicals on farm crops for years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **protest**

outcry *N* [C]

when a lot of people complain or protest strongly about something

+ **against/over** *There was a public outcry over the decision to raise interest rates again.*

cry out for**be crying out for** **sth/sb**

informal to need something very urgently: *The country was crying out for a period of political peace.* | *Small businesses are crying out for skilled workers.* | *Our criminal justice system is crying out for change.*

CUDDLE*cuddled, cuddled, cuddling***cuddle up****cuddle up**

informal to sit or lie very close to someone and put your arms around them, in a way that shows you love them: *Why don't we just cuddle up on the sofa and watch TV?*

* SIMILAR TO: **snuggle up**

CULL*culled, culled, culling***cull from****cull** **sth** **from** **sth**

formal to choose or collect things from various different places: *The statistics were culled from a variety of sources.* | *a collection of songs culled from five of the group's albums*

* SIMILAR TO: **take from**

CULMINATE*culminated, culminated, culminating***culminate in****culminate in** **sth**

if a series of events culminates in something happening, it gradually leads towards it and ends with it: *A series of clashes eventually culminated in a full-scale war.* | *There is a minimum of sixty days' training, culminating in formal examinations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end in**

CURL*curled, curled, curling***curl up****1** **curl up**

to lie or sit with your legs and arms bent towards your stomach, because you feel comfortable, relaxed, or warm in that position: *"I like this music," said Rosie, curling up beside Hal on the sofa.* | *I crawled into my sleeping bag and curled up in a tight ball.*

be curled up *Mum was curled up with a book in front of the fire.*

2 **curl up**

if something flat curls up, its edges start to become curved and point upwards: *The photograph was starting to curl at the edges.* | *I put the leaf inside a book to stop it from curling up.*

CURSE*cursed, cursed, cursing***curse out****curse** **sb** **out**

AmE to shout at someone, saying rude words, because you are angry with them: *In her diary Nicole wrote that her husband cursed her out and threatened her the week before she was murdered.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cuss out** *AmE*

be cursed with**be cursed with** **sth**

to have a particular problem or disadvantage that makes you less fortunate than other people: *Since childhood she'd been cursed with a speech problem.* | *Rowan was one of those people who seem to be cursed with bad luck.*

CURTAIN

curtained, curtained, curtaining

curtain off

curtain off sth curtain sth off

USUALLY PASSIVE

to put a curtain around a particular area in a room in order to separate it from the rest and make it more private: *The bed next to mine was curtained off.*

* SIMILAR TO: screen off

CUSS

cussed, cussed, cussing

cuss out

cuss sb out cuss out sb

AmE to shout at someone, saying rude words, because you are angry with them: *Cheswick used to cuss out the secretaries when he was unhappy with their work.*

* SIMILAR TO: curse out AmE

CUT

cut, cut, cutting

cut across

1 cut across sth

to go across an area of land instead of going round the edge of it, because it is the shortest way: *It only takes ten minutes to get to the village if you cut across the field.* | *The train takes the shortest route and cuts across the desert.*

* SIMILAR TO: cut through

2 cut across sth

if a problem or subject cuts across different groups of people, it affects or concerns all of them, or they all have the same opinion about it in spite of their differences: *The drug problem cuts across all social classes.* | *There were a lot of redundancies, which cut across every level of the company.*

sth cuts across party lines (=people from different political parties have the same opinion) *The abortion issue cuts across party lines in the US.*

3 cut across sth

BrE to be very different from another idea, method etc: *This idea was common in Ancient Roman times, but it cuts across the Christian view.* | *His methods cut across the established ways of doing things and were seen as revolutionary.*

* SIMILAR TO: go against

cut away

cut away sth cut sth away

to remove an unwanted or unnecessary part of something by cutting it off: *Cut away any fat, and slice the meat into thin pieces.* | *Any dead wood needs to be cut away to make room for new growth.*

* SIMILAR TO: cut off

cut back

1 cut back cut back sth cut sth back

to reduce the amount of money that you spend, or the amount of something that you use: *During the recession a lot of businesses had to cut back, and unemployment rose sharply.* | *Since the children were born, we've had to really cut back our spending.*

cut back on sth *The company has been told that it must cut back on research.*

* SIMILAR TO: reduce

cutback N [C]

a reduction in something, especially the amount of money you spend: *2,000 jobs will be lost because of civil service cutbacks.*

+ in a cutback in defence spending

2 cut back sth cut sth back

to cut or remove some of the branches of a plant in order to encourage it to grow more strongly: *Raspberry bushes need to be cut back to within a few inches of the ground.*

* SIMILAR TO: prune back

cut down

1 cut down sth cut sth down

cut down

to reduce the amount, number, or size of something: *Could you try and cut down the amount of time you spend on the phone?* | *The government is looking at various proposals for cutting down the number of cars on our roads.* | *In the end the book had to be cut down, in order to meet the publication date.*

+ on *If we want to cut down on crime, we need to spend more on law enforcement.*

* SIMILAR TO: reduce

2 cut down

to eat, drink, or smoke less of something that is bad for you, in order to improve your health or lose weight: *It's difficult to give up alcohol altogether, but try and cut down as much as possible.*

+ on *It's the fatty foods you need to cut down on if you want to lose weight.*

3 **cut down sth** **cut sth down**

to remove a tree, or a lot of trees in a forest, by cutting them so that they fall to the ground: *Several trees had to be cut down before the building work could start.* | *Cutting down the rainforest has a terrible effect on the environment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chop down, fell**

4 **cut down sb** **cut sb down**

to kill or seriously injure someone with a weapon, especially a gun: *One of the women was cut down by a bullet while carrying her daughter to safety.*

cut in1 **cut in**

to interrupt someone by saying something: *"Actually," Marc cut in, "that's not quite true."*

→ on *She has a very annoying habit of cutting in on people while they're speaking.*

* SIMILAR TO: **interrupt**

2 **cut in**

if a machine cuts in, it starts to operate when it is needed: *The fan will automatically cut in if the engine gets too hot.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch on, come on**

3 **cut in**

to suddenly drive into the space between two moving cars when there is not really enough space for you to do this safely: *A blue Mercedes overtook me at 90 mph and then cut in right in front of me.*

4 **cut in sb** **cut sb in**

informal to allow someone to take part in a plan, business etc, or to share the profits from something: *No one was very keen on cutting Sam in.*

→ on *Joey wants to be cut in on the deal.*

5 **cut sth in** **cut in sth**

AmE if you cut in butter or other fat, you mix it into flour using a knife: *Cut in the butter until the mixture is sticky.*

6 **cut in**

old-fashioned to interrupt two people who are dancing, in order to ask one of them to dance with you: *"Do you mind if I cut in?" Mark asked, smiling at Katy.*

cut into1 **cut into sth**

to push a knife or a similar tool into something in order to make a cut in it: *She took the knife and solemnly cut into the cake.*

2 **cut into sth**

to reduce the amount of time, money etc that you have available for something, by using up a lot of it: *Simon was now working a seventy-hour week, which obviously cut into his social life.* | *By that time I had two ex-wives to support, which really cut into my earnings.*

3 **cut into sth/sb**

if something such as a rope cuts into someone's skin, it is so tight that it cuts the skin and hurts it: *The ropes began to cut into her flesh as she struggled to get free.*

cut off1 **cut off sth** **cut sth off**

to separate part of something completely from the rest by cutting it with a knife, scissors etc: *How much of your hair do you want me to cut off?* | *One of his fingers was cut off in the accident.*

cut-off ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

especially BrE *cut-off trousers* have been made much shorter than usual by cutting off the bottom of the legs: *Cut-off jeans were very fashionable that year.*

2 **cut off sth/sb** **cut sth/sb off**

to stop the supply of electricity, gas, water, money, or goods from getting to a place: *If there is an earthquake, the electrical supply will be immediately cut off.* | *The US threatened to cut off economic aid to South Africa.* | *The gas company is threatening to cut us off if we don't pay the bill immediately.*

3 **be cut off**

if a place is cut off, it is very difficult to get to, for example because it is a long way from any other place: *Some of the mountain villages are extremely cut off, and can only be reached on foot.* | *Some villages and farms were cut off by snow for two weeks.*

4 **be cut off**

if the people living somewhere are cut off, they cannot communicate with other countries or people, for example because they are a long way from them, or because it is not allowed

→ from *Rumania was a Communist dictatorship, cut off from the outside world.* | *Prisoners were left alone for weeks, cut off from all contact.*

5 **be cut off by the tide/the floods/the fire etc**

to be trapped and unable to leave a place because you are surrounded by water or by fire: *We'd better leave the beach by five o'clock or we'll be cut off by the tide.* | *Whole villages were cut off by the floods.*

6 **feel cut off**

if you feel cut off, you feel lonely because you cannot meet and talk to other people

+ from *I like working at home, but sometimes you feel cut off from other adults.*

* SIMILAR TO: **feel isolated**

7 **cut sb off** **cut off sth**

to stop communicating with someone or having a friendly relationship with them, often because you are angry with them about something: *June came from a religious Protestant family, who cut her off when she married a Roman Catholic.*

cut off relations with sb/sth *In 1904 Japan cut off diplomatic relations with Russia.*

cut yourself off (=deliberately avoid seeing people in order to be alone) *After his wife died, he just stayed at home and cut himself off from his family and friends.*

8 **cut off sb** **cut sb off**

to take away someone's right to receive your money or property when you die: *He knew that his father would cut him off without a penny if he married Elizabeth.*

9 **cut off sb** **cut sb off** USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are cut off while you are speaking on the telephone, you are unable to finish your conversation because the telephone connection is suddenly broken: *My money ran out and I was cut off.*

get cut off *We got cut off before he could give me his address.*

10 **cut sb off**

to prevent someone from finishing what they were saying, by interrupting them: *"Mark!" his father cut him off. "I don't want you talking to your mother like that!"*

11 **cut sb off**

AmE to suddenly drive in front of a moving car in a dangerous way: *When a careless driver cuts you off, get his license plate number and report it to the police.*

cut out1 **cut out sth** **cut sth out**

to remove something by cutting round it with scissors or a knife: *Slice the avocado in half and cut out the stone.*

+ of *I cut the job advertisement out of the newspaper and kept it carefully.*

2 **cut out sth** **cut sth out**

to cut a piece of paper, cloth etc so that it is in a particular shape: *The children were busy cutting out circles and squares.*

cut-out N [C]

a shape that has been cut out from card: *a life-size cardboard cut-out of Tony Blair*

3 **cut out sth** **cut sth out**

to stop eating, drinking, smoking etc something, especially in order to improve your health or lose weight: *I wish I'd cut out cigarettes years ago. | You really ought to cut out alcohol, or at least drink less.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up**

4 **cut it out!/cut that out!**

spoken informal used to tell someone to stop doing something because it is annoying you: *"Cut it out!" Brady yelled as the other guys took his clothes and began throwing them around the room.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop it!, knock it off** spoken informal

5 **not be cut out for sth to do sth**

if someone is not cut out for a job or an activity, they do not have the qualities that you need to do it: *After the first two months, Jim realized that he wasn't cut out to be a policeman. | I don't really enjoy being at home with the children - I just wasn't cut out for it!*

6 **cut out sth** **cut sth out**

to remove part of a book, film, speech etc, for example because it might offend people: *The editors of the book asked me to cut out several paragraphs.*

+ of *A number of scenes had been cut out of the original movie.*

7 **cut sb out**

to stop someone from taking part in something, or from having a share of something

+ of *In a sudden temper, Joss cut me out of the deal.*

cut sb out of your will (=stop someone from receiving any of your money or property when you die) *We'd had our disagreements, but it was still a shock when my father cut me out of his will.*

8 **cut out sth/sb** **cut sth/sb out**

to make part of a process unnecessary by making the process simpler and more direct: *A new station is due to open at the airport, cutting out the need for a long bus or taxi journey to catch a flight.*

cut out the middleman (=deal directly with people or companies yourself, so that you do not have to pay more money to someone else to do it) *All our goods come straight from the factory, so we can cut out the middleman and keep our prices down.*

9 **cut out sth** **cut sth out**

to prevent light or sound from coming into a place, or to prevent a view from being seen: *Very thick curtains will cut out the sound as well as the light.* | *The new houses will completely cut out our view.*

* SIMILAR TO: **block out, shut out**

10 **cut out**

if an engine or machine cuts out, it suddenly stops working: *Then the engine cut out altogether, and we were stuck in the middle of the lake.*

cut-out ALSO **cut-out device** N [C]

BrE a part of a machine that stops the machine working if there is a problem: *The motor has an automatic cut-out device if it starts to overheat.*

11 **cut out**

AmE to leave suddenly: *Bob cut out right after the movie, but the rest of us had coffee and talked for a while.*

cut through1 **cut through sth**

to go through a particular place instead of going round it, because it is the shortest way: *It was still light, so we decided to cut through the forest.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut across**

2 **cut through sth**

to quickly find a way of dealing with something, for example a set of official rules, so that it does not prevent you from doing what you want: *Smith cut through a lot of bureaucracy to get the children out of Bosnia.*

3 **cut through sth**

to move quickly and smoothly through something, especially water: *Further out to sea, a motorboat cut through the water.*

4 **cut through sth**

if a road, path, or river cuts through an area, it passes through it: *The road cuts through some fantastic scenery, before dropping down to the sea.*

cut up1 **cut up sth** **cut sth up**

to cut something into small pieces, especially food: *Could you cut up the onions for me?* | *Dan was in the garden, cutting wood up for the fire.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chop up**

2 **be cut up**

informal, especially BrE to be very upset about something that has happened

+ **about** *When Sam's father died last year, he was really cut up about it.*

3 **be (badly) cut up**

to be injured in a lot of places, by being in an accident or fight: *She was lucky to survive – her head was badly cut up.* | *Morrison last fought in October, when he was cut up and knocked out by Lennox Lewis.*

4 **cut up**

AmE informal if a class of students cuts up, the students behave badly: *By 3:00 on Friday, even the best class cuts up.*

D

DAB

dabbed, dabbed, dabbing

dab at

dab at sth

to touch something several times with quick light movements, especially with a cloth in order to remove something: *I came in to find Mark dabbing carefully at a dark stain on the carpet.* | *Dinah sniffed and dabbed at her eyes.*

DABBLE

dabbled, dabbled, dabbling

dabble in

dabble in sth

to do something or become involved in something in a not very serious way, for short periods of time: *Eckford became a wealthy man, bought a big house and dabbled in politics.* | *He dabbled in drugs a bit when he was at college, like most people of his generation.*

DALLY

dallied, dallied, dallying

dally with

1 dally with sth

to consider an idea or plan but not in a very serious way: *We've been dallying with the idea of moving our offices to Cambridge.* | *Both parties have been dallying with economic reform.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play around/about with, toy with**

2 dally with sb

old-fashioned to have a short romantic or sexual relationship with someone, without having serious feelings for them that are likely to last: *Tristram didn't want everyone to know he'd been dallying with one of the servant girls.* | *She accused the major of dallying with her affections.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play around/about**

DAM

dammed, dammed, damming

dam up

dam up sth dam sth up

to stop the water from flowing in a river,

stream etc, especially by building a special wall across it: *The river has been dammed up to form a series of lakes.*

DAMP/DAMPEN

damped, damped, damping
dampened, dampened, dampening

damp/dampen down

1 damp/dampen down sth

damp/dampen sth down

especially BrE to reduce or control something and prevent it from increasing any more: *Jenna took a deep breath in an attempt to damp down her anger.* | *Tax increases were a way of damping down consumer spending.*

2 damp/dampen down sth

damp/dampen sth down

especially BrE to make a fire burn more slowly, especially by covering it with something or putting water on it

damp/dampen down a fire/blaze *Marty ran for help, while I got some water from the stream to try and damp down the fire.*

3 damp/dampen down sth

damp/dampen sth down

especially BrE to put a small amount of water on something, in order to make it wet or flat: *Rick was in the bathroom as usual, damping down his hair.*

DASH

dashed, dashed, dashing

dash off

1 dash off

informal to leave or go somewhere very quickly: *He dashed off before I had a chance to thank him.* | *I'm just dashing off to get my hair cut.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rush off, shoot off**

2 dash off sth dash sth off

to write or draw something very quickly, especially because you are in a hurry: *Lilly dashed off a note and left it on the table, explaining where she'd gone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scribble down, jot down**

DATE

dated, dated, dating

date back

date back

to have existed since a particular time in the past – used especially to say that something has existed for a long time: *a tradition which dates back well over a thousand years*

+ to Parts of the castle date back to the fifteenth century.

* SIMILAR TO: go back

DAWN

dawned, dawned, dawning

dawn on/upon

● Dawn upon is more formal than dawn on and is mostly used in writing.

dawn on/upon sb

if something dawns on you, you realize it for the first time

it dawns on sb (that) *It suddenly dawned on Steve that he'd been making a complete fool of himself. | Then it dawned on me that I was totally wasting my time in this job.*

sth dawns on sb *The size of the task in front of us was slowly dawning on me.*

* SIMILAR TO: strike

DEAL

dealt, dealt, dealing

deal in

1 deal in sth

to buy and sell a particular type of thing as a business: *The company dealt in stocks and shares. | My father used to deal in stamps, medals and coins. | Penalties for dealing in illegal drugs are strict.*

2 deal in sth

to be interested in something or want to achieve something: *Kirov dealt in getting results and it didn't matter how he got them. | Laurence was not a man who dealt in rumours.*

3 deal sb in

to give someone cards so that they can play in a game of cards: *Shall I deal you in, Mick?*

4 deal me in

AmE spoken informal used to say that you want to be included in an activity or an agreement: *If you can find a way of making money from it, deal me in!*

* SIMILAR TO: count me in! spoken

deal out

1 deal out sth deal sth out

to give something to a lot of different people: *She dealt out the sweets to all the children. | The money that was collected was dealt out to the poor.*

* SIMILAR TO: give out, hand out, share out

2 deal out sth deal sth out

to give playing cards to each of the players in a game: *The girl opposite Karl began dealing out the cards.*

3 deal out sth deal sth out

formal to give a punishment to someone: *The punishments dealt out to the rioters were extremely harsh.*

* SIMILAR TO: mete out formal, administer formal

deal with

1 deal with sth

to take action in order to solve a problem or make sure that something is done properly: *Staff are trained to deal with customer problems in a sympathetic way. | Who is dealing with the accommodation arrangements for the conference? | Troops were sent in, but they were poorly equipped for dealing with the riots. | We're still trying to deal with all the replies we had to our advertisement.*

* SIMILAR TO: handle, tackle

2 deal with sth

formal if a book, speech, or film deals with a particular subject, it is about that subject, or that subject is discussed in it: *Carr's previous books have dealt with the events leading up to the war. | These ideas are dealt with more fully in Chapter Four. | His speech dealt mainly with the problems of health and education.*

* SIMILAR TO: cover

3 deal with sb/sth

to do business with someone or to discuss important matters with them: *We've dealt with that particular company for many years. | The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, refused to deal with the PLO.*

4 deal with sb

to meet or talk to someone as part of your work: *As a lawyer, I deal with hundreds of people every year. | If you want to work in sales and marketing, you need to be good at dealing with people.*

5 deal with sth

to succeed in facing a difficult situation in a way that does not have a very bad effect on you emotionally: *Simon's still struggling to deal with his divorce. | Giving evidence in court was really hard for her, but she's dealt with it so far.*

6 deal with sb

to punish someone because they have done something wrong: *Suspected terrorists are severely dealt with by the courts.*

* SIMILAR TO: punish

DEBAR

debarred, debarred, debarring

debar from**debar sb from sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to prevent someone from doing something by law or by an official rule: *All the terrorist groups were debarred from participation in the talks.*

be debarred from doing sth *Military personnel were debarred from voting.*

DECIDE

decided, decided, deciding

D

decide against**decide against sth/sb**

to decide not to do a particular thing, or not to choose someone or something: *Quite a lot of engineering students eventually decide against a career in engineering.* | *In the end the committee decided against me, and chose a much younger man instead.*

decide against doing sth *More and more people are deciding against having children.*

decide on/upon

● **Decide upon** is more formal than **decide on** and is mostly used in writing.

decide on/upon sth/sb

to choose something or someone after thinking carefully: *In the end we decided on a small Italian restaurant.* | *Have you decided on a date for your wedding yet?*

+ what/where/which etc *First, you have to decide upon which subjects you like best.*

* SIMILAR TO: **settle on/upon**

DECK

decked, decked, decking

deck out**1 deck out sb** **deck sb out** USUALLY PASSIVE

to put on special, often brightly coloured clothes for a particular occasion

+ in *Everyone was decked out in their best Sunday clothes for the annual outing to the sea.*

deck yourself out *Derek had decked himself out in a black leather jacket, green socks and red shoes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dress up**

2 deck out sth **deck sth out**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to decorate something with flags, flowers, bright colours etc for a special occasion

+ with *In the harbour, the ships were all decked out with flags and coloured lights.*

DECLARE

declared, declared, declaring

declare against**declare against sth/sb**

formal to state publicly that you do not agree with someone or something, or do not support them: *Austria and Russia were ready to take action, but Serbia declared against it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come out against**

declare for**declare for sth/sb**

formal to state publicly that you agree with someone or something, or support them: *The situation was hopeless, and Sir Charles Munro declared for withdrawal of the troops.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come out in favour of**

DEDICATE

dedicated, dedicated, dedicating

dedicate to**1 dedicate sth to sb**

to say that a book, film, song etc has been written or made in order to express love or respect for a particular person: *I'd like to dedicate this song to my wife.* | *This book is dedicated to my children, Jamie, Laurie and Jo.*

2 dedicate sth to sb USUALLY PASSIVE

to give a building a particular person's name, or to write people's names on something that has been built, in order to show respect for them: *The church is dedicated to St Nicholas and dates from 1125.* | *On the village green there is a statue which is dedicated to those who died in the Great War.*

3 dedicate yourself/your life to (doing) sth

to give a lot of your time and effort to something or someone, because you care about them a lot: *Hoster had dedicated his life to the army.* | *When Rosie became ill, he dedicated himself to caring for her.*

4 be dedicated to sth

to be made or used for one particular purpose: *The research centre is dedicated to space biology.*

DEFER

deferred, deferred, deferring

defer to**defer to sb/sth**

formal to accept someone else's opinion or

decision, because they know more than you or are more important than you: *My mother deferred to my father on all the important decisions.*

defer to sb's authority/judgment/knowledge etc *Tim thought it best to defer to Sarah's superior knowledge.*

DEGENERATE

degenerated, degenerated, degenerating

degenerate into

degenerate into sth

if something degenerates into a confused, violent, or unpleasant situation, it becomes more and more confused, violent etc: *The march degenerated into violence as demonstrators smashed barriers and threw stones at police.* | *The discussion degenerated into a shouting match.*

DELIGHT

delighted, delighted, delighting

delight in

delight in sth

formal to get a lot of pleasure from something, often from doing something that other people disapprove of

delight in doing sth *He was an unpleasant boy who delighted in teasing younger children.* | *The media seem to delight in revealing the most intimate details about the private lives of the rich and famous.*

DELIVER

delivered, delivered, delivering

deliver of

1 deliver yourself of sth

formal to say something, especially in a very confident way: *Patrick loudly delivered himself of several unpleasant remarks about women in general.*

2 be delivered of a baby

BrE old-fashioned to give birth to a baby: *The following morning Sarah was delivered of a baby girl.*

* SIMILAR TO: give birth

deliver on

deliver on a promise/agreement etc

formal to do something that you promised or agreed officially to do: *Ministers have been attacked for failing to deliver on promises made three years ago.*

deliver up/over

deliver up/over sth/sb

deliver sth/sb up/over

formal to give something or someone to a person in authority, especially because you have been ordered to: *All relevant documents must be delivered up to the court.* | *The terrorists have agreed to deliver over the hostages.*

* SIMILAR TO: hand over, surrender

DELVE

delved, delved, delving

delve into

delve into sth

to try to find more detailed information that is not well known: *I spent some time delving into the history of the area in local libraries and churches.* | *Sometimes delving into the past can help us understand the present better.*

* SIMILAR TO: dig into

DEPART

departed, departed, departing

depart from

depart from sth

formal to do something in a way that is different from the usual or expected way: *In the 1970s, a lot of schools departed from traditional educational practices.* | *In some of his later paintings, the artist departs from his usual method.*

* SIMILAR TO: deviate from

DEPEND

depended, depended, depending

depend on/upon

● **Depend upon** is more formal than **depend on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 depend on/upon sth/sb NOT PASSIVE

to need something or someone's help in order to do something or in order to be successful: *I bought a car so I didn't have to depend on public transport all the time.* | *Until now the country has depended almost entirely on its oil revenue.*

+ **for** *Most of these birds depend upon insects for food.*

+ **to do sth** *I'm depending on you to get this finished by tomorrow.*

* SIMILAR TO: rely on

2 depend on/upon sth/sb NOT PASSIVE

to be influenced or changed according to

particular conditions: *Completing the building work in time will really depend on the weather.* | *The park closes between 5 and 7 pm, depending on the time of year.*

+ **what/whether/how etc** *The success of any economy depends on how it is managed by the government.*

it depends on sth *I'm not sure what time we'll arrive. It depends on the traffic.*

3 can depend on sb/sth

if you can depend on someone or something, you can trust them and feel confident that they will help you or do what you want: *You can depend on Jane – she's always ready to help.*

sth you can depend on *If you live in the country, you need to have a car you can depend on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rely on, trust**

DEPRIVE

deprived, deprived, depriving

deprive of

deprive sb/sth of sth

to prevent someone or something from having something that they need or want: *A lot of these children have been deprived of a normal home life.* | *A large section of the population was deprived of the right to vote.* | *We'll talk about it later – I don't want to deprive you of sleep.*

DERIVE

derived, derived, deriving

derive from

1 derive sth from sth

formal to get satisfaction, pleasure, or an advantage from something: *It's a demanding job, but he derives a lot of satisfaction from it.* | *Most of the companies had derived positive benefits from their investment.*

2 derive from/be derived from

to develop or come from something else: *A lot of words in English are derived from Latin.* | *William Morris's designs derived from his deep love of nature.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come from**

DEROGATE

derogated, derogated, derogating

derogate from

1 derogate from sth

formal, especially BrE to do something different from what is agreed in law or by an agreement: *The United Kingdom has sought to*

derogate from the basic principles of the treaty.

* SIMILAR TO: **deviate from**

2 derogate from sth

formal, especially BrE to take away some of someone's rights, duties etc: *This new legislation does not in any way derogate from the rights of the landlord.*

DESCEND

descended, descended, descending

descend from

1 be descended from sb

to be related to someone who lived in the past, especially someone famous or important: *My mother always claimed she was descended from Abraham Lincoln.*

2 be descended from sth

to have developed from something that existed in the past: *These ideas are descended from those of the ancient philosophers.*

descend into

descend into sth

if something descends into a confused, violent, or unpleasant situation, it gradually becomes more and more confused, violent etc: *By this time the police investigation had descended into total chaos.* | *There is a danger that Chechnya will descend into further violence and poverty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **degenerate into**

descend on/upon

● **Descend upon** is more formal than **descend on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 descend on/upon sb/sth

if a group of people descend on a person or place, they all arrive suddenly, often without being invited: *If friends suddenly descend on you at the weekend, you just have to hope you have something in the freezer.* | *Thousands of football fans descended on the town.*

2 descend on/upon sb/sth

if a type of weather, or silence, calm etc descends on a person or place, it seems to start very suddenly: *A heavy fog suddenly descended on us, and we realized that we were lost.* | *It was early evening, and calm had descended upon the river.*

3 descend on/upon sb

if a sad feeling descends on you, you suddenly start to feel it: *A black depression descended on her at the thought of the future.*

descend to**descend to sth**

if someone descends to very bad or unacceptable behaviour, they behave in that way: *I was completely amazed that he could descend to such rudeness.*

descend to doing sth *By this time Mr and Mrs Popple had descended to shouting at each other.*

descend to the level of sb/sth (=behave as badly as someone or something else) *Without civilized society, we would descend to the level of animals.*

descend uponSEE **descend on****DESPAIR**

despaired, despaired, despairing

despair of**1 despair of sth**

formal to feel that there is no hope that something will ever happen or improve: *I really despair of public transport in this country!*

despair of doing sth *Months passed, and I began to despair of ever seeing her again.*

2 despair of sb

to feel that there is no hope that someone will ever be successful, or do what they should do: *"You're not even trying at school!" my father said. "I despair of you!"*

despair of sb doing sth *I was twenty-two, and my family had despaired of me ever finding a job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up on****DETRACT**

detracted, detracted, detracting

detract from**detract from sth**

to make something seem less good, or to reduce its value: *The other team certainly played badly, but that should not detract from our victory.* | *Obviously a noisy road nearby detracts from the value of a house.*

* SIMILAR TO: **diminish, take away from****DEVIATE**

deviated, deviated, deviating

deviate from**deviate from sth**

to do something in a different way from the usual or expected way: *The Chancellor did*

not deviate from the original text of his speech.

* SIMILAR TO: **depart from****DEVOLVE**

devolved, devolved, devolving

devolve to/upon/on**devolve sth to/upon/on sb****devolve to/upon/on sb**

formal if power or a position of authority is devolved to a person, group, or organization, it is given to them: *The minister put forward plans to devolve power to regional parliaments in Scotland and Wales.* | *The following year, the presidency devolved upon Pascal Trouillot.*

DEVOTE

devoted, devoted, devoting

devote to**1 devote sth to sth**

to use a lot of your time and energy for a particular purpose, because you care about it a lot: *He retired early in order to devote more time to his interest in drama and music.* | *Mother Teresa devoted her life to helping the poor and needy.*

devote yourself to (doing) sth *For twenty years Sutchbury had devoted himself to the museum.*

2 devote sth to sth

to give money, space, or attention to a particular activity or subject: *More funds and resources need to be devoted to the care of old people.* | *Every US newspaper devotes a lot of space to weather forecasts.*

3 be devoted to sb/sth

to love someone or care about something a lot, and give a lot of your time to them: *Mr Summerfield was described as a shy man, who was devoted to his family.* | *Like many scientists, she is completely devoted to her work.*

4 be devoted to sth

to be about a particular subject, or to be used for a particular purpose: *A large part of the book is devoted to the years leading up to the war.* | *In the Eastern part of England, most farms are devoted to arable crops.*

DIAL

dialled, dialled, dialling
dialed, dialed, dialing AmE

dial in/into

dial in dial into sth

to connect one computer to others by using a modem. A modem is a piece of electronic equipment which lets one computer send information to another through telephone wires: *It can take quite a long time to dial into the Internet.* | *People working at home can dial in over a modem, and get access to their files.*

dial-in ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a dial-in service, system etc connects one computer to others by using a modem: *Comcast plans to set up a dial-in service.*

dial out

dial out

to use a telephone in order to phone someone who is not in the same office building as you: *If you want to dial out, press nine and then dial the number.*

DICK

dicked, dicked, dicking

● **Dick** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

dick around

1 dick sb around

AmE informal to deliberately make things difficult for someone: *Carlson always dicks me around – maybe I should find a better agent.*

* SIMILAR TO: **jerk around** AmE informal, **mess around** BrE informal

2 dick around

AmE informal to waste time by doing silly things: *Now get to work, and I don't want to see you dicking around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fool around**, **mess about/around**

DICTATE

dictated, dictated, dictating

dictate to

dictate to sb

to tell someone exactly what they should do or how they should behave, often in a way that annoys them because you have no right to do this: *Just because you're older than me doesn't give you the right to dictate to me!*

+ **what/who/how etc** *The government should not dictate to employers how much they pay their workers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **order about/around**

DIDDLE

diddled, diddled, diddling

diddle around

diddle around

AmE informal to waste time and not try hard to succeed: *Samuel mostly diddled around in college, getting by with the lowest pass grades.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dink around** AmE informal, **mess around** informal

diddle with

1 diddle with sth

AmE informal to play with something by making small movements with your hands, usually without thinking about what you are doing: *Ruth was sitting in an easy chair, diddling with a small American flag.*

2 diddle with sth

AmE informal to make small changes to something which are intended to improve it but do not: *The President and Congress keep diddling with the national debt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fiddle around (with)**

DIE

died, died, dying

die away

die away

if something such as sound, light, or the wind dies away, it gradually becomes weaker and then stops: *The sky became dark and the sound of heavy bombs died away.* | *At last, in the early morning, the wind began to die away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fade away**

die back

die back

if a plant dies back, its leaves and flowers die, but its roots are still alive: *Cold weather causes the plants to die back, but they will usually return in the spring.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wither**

die down

die down

if something such as noise, excitement, or fighting dies down, it gradually decreases in amount, until it stops completely: *Forester looked around the room, waiting for the laughter to die down.* | *The fuss caused by Howe's resignation eventually died down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **subside** formal

be dying for**be dying for** sth

BrE *informal* to want or need something very much, especially something to drink or eat: *I'm dying for a cup of tea – how about you?* | *By this time we'd been travelling all day, and we were dying for a good meal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for**

die off**die off**

if a group of people or animals die off, they die over a period of time until none of them are left: *Most of the old people had died off, and the young ones had moved to the towns.* | *In the Yangtze River, dolphins are dying off at an alarming rate.*

die out**1 die out**

if all of a type of animal or plant dies out, they gradually decrease in numbers and then stop existing completely: *Many wild plants and animals are in danger of dying out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **become extinct**

2 die out

if a custom, tradition, or skill dies out, it gradually disappears and people stop doing it or using it: *During this century a lot of the old country crafts have died out.*

DIG

dug, dug, digging

dig in**1 dig in** sth **dig** sth in

to mix a substance into soil by digging, in order to improve the quality of the soil: *I need to dig some manure in before I plant the roses.*

2 dig your heels in/dig in your heels

to refuse to do something in spite of other people's efforts to persuade you: *Sara just dug in her heels and refused to co-operate.* | *When we tried to argue about the price, he dug his heels in.*

3 dig in

if soldiers dig in, they dig trenches that they can go into for protection. Trenches are long holes dug into the ground: *Allied troops arrived at Ypres and began to dig in.*

be dug in (=be in trenches) *The German army was dug in along a ten-mile front.*

4 dig in sth

if you dig in your pocket or bag, you put

your hand in it to try to find something: *John dug in his shirt pocket and produced a small photograph.*

5 dig in sth **dig** sth in

to push something sharp into a surface or into part of someone's body: *She reached for his hand, clutched it and dug in her long nails.*

6 dig in!

BrE *spoken informal* used to tell people to start eating the food that is in front of them: *Dig in! There's plenty for everyone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tuck in** BrE *informal*

7 dig in

AmE *informal* to begin to do something in a determined or excited way: *When his mother became sick, Tyler really dug in and helped the rest of the family.*

dig into**1 dig into** sth

to put your hand into something such as a pocket or bag in order to try to find something: *Mrs Bennet dug into her purse and handed the girl a few coins.*

2 dig sth into sth

to mix a substance into soil by digging, in order to improve the quality of the soil: *Before planting leaf vegetables dig sulphate of ammonia into the soil, to produce healthy growth.*

3 dig into sth

to use part of a supply of something, especially money, that you had intended to keep: *We've had to dig into our savings to pay off the debt.* | *The bank is digging into capital reserves to retain the confidence of its customers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dip into**

4 dig into sth

to try to find out more information about something, especially someone's private life: *As detectives dug deeper into the secret life of Thomas Courtney, they discovered some surprising facts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **delve into**

5 dig into sth **dig** sth into sth

to press something or be pressed against part of someone's body in a way that causes pain: *The straps of my rucksack were digging into my shoulder.* | *Casey grabbed hold of me, digging his thumbs into my throat so that I could not breathe.*

6 dig into sth

to start eating food: *He sat down at the table and dug into a plate of steaming pasta.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tuck into** BrE *informal*

dig out**1 dig out sth dig sth out**

to search for and find something that you have not seen for a long time: *I read an article about that in a magazine – I'll see if I can dig it out for you.* | *Dig out your old dancing shoes and join in the fun.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig up**

2 dig out sth dig sth out

to look for and find information, especially information that is difficult to find: *The TV station employs a group of researchers, who are always ready to dig out whatever information is required.* | *I took the opportunity to dig out a few facts and figures about this remote island.*

dig out of**dig sth out of trouble/a mess/a crisis etc**

to succeed in helping an organization, country etc which is failing or in a bad situation, so that it becomes successful again: *They decided that Gerstner was the right man to dig the company out of trouble.* | *People grew impatient with Mr Zhivkov's inability to dig Bulgaria out of its economic and political crisis.*

dig over**dig over sth dig sth over**

to dig a piece of ground and break up the soil, before planting things in it: *Dig over the flowerbeds and remove any weeds.*

dig up**1 dig up sth dig sth up**

to dig holes in the ground, or to remove a floor: *Can you believe it – they're digging up the road again!* | *Police have dug up the floor of the house in their search for the body of a man who went missing six months ago.*

2 dig up sth dig sth up

to dig and remove something from the ground that is buried or that is growing in it: *Ancient Roman treasure, including thousands of coins, has been dug up in a field in Suffolk.* | *We had to dig up the rose bushes and transplant them to the other side of the garden.*

3 dig up sth dig sth up

to discover hidden or forgotten information by careful searching, especially about something bad or illegal that someone has done in the past: *When you become famous, the press will dig up everything they can about your past.*

dig up dirt on sb (=try to discover something bad or illegal that someone has done in the past) *They searched through confidential files to dig up dirt on Mr Clinton,*

and discovered that he had smoked cannabis as a student.

4 dig up sth dig sth up

to search for and find something that you have not seen for a long time: *I know I've got the book somewhere at home – I'll see if I can dig it up for you*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig out**

DILATE

dilated, dilated, dilating

dilate on**dilate on sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to speak or write a lot about a particular subject or idea: *In the last chapter Penzias dilates on the role that religion can play in politics.*

DIN

dinned, dinned, dinning

din into**din sth into sb** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE old-fashioned to make someone remember or believe something by repeating it to them many times: *Respect for our elders was dinned into us at school.* | *ideas and attitudes that had been dinned into his head from birth*

* SIMILAR TO: **drum into**

DINE

dined, dined, dining

dine in**dine in**

formal to eat dinner at home, not in a restaurant: *Please tell Anton that we shall be dining in this evening.*

* SIMILAR TO: **eat in**

dine off/on**dine off/on sth**

formal to eat a particular kind of food for dinner, especially expensive food: *We dined on lobster and strawberries at the Ritz Hotel.*

dine out**dine out**

to eat dinner in a restaurant – used especially in written English: *Dining out on the island is a real pleasure, for there is a wide range of restaurants at very affordable prices.* | *Dine out in style in this grand Victorian mansion, serving French and world cuisine.*

* SIMILAR TO: **eat out**

dine out on

dine out on sth

BrE humorous to often tell a story about something special that happened to you, in order to entertain people during meals: *Bessie once met the Dalai Lama and she has dined out on it ever since.*

DINK

dinked, dinked, dinking

dink around

dink around

AmE informal to waste time, especially by doing small, unimportant jobs slowly: *Quit dinking around and get to work!* | *What am I doing here, dinking around with my friends, instead of working on my campaign?*

* SIMILAR TO: **futz around** AmE informal, **diddle around** AmE informal

DIP

dipped, dipped, dipping

dip into

1 dip into sth ✕

to use part of an amount of money that you had intended to keep: *She's had to dip into her savings to pay the medical bills.* | *Profits were seriously low, and the company was forced to dip into reserves.*

dip into your pocket (=pay for something with your own money, when normally someone else would pay) *Parents are being asked to dip into their pockets for new school books.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig into**

2 dip into sth ✓

to read short parts of a book, magazine etc, without reading the whole thing: *It's the kind of book you can dip into now and again.*

3 dip into sth ✕

to put your hand into a bag or container to take something out: *Janet dipped into her handbag and pulled out a letter.* | *On her lap was a large tub of popcorn that she kept dipping into.*

DISABUSE

disabused, disabused, disabusing

disabuse of

disabuse sb of sth

formal to persuade someone that something they believe is untrue: *I was under the*

impression that my essay was rather good, but the professor soon disabused me of that notion.

DISAGREE

disagreed, disagreed, disagreeing

disagree with

disagree with sb

if something, especially a type of food, disagrees with you, it makes you feel ill: *I never eat seafood – it disagrees with me.*

DISAPPROVE

disapproved, disapproved, disapproving

disapprove of

disapprove of sth/sb

to think that something or someone is bad, wrong, or unsuitable: *Sophie's parents didn't really approve of her new boyfriend.* | *Many people still disapprove of the idea of sex before marriage.*

● OPPOSITE: **approve of**

D

DISASSOCIATE

disassociated, disassociated, disassociating

SEE **dissociate****DISCOURSE**

discoursed, discoursed, discoursing

discourse on

discourse on sth

formal to make a long speech about something: *Poindexter discoursed on language and culture, and the relationship between them.*

DISH

dished, dished, dishing

dish out

1 dish out sth dish sth out

informal to give things to a group of people: *They want me to dress up as Santa Claus and dish out presents at the kids' Christmas party.* | *We're going to have a display, and we'll probably dish out some leaflets there as well.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand out**

2 dish out sth dish sth out

to serve food to people by putting it onto their plates: *Jo, would you dish out the ice-cream.* | *Dolores had cut up a huge melon and dished chunks out on their plates.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dish up, serve up**

3 dish out sth dish sth out

informal to give people advice or criticism without thinking about it carefully enough: *These lawyers make a fortune dishing out expensive advice to clients.*

sb can dish it out but they can't take it (=used to say that someone likes to criticize other people, but does not like to be criticized) *Lloyd's a bully – he can certainly dish it out, but when they start getting at him, he can't take it.*

4 dish out sth dish sth out

AmE to pass the ball to another player so that they can score points easily in a game such as basketball or hockey: *Mark Jackson dished out 12 assists for Indiana.*

dish up

1 dish up sth dish sth up dish up

BrE to put food onto plates so that it is ready to eat: *Can you dish up the vegetables? They're on the sideboard. | I'll open the wine – you dish up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dish out, serve up**

2 dish up sth dish sth up

BrE informal to produce something without much care or effort: *Throughout the summer, TV channels have been dishing up a diet of old movies.*

DISPENSE

dispensed, dispensed, dispensing

dispense with

dispense with sb/sth

formal to stop using something or someone that you would normally use, or get rid of someone or something because you no longer need them: *Some companies have dispensed with middle managers altogether. | Morenz had dispensed with his suit in favour of a more casual look.*

dispense with formalities (=not behave in the polite formal way that is considered normal because you are in a hurry) *Mills dispensed with the usual formalities and got straight to the point.*

DISPOSE

disposed, disposed, disposing

dispose of

1 dispose of sth

to get rid of something, especially something that is difficult to get rid of: *Dahmer had disposed of his victim's body by burying it in the woods. | Hazardous chemicals must be disposed of carefully, according to strict safety procedures.*

2 dispose of sth

formal to sell something that is worth a lot of money, such as shares in a company or parts of a company: *The government wanted to dispose of its shares in the loss-making state rail network. | Granada's decision to dispose of 40 of its top hotels was applauded by city analysts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sell off**

3 dispose of sth

to deal with a problem, question, or job successfully: *The Kennedy administration wanted urgently to dispose of the whole issue to avoid any further embarrassment. | The case has now been finally disposed of by the European Court.*

4 dispose of sb

to defeat an opponent: *Having disposed of Newcastle, Manchester United went on to beat Liverpool in the FA Cup final.*

* SIMILAR TO: **defeat**

5 dispose of sb

to kill someone or arrange for them to be killed: *Stalin used the secret police to dispose of his rivals. | This is a country where politicians, judges, and business rivals are disposed of nearly every day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kill**

DISSOCIATE also DISASSOCIATE

dissociated, dissociated, dissociating

dissociate from

1 dissociate yourself from sb/sth

to show that you do not agree with a person or organization, so that you avoid being criticized for their opinions or actions: *The organisers of the protest were quick to dissociate themselves from the violence that had erupted on the streets. | The President was becoming increasingly unpopular, and several government ministers began to quietly disassociate themselves from him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **distance yourself from**

2 dissociate sth/sb from sth/sb

formal to consider two things or people to be separate and not connected to each other: *Traditional teaching has tended to dissociate science from technology.*

DISSOLVE

dissolved, dissolved, dissolving

dissolve into

1 dissolve into tears/laughter/giggles

to lose control of yourself and start to cry or laugh: *She suddenly dissolved into floods of*

tears. "I hate you!" she said. "I hate you!" | Vicky started tickling the boy, and he dissolved into giggles.

2 dissolve into sth

to develop into a bad state: *Tragically, it now seems a deadly certainty that the region will dissolve into war.* | *Order dissolved into chaos, as an angry mob ran through the streets, looting shops and setting cars on fire.*

DISTANCE

distanced, distanced, distancing

distance yourself from

distance yourself from sb/sth

to say that you are not involved with someone or something, or to try to become less involved with someone or something: *The Labour Party had been careful to distance itself from Marxism.* | *All Gore's attempts to distance himself from the controversy have failed, as the press keep questioning him about his involvement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dissociate yourself from**

DIVE

dived also dove AmE, dived, diving

dive in

1 dive in

to start doing something very eagerly, especially without stopping to think before you do it: *Think carefully about what sort of dog is the right one for you, before diving in and buying one.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leap in**

2 dive in

to start eating some food very eagerly: *Mrs Birkin brought breakfast out on a tray, and Lisa dived in hungrily.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig in!** BrE spoken informal, **tuck in** BrE informal

dive into

1 dive into sth

if you dive into a bag, cupboard etc, you put your hand into it very quickly to get something out: *"What about shoes?" Louise dived into her carrier bag and pulled out a pair of white sandals.*

2 dive into sth

if you dive into an activity, you start doing it very eagerly: *Williams dived into the election campaign with great enthusiasm, convinced that we could win.*

3 dive into sth

if you dive into a place, you go into it very

quickly: *I saw my ex-boyfriend walking down the street, so I just dived into the nearest shop.*

4 dive into sth

if you dive into food, you start to eat it very eagerly: *Moving over to the buffet, Walter immediately dived into a plate of smoked salmon sandwiches.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig into** informal, **tuck into** informal

DIVEST

divested, divested, divesting

divest of

1 divest yourself of sth

formal to get rid of something that you own: *The Corporation has already divested itself of unwanted properties worth over £3 million.* | *The American Supreme Court ordered the Hollywood studios to divest themselves of the monopoly control of the cinemas.*

2 divest yourself of sth

formal to take off something that you are wearing: *Father Devlin divested himself of his overcoat and sat down.*

be divested of sth *Divested of his robes, the judge appeared to be a very ordinary man.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

3 divest yourself of sth

formal to get rid of an idea or attitude that you had because you realize that it is wrong: *Even the most scholarly historians find it difficult to divest themselves of prejudice.*

4 divest sb of sth

formal to take away someone's power, wealth, or rights – used especially about kings, queens etc: *On 8 March 1198, the Cologne assembly divested King Philip of his title.*

DIVIDE

divided, divided, dividing

divide by

divide sth by sth

if you divide a larger number by a smaller number, you calculate how many times the smaller one fits into the larger one: *Divide 21 by 3.*

divided by sth *6 divided by 3 is 2.*

divide into

divide sth into sth

if you divide a smaller number into a larger number, you calculate how many times it fits into it: *Divide 6 into 48.* | *7 divided into 42 is 6.*

D

divide off**divide off sth** **divide sth off**

to separate part of a room or area from the rest of it, using a wall, fence etc: *A wooden fence divides off the western side of the garden.*

* SIMILAR TO: **separate off****divide up****1 divide up sth** **divide sth up****divide up**

to separate something into smaller parts or groups or become separated into two or more different parts: *Make sure you divide up the time you spend on each question equally in the test.*

+ **into** *The USA is divided up into 50 states. | The frog's egg divides up into two separate cells.*

2 divide up sth **divide sth up**

to separate something into two or more parts and share them between two or more people

+ **between/among** *The money is to be divided up equally between her two sons. | The stolen diamonds were divided up among the gang.*

* SIMILAR TO: **share out, divvy up** *informal***DIVORCE***divorced, divorced, divorcing***divorce from****1 be divorced from sth**

to be completely separate or different from something: *Latin was written in a classical style that was divorced from the spoken forms of the language. | Spending all our time in air conditioned buildings, we have become divorced from the natural world.*

divorced from reality (=not based on any sensible idea of what is possible or practical) *His political theories were so divorced from reality, that no one else would take them seriously.*

2 divorce sth from sth

to separate two ideas, subjects, or things completely: *Gandhi asserted that it was impossible to divorce morality from religion.*

* SIMILAR TO: **separate****DIVVY***divvied, divvied, divvying***divvy up****divvy up sth** **divvy sth up***informal* to divide something and share it

among two or more people or groups: *The committee divvied up donations equally between Democrats and Republicans.*

* SIMILAR TO: **divide up, split up****DO***did, done, doing***do about****do sth about sth**

to do something in order to solve a particular problem or improve a bad situation: *I really don't know what to do about my weight, it just keeps going up and up. | "Our car keeps getting broken into." "What are you going to do about it?"*

do something/nothing etc about sth *It's time they did something about the traffic in London. | You must stop worrying about what happened – there's nothing you can do about it now.*

do as**do as sth**

BrE if something will do as another thing, it can be used instead of that thing: *He laid out the map on an upturned cardboard box that did as a table.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do for, serve as/for****do away with****1 do away with sth**

to get rid of something or stop doing or using something: *The government has done away with free eye tests for everyone. | There is a new computer that does away with the keyboard – you control it using your voice.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of****2 do away with sb**

informal to murder someone: *No one had seen Mr Potter for a while, and my father joked that perhaps his wife had done away with him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do in** *informal*, **bump off** *informal*, **murder****do down****do sb down**

BrE *informal* to criticize someone unfairly and make them seem stupid or unsuccessful: *It's really bitchy in the office – they're always doing people down when they're not there.*

do yourself down (=criticize yourself because you lack confidence) *Don't do yourself down! You look lovely.*

do for**1 be done for***informal* if someone is done for, they are in

such a bad state or situation, that they will certainly die, fail, be in serious trouble etc: *If we get caught, we're done for.* | *McCabe had a terrible head wound, and I could see that he was done for.*

2 be done for

if something is done for, it is so badly damaged that it cannot be used any longer: *There was a huge explosion, and when the smoke cleared we could see the ship was done for.*

3 do for sth

if something will do for another thing, you can use it instead of that other thing: *On the wall was a polished piece of metal that did for a mirror.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do as, serve as/for**

do in

1 do sb in

spoken to make someone extremely tired: *All that running around has completely done me in.*

be done in *I'm going to bed – I'm done in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tire out, wear out**

2 do sb in

informal to murder someone or attack them so that they are badly hurt: *I don't reckon she died of a heart attack – I reckon her husband did her in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do away with, bump off** informal, murder

do out

do out sth do sth out

spoken, especially BrE to make a room look nice by decorating it: *The kitchen's been done out nicely, with tiles and new units and everything.*

do sth out in blue/pink/pinewood etc *The bedrooms are all done out in pink and cream.*

do out of

do sb out of sth

to cheat someone by not giving them money that they are owed, or something that should belong to them: *The way I see it, they've done me out of three weeks' wages.* | *The insurance company wouldn't pay up, and Mrs Wilson feels she's been done out of money that rightfully belongs to her.*

do over

1 be done over

BrE spoken informal if someone's house is done over, thieves get into it and steal things from it: *Did you know Mark's flat's been done over again?*

* SIMILAR TO: **burgle**

2 do sb over

BrE spoken informal to attack and injure someone: *If you don't pay up, he'll send his mates round to do you over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **beat up**

3 do over sth do sth over

informal, especially AmE to decorate a room or house to make it more attractive: *We really should do the bathroom over – it's looking really shabby.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do up**

do up

1 do up sth do sth up

to fasten clothes, shoes etc: *"I'm cold." "Well why don't you do up your coat?"* | *Can Daisy do her shoelaces up yet?*

* SIMILAR TO: **fasten**

● OPPOSITE: **undo**

2 do up

BrE if clothes do up, they fasten: *This skirt does up at the back.* | *The zip's broken – it won't do up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fasten**

3 do up sth do sth up

informal to repair or decorate an old car or building, so that it looks much better: *They bought an old house and they're doing it up.*

4 do yourself up

informal to put on nice clothes and make yourself look attractive: *Sue spent hours doing herself up for her date.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doll up** informal

do with

1 be/have something to do with sth

spoken to be connected with something in some way: *I don't know much about his job, but I think it's something to do with the stock market.*

not have anything to do with sth/have nothing to do with sth (=not be connected with something) *His decision to retire didn't have anything to do with the recent problems in the business.*

what's that got to do with it? (=used when you think someone has mentioned something that is not connected with the subject) *I know she's been married before, but what's that got to do with it?*

2 it's got nothing to do with you/ what's it got to do with you?

spoken used to tell someone that they should not ask questions about something because it is a private matter: *Why should I tell you what*

I was doing in Paris? It's got nothing to do with you. | Yes, I have a boyfriend – but what's it got to do with you?

3 could do with sb/sth

spoken to need or want someone or something: *I could do with a drink. | I could have done with some help this morning. | We could do with someone to run the office while Maggie's on holiday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **need**

4 what do you do with yourself

spoken used to ask someone what they spend their time doing: *What are you going to do with yourself this weekend?*

not know what to do with yourself (=not know how to spend your time) *June didn't know what to do with herself after she retired.*

5 what has sb done with sth?

spoken used to ask where someone has put something: *What have you done with my pen? | I had my keys in my hand a minute ago, and now I don't know what I've done with them.*

6 what is sb doing with sth?

spoken used to ask why someone has something when it does not belong to them: *What are you doing with my diary?*

7 what shall we do with sth/sb?

spoken used to ask what arrangements should be made for something or someone: *What shall we do with the kids while you're working?*

8 I can't do with sth

BrE spoken used to say that something is annoying you very much: *I can't do with all this noise – you'll have to play outside.*

do without

1 do without do without sb/sth

to succeed in dealing with a situation without someone or something that you want or need: *I can't afford a car, so I guess I'll just have to do without. | So England must do without two of their best players in the vital World Cup qualifying match on Saturday.*

2 I can/could do without sth

spoken used to say that something is annoying you or causing problems for you, especially when the situation is already bad: *I could do without all this hassle at the moment. | Oh shut up – I can do without you nagging me on top of everything else.*

DOB

dobbed, dobbled, dobbing

dob in

dob sb in

BrE old-fashioned informal if you dob someone in, you tell the police or someone in authority that they have done something wrong: *If I ever find out who dobbled me in, I'll kill them, I really will.*

* SIMILAR TO: **split on** BrE informal, **grass on** BrE informal

DOLE

doled, doled, doling

dole out

dole out sth dole sth out

informal to give something, especially large amounts of money, to several people: *The federal government doles out \$58 billion in student grants every year. | Dad began to dole out the porridge from the saucepan.*

DOLL

dolled, dolled, dolling

doll up

doll yourself up

informal to get ready for a special occasion by putting on nice clothes and making yourself look attractive: *The girls were in the bathroom, dolling themselves up.*

be/get dolled up *Emily was all dolled up for the party.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dress up**

DOOM

doomed, doomed, dooming

doom to

be doomed to failure/defeat/disaster etc

to be certain to fail, be defeated, be destroyed etc: *Divorce statistics show that most marriages are doomed to failure from the start. | Russia's venture into capitalism seemed doomed to disaster.*

DOPE

doped, doped, doping

be doped up

be doped up

informal to be under the influence of drugs, so that you cannot think clearly or behave in a normal way: *He was so doped up he didn't even know what day it was.*

+ **on/with** *Early in his acting career, Harlowe was doped up on prescription drugs most of the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drugged up**

DOSE

dosed, dosed, dosing

dose up

dose sb up

informal to give someone a lot of medicine to make them sleep or feel better

+ **with** *The nurse dosed him up with aspirin and sent him to bed.*

DOSS

dossed, dosed, dosing

doss about/around

doss about/around

BrE informal to spend your time doing nothing: *We just dossed around all day on Saturday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **laze around/about**

doss down

doss down

BrE informal to sleep somewhere such as on the floor because there is no bed available or because you do not have a place to live: *Harry has been dossing down on a friend's floor for the past two weeks.* | *Students are having to doss down in seminar rooms because there's not enough accommodation available.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kip down** BrE informal

DOT

dotted, dotted, dotting

be dotted around

ALSO **be dotted about** BrE

be dotted around/about

if things are dotted around an area, they are found in different parts of it: *There were toys dotted around the room and children's clothing everywhere.* | *Aside from a few houses dotted about the hillside, the area was deserted.*

dot with

1 be dotted with sth

if an area is dotted with something, it has a lot of them in different parts of that area: *Pike Street is dotted with cozy cafes and unique shops.* | *The hills around La Jolla are now dotted with high-tech companies.*

2 dot sth with sth

if you dot a surface with something, especially food, you put a small amount of it in several places: *Dot the vegetables with butter and add salt.* | *Arrange the noodles in a dish and dot them with 1/2 cup of ricotta cheese.*

NOTE

doted, doted, doted

dote on/upon

● **Dote upon** is more formal than **dote on** and is usually used in writing.

dote on/upon sb/sth

to love someone or something very much: *Leonard Stein was a hard-working man who doted on his wife and children.* | *Visitors have doted on the baby elephant born at the zoo last year.*

DOUBLE

doubled, doubled, doubling

double as

double as sth

to have a second use, job, or purpose: *The living room doubles as a guest bedroom.* | *Many years ago, the old church also doubled as the town hall.* | *Jackson sings in the local jazz bar, where he also doubles as a dishwasher.*

* SIMILAR TO: **double up as** BrE

double back

double back

to turn around and go back in the direction you have just come from: *The driver doubled back and headed for Howard Bay.* | *Engine problems forced the plane to double back to the Los Angeles International Airport shortly after takeoff.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn back**

double for

double for sb

to temporarily take the place of an actor when a dangerous scene in a film is being made: *During his career, he has doubled for stars like John Wayne, Gary Cooper, and Jimmy Stewart.* | *He had to run along the top of a moving train whilst doubling for Roger Moore in Octopussy.*

double over

double over

to suddenly bend your body forward because you are in so much pain or laughing so much: *Nathan doubled over in pain and was rushed to the hospital.*

+ with *I doubled over with laughter, unable to stop myself.*

be doubled over *Owen was still doubled over on the ground, holding one of his knees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **double up**

double up

1 double up

to suddenly bend your body forward because you are in so much pain or laughing so much: *Emilio doubled up, holding his stomach and crying in pain.*

+ with *The kids were doubled up with cramps from the greasy food.*

be doubled up *By the end of the run I was doubled up and gasping for air.*

* SIMILAR TO: **double over**

2 double up

to share something with another person, especially because it is not possible for each person to have one: *I don't have enough books for all the class, so some of you may have to double up.*

+ with *Sean will double up with Janey whenever we need to use his bedroom for guests.*

3 double up

to use twice the usual amount of something, or to do something twice as much as you usually do: *I didn't take my medicine yesterday, so I'll have to double up today.*

+ on *To increase calories, double up on carbohydrates, but be careful about what you eat.*

double up as

double up as sth

BrE to have a second use, job, or purpose: *Can this sofa double up as a bed? | Mom always had to double up as the family nurse.*

* SIMILAR TO: **double as**

DOVETAIL

dovetailed, dovetailed, dovetailing

dovetail with

dovetail with sth dovetail sth with sth

formal if plans or events dovetail with each other, or you dovetail them with each other they fit together easily: *Charles's friendship with Camilla dovetailed perfectly with his lifestyle. | As working from home becomes increasingly common, people are finding it easier to dovetail parenthood with a fulltime career.*

DOZE

dozed, dozed, dozing

doze off

doze off

to fall asleep, usually for a short time, when you did not intend to: *I'm sorry, I must have dozed off for a minute. | The meeting was incredibly boring, and Kimberley looked like she was about to doze off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **nod off, drop off** informal

DRAFT

drafted, drafted, drafting

draft in

be drafted in

to be asked or ordered to work in a place where you do not normally work, in order to help a group of people who are trying to deal with something: *Police were drafted in to control traffic during the carnival. | Extra staff were drafted in to deal with the Christmas rush.*

DRAG

dragged, dragged, dragged

drag away

drag sb away

informal to make someone stop doing something, when they are so interested in doing it that they do not want to stop: *Donny loves watching the animals at the zoo – we have to drag him away when it's time to leave.*

nothing can drag sb away from sth *On Sunday afternoons, nothing can drag Jim away from sports programmes on TV.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tear away**

drag down

1 drag sb down drag down sb

if something unpleasant or difficult drags someone down, it makes them feel unhappy, weak, and tired: *All the stress at work is really dragging her down. | Joe's been ill for weeks now, and it's really dragging him down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get down**

2 drag sth down drag down sth

to make the price, level, or quality of something go down: *Declining prices for aluminum have dragged down Alcoa's fourth-quarter earnings. | The threat of job cuts is dragging down employee performance and morale.*

3 drag down sb/sth drag sth/sb down

to make someone or something unable to

succeed or do what they want to do: *A recession in Germany could drag down the rest of Europe.* | *Rita says she doesn't want to be dragged down by a husband.*

4 drag sb down drag down sb

to make another person start behaving badly, like the other members of a group of people that you disapprove of: *I'm afraid some of the kids at school drag our daughter down with them.*

drag in/into

1 drag sb/sth into sth drag sb/sth in

drag in sb/sth

to make someone or something get involved in an argument, war, or other situation that they do not want to be involved in: *Western leaders fear that other countries will be dragged into the war.* | *My parents are getting divorced, and I keep getting dragged into their arguments.*

2 drag sb/sth in drag sb/sth into sth

to talk about someone or something when you are having a discussion or argument, even though it is not connected to the discussion or argument: *Don't drag my past into this – it has nothing to do with what we're talking about now.* | *I don't know why his name is always dragged in whenever we talk about money.*

drag off

drag sb off

to take someone away somewhere, using force

+ to *The protestors were dragged off to the nearest police station.*

* SIMILAR TO: haul off

drag on

drag on

if an event or situation drags on, it continues for too long: *An expensive court battle could drag on for years.* | *Both sides refused to compromise, and the negotiations dragged on.* | *As the cruel New England winter drags on, residents grow increasingly depressed.*

drag out

1 drag out sth drag sth out drag out

to last longer than is usual or necessary, or to make something do this – used about events and situations: *They both wanted a quick divorce – neither of them wanted to drag it out longer than they had to.* | *If the economic crisis drags out, more companies will be forced to close.*

* SIMILAR TO: prolong formal

2 drag sth out

if you drag information out of someone, you make them tell it to you, even though they do not want to

+ of *Police finally dragged a confession out of him.* | *Dave didn't want to tell me what happened on Friday – I had to drag it out of him.*

* SIMILAR TO: pry out, tease out

drag up

1 drag sb/sth up

to mention an unpleasant event or story about something that happened in the past, even though it is embarrassing or upsetting for someone: *The newspapers had dragged up some story about an affair he had had with one of his students.* | *We all know she had a breakdown. There's no need to drag it up again.*

* SIMILAR TO: dredge up, dig up

2 be dragged up

BrE if a child is dragged up, their parents do not teach them to behave properly: *Teachers used to complain that Skinner's children were dragged up, not brought up.*

● COMPARE: bring up

DRAGOON

dragooned, dragooned, dragooning

dragoon into BrE

dragoon sb into sth USUALLY PASSIVE

old-fashioned to force someone to do something that they do not want to do – often used humorously: *As soon as she was old enough, she was dragooned into helping her mother with the housework.*

DRAIN

drained, drained, draining

drain off

drain off sth drain sth off

to remove the liquid from something by letting it flow away: *After cooking the meat, drain off the excess fat from the pan.* | *The nurse drained off the fluid from the wound.*

DRAW

drew, drawn, drawing

draw back

1 draw back

to move backwards from something, especially because you are afraid or surprised:

Dexter drew back in horror when he saw the dead body. | "I don't want to go," she cried, *drawing back.* | *The crowd had drawn back to let the police go past.*

2 draw back

to decide not to do something that you had planned or arranged to do: *Lithuanian leaders had announced they would draw back from the rush to independence.* | *Mandela has been reluctant to draw back from a busy schedule of political talks since his release from prison.*

draw in

1 the days/nights draw in

BrE If the days or nights are drawing in, it gets dark earlier in the evening: *In October the nights start drawing in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **close in** BrE

2 draw in a breath

if you draw in a breath, you breathe in very deeply: *He drew in a sharp breath as he saw the gun, and tried to remain calm.* | *Rosie drew in a deep breath, letting her lungs fill with the cool pine-scented air of the forest.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inhale**

draw in/into

1 draw sb in draw sb into sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone become involved in something, especially an argument, a quarrel, or a war, when they do not want to become involved in it: *As his roommates continued to argue, Yuri found himself being drawn in.* | *The United States didn't want to get drawn into a ground war in Kosovo.*

2 draw sb in draw sb into sth

to make someone notice or become interested in something: *Your eye is drawn into the picture by the figure in the foreground.*

3 draw in draw into sth

if a train draws in, it arrives at a station and stops: *The train drew into the station five minutes late.* | *As soon as the train drew in and the doors opened, a mass of commuters flooded the station.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull in**

draw off

draw off sth draw sth off

to remove some liquid from somewhere, especially by using a pipe or a tube: *Farmers draw off water from the river and use it for their crops.* | *Doctor Staples drew off some of the fluid from the wound.*

draw on

draw on

formal if a period of time draws on, it passes slowly or comes towards its end: *Night drew on, and still there was no sign of Warren.* | *As the evening drew on, she began to feel more and more tired.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wear on**

draw on/upon

● **Draw upon** is more formal than **draw on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 draw on/upon sth

to use part of a supply of something, especially money you have saved, for a particular purpose: *I don't want to draw on my savings to pay the rent.* | *The state drew on emergency funds to help victims of the tornado.* | *Manchester United have huge reserves of talent which they can draw on.*

2 draw on/upon sth

to use knowledge, information, or your personal experiences to help you do something: *Writers often draw on their own personal experience to create stories and characters.* | *It will be necessary to draw on information from earlier studies in order to reach a conclusion.*

3 draw on/upon sth

to breathe in the smoke from a cigarette: *Stern smiles as he draws on his cigar.* | *I paused and drew deeply on my cigarette before answering the question.*

draw out

1 draw sb out

to make a shy or nervous person feel more comfortable and willing to talk: *You can probably draw him out if you start talking about politics.* | *Margaret had a way of drawing me out, even in a big crowd of people.*

2 draw out sth draw sth out

to make something continue for longer than is usual or necessary: *Last minute questions drew the meeting out for another hour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prolong** formal

drawn-out ADJ

taking much more time than is usual or necessary: *This is going to be a long drawn-out fight between two sides who don't want to reach a compromise.*

3 draw out sth draw sth out

to make a sound last longer than usual when you say it: *She drew out the 'oo' sound when she said the word 'disapprove'.*

4 draw out sth

to make someone tell you about something or make them show you their feelings: *Mom always managed to draw out a confession from us after we had done something wrong.* | *Psychiatrists often try to draw out people's feelings by asking them questions about their experiences.*

* SIMILAR TO: **elicit** formal

5 draw out

if a train draws out, it slowly begins to leave a station: *When I arrived at the station, the train was just drawing out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull out**

6 draw out

if a vehicle draws out, it slowly moves onto the road: *A truck drew out in front of me, forcing me to slam on the brakes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull out**

7 draw out

if the days draw out, it stays light until later in the evening: *The summer days drew out, and life took on a slower pace.*

draw up**1 draw up sth draw sth up**

to prepare a contract or other official agreement, or a list or plan: *I'll have my lawyer draw up a contract for you to look over.* | *Western diplomats helped draw up the peace agreement in Cambodia.* | *Management is drawing up plans to reorganize the department.*

* SIMILAR TO: **draft**

2 draw up

if a vehicle draws up, it arrives somewhere and stops: *As the blue car drew up, the driver leaned out the window to ask for directions.* | *A man in a sedan drew up beside Candice and whistled at her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull up**

3 draw up a chair

to bring a chair closer to something or someone so that you can sit near them: *Miller shyly drew up a chair and joined the men at the poker table.* | *Draw up a chair – there's plenty of room.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pull up**

4 draw yourself up (to your full height)

to stand up very straight, especially in a way that shows that you feel very annoyed or determined: *Polly drew herself up to her full height and said "I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about."* | *She had drawn herself up, looking outraged. "You have no right to ask me that question."*

5 draw up your knees

to move your knees or legs closer to your body when you are sitting: *Rick drew up his knees to let me pass by.* | *She sat on the mat, drawing her knees up and breathing deeply.*

6 be drawn up

if soldiers are drawn up, they are arranged in order: *The troops were drawn up in ranks, awaiting their orders.*

draw upon

SEE **draw on/upon**

DREAM

dreamed or dreamt, dreamed or dreamt, dreaming

dream away

dream away sth dream sth away

if you dream away time, you pass it by thinking about pleasant things rather than doing what you should be doing: *Kira stayed in her room, dreaming away the hours until Stephen came home.*

dream of

sb wouldn't dream of (doing) sth

spoken used to say that someone would never do something because they think it is wrong or stupid: *Stan wouldn't dream of asking his parents for money.* | *You know I didn't mean to hurt you – I wouldn't dream of it.* | *I wouldn't dream of walking through Central Park on my own at night.*

dream on

dream on!

spoken informal used to say that you think that what someone is hoping for will not happen: *So you think you're going to win the lottery? Dream on, honey!* | *He can dream on – I'd never go out with him in a million years!*

dream up

dream up sth dream sth up

to think of a plan or idea, especially one that seems strange, unusual, or silly: *Whoever dreamed up this idea should have their head examined.* | *The whole story was probably dreamed up by left wing lunatics.*

DREDGE

dredged, dredged, dredging

dredge up

1 dredge up sth dredge sth up

to talk about something that happened a long time ago, especially when this is embarrassing

or annoying for someone: *Newsweek magazine dredged up some remarks that Mr Mason had made several months earlier.* | *The media is always dredging up stories about what movie stars did before they became famous.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drag up, dig up**

2 dredge up sth dredge sth up

to remember something with great difficulty: *Robertson tried to dredge up an image of her in his mind, but he really couldn't remember what she looked like.*

3 dredge up sth dredge sth up

to make yourself feel a particular feeling, such as interest or sympathy when you do not really want to do this: *Vologsky managed to dredge up some sympathy for the old man.*

4 dredge up sth dredge sth up

to pull something up from the bottom of a river, lake etc: *The flood dredged up sand and rocks from the centre of the river.*

DRESS

dressed, dressed, dressing

dress down

1 dress down ✕

to wear clothes that are more informal than you usually wear: *Employees are allowed to dress down on Fridays and come to work in jeans and T-shirts.* | *Women are dressing down much more these days.*

● OPPOSITE: **dress up**

2 give sb a dressing down

old-fashioned to punish someone by telling them angrily that they have behaved badly: *When he arrived late again, he was taken to the boss's office and given a dressing down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell off**

dress up

1 dress up ✕

to put on formal clothes or your best clothes, for example in order to go to work or for a special occasion: *Do you have to dress up for work?* | *Grandma always dressed up and went to church every Sunday.*

get dressed up *I love to get dressed up and go out to a concert or the theatre.*

● OPPOSITE: **dress down**

2 dress up dress up sb dress sb up ✕

to put on special clothes for fun, especially so that you look like someone else, or to make someone do this

+ in *Little girls often like dressing up in their mother's clothes.* | *Some men get a kick out of dressing up in women's clothing.*

+ as *Raymond wants to dress up as Dracula for Halloween.* | *At Christmas, my mother used to dress me up as an elf.*

be dressed up in/as sth *Several people at the party were dressed up in cowboy boots and big hats.*

3 dress up sth dress sth up ✕

to make something sound more interesting, attractive, or acceptable than it really is: *The Labour government has tried to dress up its policies and make them sound more environmentally friendly.*

+ as *His photographs are just pornography, dressed up as art.*

DRIFT

drifted, drifted, drifting

drift apart

drift apart ✕

if people drift apart, their relationship gradually ends: *As we grew older, we started to drift apart.* | *Many couples say they would have drifted apart if it weren't for their children.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grow apart**

drift off

1 drift off ✕

to gradually fall asleep: *It was 2:00am when I finally drifted off to sleep.* | *Orlando drifted off into a deep and dreamless sleep.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doze off, nod off**

2 drift off

to walk slowly to another place or area: *We drifted off down Main Street, not in any hurry to return to work.* | *After dinner, couples drifted off to explore around the castle grounds.*

3 drift off ✕

to stop listening or paying attention to someone or something: *In class, Kate seems to drift off into her own world.* | *I tried to listen to what he was saying, but I kept drifting off.*

DRILL

drilled, drilled, drilling

drill into

drill sth into sb

to tell someone something again and again until they know it very well: *My parents have drilled the importance of education into me since I was a small child.* | *Our elementary school teachers drilled that song into me so well that I can still remember every word.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drum into, din into** BrE old-fashioned

DRINK

drank, drunk, drinking

drink down**drink sth down**

to drink something quickly, especially by swallowing it all at once: *Miguel drank the beer down in record time.* | *Dying of thirst, I drank down several glasses of water in less than a minute.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drink****drink in****drink in sth** **drink sth in**

if you drink in something that you see, read, or hear, you give all your attention to it and enjoy it very much: *Don't rush through Paris – take time to drink everything in.* | *Redford drank in the praise critics gave his recent film.*

drink to**1 drink to sth/sb**

to wish someone success, good luck, or good health by holding up your glass before drinking something: *Let's drink to the New Year!* | *Guests drank to the bride and groom.* | *Ladies and gentlemen, please raise your glasses and drink to the health and happiness of Annabelle and Tony.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toast****2 I'll drink to that!**

spoken used to say that you like or agree with what someone has said: *"If things don't change soon, I'm going to quit my job." "I'll drink to that!"*

drink up**drink up sth** **drink sth up** **drink up**

to drink all of something: *Drink up – the bar will be closing soon.* | *That night we drank up all the beer we could lay our hands on and sang ourselves hoarse.*

DRIP

dripped, dripped, dripping

drip with**1 be dripping with blood/sweat/water etc**

to be covered with so much blood etc that it is falling off your body: *I tried to move but I couldn't – my right arm was dripping with blood.* | *John had just been for a swim, and he came in dripping with water.*

2 be dripping with sth

to have a lot of a particular quality – often used to show disapproval: *He was a Frenchman, darkly handsome and dripping with self-*

assurance. | *"How fascinating," she said, her voice dripping with sarcasm.*

be dripping with money informal (=be very rich) *Sandra's family were absolutely dripping with money.*

DRIVE

drove, driven, driving

drive at**what sb is driving at**

what someone is really trying to say, when they are not saying it directly: *"Morton, what are you driving at?" "I think we're in trouble, Mahoney, big trouble."* | *Melissa realised what I was driving at... that I suspected Alain had been murdered.*

* SIMILAR TO: **what sb is getting at****drive away****1 drive away sb** **drive sb away**

to behave in a way that makes someone leave you, especially someone that you had a relationship with: *His heavy drinking and violent temper eventually drove Beth away.*

2 drive sb away **drive away sb**

if something drives away people such as customers and tourists, it makes them stop coming to a place: *Reports in the media about drug related crime in Golden Gate Park are driving visitors away.* | *For the past 30 years composers have been writing music that ordinary people don't like, and they have driven audiences away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put off****3 drive away sth** **drive sth away**

if something drives away a thought or a feeling, especially an unpleasant one, it makes you stop thinking about it or feeling it: *Kerry kissed him, and that one kiss drove away all his pain and filled his heart with happiness.*

* SIMILAR TO: **banish** formal**drive down****drive down sth** **drive sth down**

to force prices or costs to decrease very quickly: *Cheap imported steel would drive down the price of steel in the United States, causing producers to reduce their output.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bring down**● OPPOSITE: **drive up****drive off****1 drive off**

if a car or driver drives off, the driver leaves in his or her car: *After the accident the other car just drove off.* | *Cynthia stormed out of the house, got into her car, and drove off.*

2 **drive off** sb **drive sb off**

to force someone who is attacking or threatening you to stop and go away: *They keep dogs in the yard to drive off intruders.* | *We began hurling snowballs, and eventually a few well placed shots drove off our attackers.*

3 **drive off**

if someone playing golf drives off, they hit the ball for the first time at the start of a game or hole (=part of a golf course with a hole in the ground at the end): *Tiger Woods drove off at the thirteenth hole.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tee off**

drive on

drive on

to continue going forward in a vehicle, without stopping or after stopping for a short time: *After resting for an hour or two we drove on to Laredo.* | *Maxwell drove on, in spite of the thickening fog.*

drive out

drive out sb/sth **drive sb/sth out**

to force someone or something to leave a place

✦ *of Huge rent increases are driving many small businesses out of town.*

drive up

drive up sth **drive sth up**

to force prices or costs to increase very quickly: *Airlines worry that the cost of this extra security will drive ticket prices up so high that people will stop flying.* | *Affluent city people looking to buy a second home are driving up house prices in rural areas.*

● OPPOSITE: **drive down**

DRONE

droned, droned, droning

drone on

drone on

to speak for a long time in a very boring way, without any variety in the sound of your voice: *The speaker had been droning on for hours, when I noticed that he still had a large stack of slides to go through.*

✦ **about** *She droned on and on about how sad her life was, and about how she hadn't got a boyfriend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang on** BrE *informal*, **witter on** BrE *informal*

DROOL

drooled, drooled, drooling

drool over

drool over sb/sth

to look at someone or something in an excited, and often silly, way that shows you think they are very attractive: *Audrey had her face pressed up against the shop window, and was drooling over a sapphire necklace.* | *Sylvia and Tabitha lay on the beach, drooling over a couple of young men playing frisbee.*

DROP

dropped, dropped, dropping

drop away

1 **drop away**

especially BrE if a feeling or something that has a bad effect on you drops away, you stop feeling it or being affected by it: *All of a sudden, his anger dropped away.* | *I took up yoga, and soon all of my aches and pains dropped away, as if by magic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away, disappear**

2 **drop away**

if land drops away, it slopes down very steeply: *The road was built into the mountainside, with deep ravines dropping away below.* | *To her left, the ground dropped away to the river below, sheer and terrifying.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall away**

drop back

drop back

if someone who is walking, riding, or driving with a group drops back, other people pass them and they move to a position nearer the back: *Coulthard was in the lead, but now he's dropped back to fourth place.* | *I dropped back till I was walking beside McMurphy. There was something I needed to talk to him about.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop behind, fall behind, lag behind**

drop behind

drop behind

to move more slowly than the other person or people you are with, so that they move ahead of you: *Gareth walked much too fast for her, and got annoyed whenever she dropped behind.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop back, fall behind, lag behind**

drop by

drop by

informal to make a short visit to someone you

know well, usually without making a definite arrangement before: *If you're in the area again just drop by and say hello.* | *See you later, Willy. Thanks for dropping by.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop in** informal, **drop over** informal, **stop by**

drop in/into

1 drop in drop into sth

informal to make a short visit to someone or go into an office, shop, bar etc for a short time, usually without making a definite arrangement before: *I'm glad you dropped in - it's good to see you.* | *He used to drop into the office for a chat whenever he was passing that way.*

drop in on sb *I think I'll drop in on Jill on my way home.*

+ **at** *For more information call this number or drop in at your local welfare office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pop in** informal, **call in** BrE

drop-in centre N [C]

BrE a place run by the local council, where people can go to get advice and information and to meet other people, without having to make an arrangement before: *a drop-in centre for the unemployed*

2 drop in sth drop sth in

drop sth into sth

BrE informal to deliver something to someone or to a place: *I'll put a copy on disk for you, and drop it in on my way to work.* | *I'll drop it into the office while I'm in town.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop off** informal, **drop over** informal, especially BrE, **drop round** BrE informal

3 drop sb in it

BrE informal to cause trouble for someone, especially by saying something that makes someone else angry with them: *I'm sorry if I dropped you in it, but she asked me why you weren't here.* | *I reckon the company have dropped themselves in it by ignoring these complaints.*

* SIMILAR TO: **land sb in it** informal

drop off

1 drop off sb/sth drop sb/sth off

informal to take someone or something to a place by car, especially while you are driving to somewhere else: *I'm going past the station. I can drop you off if you like.* | *My wife usually drops the kids off at school on her way to work.* | *I'll drop you off at the corner, OK?* | *I just have to drop these books off at Emma's place.*

● OPPOSITE: **pick up**

dropping-off point N [C]

BrE a place at an airport, train station etc where cars and taxis can stop for a short time to allow their passengers to get out

2 drop off

informal to begin to sleep: *I must have dropped off. When I opened my eyes, I saw that the train had just gone past Abergelle.* | *Gill was exhausted and dropped off to sleep as soon as her head touched the pillow.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doze off**, **nod off**

3 drop off

if the amount or number of something drops off, it becomes less: *A huge advertising campaign attracted large audiences when the film opened, but then the numbers rapidly dropped off.* | *Sales began to drop off, and the company was forced to close down its Sunderland factory.* | *The Eagle Ski Club used to organise tours, but demand dropped off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall off**

drop-off N [C]

a reduction in the number or amount of something

+ **in** *Boeing is suffering from a drop-off in commercial aircraft orders.*

drop out

1 drop out

to leave school, college, or university before you have finished your course: *Too many students are joining gangs, getting into drugs, and dropping out after sixth grade.*

+ **of** *Kertzman dropped out of Brandeis University in 1968 to become a radio disc jockey.*

drop-out N [C]

informal someone who leaves school, college, or university without finishing their course: *a high school drop-out*

drop-out rate N [C]

the number of students who leave a course before finishing it: *If a course has a high drop-out rate, ask yourself why.*

2 drop out

to refuse to take part in ordinary society, especially by not getting a job: *In the '60s my mother dropped out and went to live in a hippie commune.*

drop-out N [C]

someone who refuses to take part in ordinary society because they do not agree with its social customs, moral standards etc, so that they refuse to get a job - used about someone you disapprove of: *The place was full of hippies and drop-outs.*

3 drop out

to not take part in an activity, or to leave it before it has finished: *Donna was supposed to*

come with us, but she couldn't get a babysitter, so she had to drop out. | The next meeting is just before Christmas, so we're expecting a lot of people to drop out.

* of Harper had to drop out of the race with an injured ankle after completing 12 miles.

4 drop out

if a word, expression, or grammar rule drops out of a language, it is no longer used

* of The pronouns 'thee' and 'thou' have dropped out of the language, with the exception of some regional dialects.

* SIMILAR TO: disappear from

drop over

1 drop over

BrE informal to make a short visit to someone you know well who lives near you, usually without arranging a particular time for your visit: Sean said he might drop over this evening after badminton.

* SIMILAR TO: drop in informal, drop by informal, drop round BrE informal, call round BrE

2 drop sth over

informal, especially BrE to deliver something to someone who lives near you: If you still want to borrow my sewing machine, I could drop it over this evening.

* SIMILAR TO: drop round BrE informal

drop round

1 drop round

BrE informal to make a short visit to someone you know well who lives near you, usually without making a definite arrangement before: "I thought I'd drop round to see Irena after work," she said. | Her grandchildren drop round and see her from time to time.

* SIMILAR TO: drop in informal, drop over BrE informal, call round BrE

2 drop sth round

BrE informal to deliver something to someone who lives near you: I've got a present for you - I'll try and drop it round this weekend.

* SIMILAR TO: drop over informal, especially BrE, drop off informal

DROWN

drowned, drowned, drowning

drown in/with

1 be drowning in sth

informal if you are drowning in something, you have so much of it that you cannot deal with it: I'm drowning in work at the moment. Can I call you back later? | Some businesses are drowning in data, but cannot get the information they need.

2 drown sth in/with sth

to cover a dish with too much of another liquid food: Grant drowned his pancakes with syrup. | The fish was well cooked, but drowned in a sauce that was lumpy and rather tasteless.

drown out

drown out sth drown sth out

if one noise drowns out another noise, it stops that noise from being heard: John started to speak, but his voice was drowned out by the traffic. | The couple next door started arguing again, and I turned up my stereo to drown out the noise.

DRUG

be drugged up

be drugged up

informal if someone is drugged up, they have been given a lot of drugs by a doctor, or have taken a lot of drugs: I went to the hospital to see him, but he was still drugged up after the operation.

be drugged up to the eyeballs BrE (=given a lot of drugs by a doctor, so that you cannot behave normally) It's no fun lying in a hospital bed, drugged up to the eyeballs.

* SIMILAR TO: be doped up

DRUM

drummed, drummed, drumming

drum into

drum sth into sb

to tell someone something and repeat it many times, so that they will understand how important it is and will never forget it: Our coach drummed into us the importance of working together as a team. | It was drummed into me never to borrow money.

* SIMILAR TO: drill into, din into BrE old-fashioned

drum out of

drum sb out of sth

to force someone to leave an organization because they have done something wrong: Jack was caught stealing and was drummed out of the army.

* SIMILAR TO: kick out, throw out, boot out informal

drum up

drum up sth

to get people's support for something, or increase their interest in something: Peter Mandelson was in Los Angeles last week,

drumming up support for the peace process in Northern Ireland. | Doggett and her fellow black Republicans are employing creative ways of drumming up both voters and money.

drum up business *These days the 'sale' signs are permanently up in high street stores, as they try desperately to drum up business.*

DRY

dried, dried, drying

dry off

dry off dry off sth dry sth off

to become dry or make something dry, especially on the surface: *It was lovely being able to swim and then dry off in the sun. | She washed the apples then dried them off with a paper towel.*

dry yourself off (=dry yourself with a towel after a bath or swim) *Carrie returned from showering, wrapped in a towel. She began to dry herself off, talking to me over her shoulder.*

● COMPARE: **dry out**

dry out

1 dry out dry out sth dry sth out

to become completely dry on the inside and the outside, or to make something completely dry on the inside and the outside: *Put your coat near the fire or it won't dry out properly. | Cover the meat with fat to prevent it from drying out, and roast it in the oven for two hours.*

2 dry out

informal to stop being an alcoholic (=someone who regularly drinks too much alcohol and cannot stop): *a well-known TV actor who spent eight weeks in a clinic, trying to dry out*

dry up

1 dry up dry up sth dry sth up

if a river or lake dries up, the water in it disappears: *Most of the lakes in the park have dried up, for they rely on the north-east monsoon.*

dried-up ADJ

a dried-up river or lake is one that no longer has any water in it: *We walked along the dried-up river bed.*

2 dry up dry up sth dry sth up

if something dries up, or something dries it up, it loses the liquid that was in it, especially with the result that it is no longer good or useful: *Put the lid back on the tin, or the paint will dry up. | Have you got a pen I can borrow? This one's dried up.*

3 dry up

if a supply of something dries up, it comes to an end and there is no more available: *Work on the tunnel stopped when the money dried up. | This factory once produced high-tech equipment for the Russian military, but government orders have dried up, and 6000 workers have lost their jobs.*

4 dry up dry up sth dry sth up

BrE to rub plates, cups, dishes etc with a cloth to dry them after they have been washed: *"I'll wash." She threw him a tea towel. "You dry up." | Would you mind drying up the breakfast things?*

* SIMILAR TO: **wipe** BrE *informal*

5 dry up

BrE to stop speaking when you are making a speech or acting in a play, because you have forgotten what you were going to say: *I was terrified that I would forget all my lines and dry up.*

6 dry up!

spoken informal used to tell someone to be quiet when you are angry with them, because they are talking or complaining too much: *Oh, dry up! You've done nothing but complain since we got here!*

* SIMILAR TO: **shut up!** *spoken informal*

DUB

dubbed, dubbed, dubbing

dub in

dub in sth dub sth in

if people who are making a film dub in a sound or voice, they record it separately and then add it to the final film: *Is it acceptable for applause to be dubbed in after a concert has been filmed? | The backing vocals were a bit weak, so we re-recorded them and dubbed them in.*

dub into

dub sth into sth

if a film or television show is dubbed into another language, the original sound is replaced by a different recording, so that the actors appear to be speaking a different language: *It's funny watching American shows like 'Friends' dubbed into German. | Is the movie dubbed into French, or does it have subtitles?*

dub out

dub out sth dub sth out

if people who are making a film dub out a sound or something that an actor says, they remove it from the final film so that it cannot

be heard: *An edited version of the movie was shown on TV, with the most violent scenes cut, and all the swear words dubbed out.*

dub over

dub over sth dub sth over

if people who are making a film dub over the original sound of the film, they replace it with sound that has been recorded separately: *Pepsi are making Russian-language TV commercials, rather than dubbing over English ones as most other western companies do.*

DUCK

ducked, ducked, ducking

D

duck out

duck out

informal to avoid doing something that you do not want to do, but have to do or have promised to do: *I'm not trying to duck out, but I do think someone else could do this job.*

+ of *Parents who do not discipline their children are ducking out of their responsibilities.* | *"I've got a meeting at 2 o'clock."* *"Can you possibly duck out of it and meet me? I've got a horrendous problem."*

* SIMILAR TO: **get out of**

DUFF

duffed, duffed, duffing

duff up/in/over

duff up/in/over sb duff sb up/in/over

BrE spoken informal to hit and kick someone a lot in order to hurt them: *Let's go and duff him in.* | *If you don't pay up, he'll get his mob to duff you over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bash up** *BrE informal*

DUKE

duked, duked, duking

duke out

duke it out

AmE informal if two people, groups, or organizations duke it out, they fight or compete against each other: *a mad criminal and a gutsy stewardess duking it out on a jumbo jet headed for Los Angeles*

+ with *She rolled up her sleeves as if getting ready to duke it out with him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fight it out**

DUMB

dumbed, dumbed, dumbing

dumb down

dumb down sth dumb sth down

to change books, television programmes, education etc in a way that makes them only suitable for very unintelligent people: *TV news has already been dumbed down to the point where it is presented as mere entertainment.* | *Many high school teachers claim that the reformed curriculum has dumbed down math teaching.*

dumbing-down *N* [U]

when things are dumbed down

+ of *There's too much dumbing-down of serious issues.* | *an anti intellectual dumbing-down of textbooks*

dumbed-down *ADJ*

made too simple in a way that is only suitable for unintelligent people: *Hollywood has produced a series of dumbed-down versions of literary classics.*

DUMP

dumped, dumped, dumping

dump on

1 dump sth on sb

informal to give someone work to do or a problem to deal with when this is unfair, because it is not part of their job and should be done by someone else: *I'm sorry to dump all this on you, but I'm just so tied up with the conference at the moment that I just don't have the time to deal with it.*

2 dump on sb

informal to treat someone badly, especially by giving them too much work to do: *He was always complaining about how his boss dumped on him and how he was just expected to work late every day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exploit**

3 dump on sb

AmE informal to tell someone all your problems: *Sorry to dump on you like that, but I needed to talk about my day at work.*

4 dump on sb

AmE informal to criticize someone strongly and often unfairly: *If you dump on your employees, don't expect morale to be high.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slag off** *BrE informal*

DUST

dusted, dusted, dusting

dust down/off

- 1 **dust down/off** sth **dust** sth **down/off** ✕

to remove dirt or dust from something, using your hands or a cloth or brush: *He got up off the ground and dusted down his trousers.* | *Alan pulled a wooden elephant out of the box, and dusted it off.*

dust yourself down/off *Anabelle picked herself up and dusted herself off. She was bruised, but not seriously hurt.*

- 2 **dust down/off** sth **dust** sth **down/off** ✕

to get something ready to be used after not using it for a long time: *Investors are at last dusting down their cheque books as the economy recovers.* | *It's '70s night at Club Fantastic, so dust off your platform shoes and come on down and boogie.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dig out**

DWELL

dwelt or dwelled, dwelt or dwelled, dwelling

dwel on/upon

● **Dwell upon** is more formal than **dwell on** and is used mostly in writing.

dwel on/upon sth

to think or talk about something for too long, especially something that is unpleasant: *It doesn't do any good to dwell on the past – try to be more positive.* | *I don't want to dwell on the subject, but I think we should all be aware of the problem.*

DWINDLE

dwindled, dwindled, dwindling

dwindle away**dwindle away**

if something dwindles away, it gradually becomes smaller and smaller or less and less until it disappears completely: *Maria looked at Fran lying in the hospital bed, her hope dwindling away.* | *Germany and France have found themselves increasingly uncompetitive in world markets. As a result, jobs have dwindled away.*

+ to *Their business had collapsed and their savings had dwindled away to nothing.*

D

E

EARTH

earth, earthed, earthing

earth up

earth up earth up sth earth sth up

BrE to pile soil around plants in order to protect the roots or help the plants to grow: *Earth up around Brussels sprouts to protect them from the wind.*

EASE

eased, eased, easing

E

ease off/up

1 ease off/up

to gradually become less – use this especially about something when you hope it will stop or disappear: *I think the rain is beginning to ease off.* | *“Are you feeling any better?”* *“Yeah, the pain in my shoulder has eased up a little.”* | *Ichiro’s workload has finally eased up, and his whole mood has changed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **let up**

2 ease off/up

to treat someone less severely or criticize them less than before

† on *Ease off on Roger, will you – he’s doing all right.*

3 ease off/up

to work less hard or do something with less energy than before: *Dan should ease up or he’ll have a nervous breakdown.* | *Liverpool eased off in the second half, allowing Arsenal to score.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slow down**

ease out

ease out sb ease sb out

to force someone to leave their job or position of authority, in a way that makes it seem as if they have chosen to leave

† of *He was eased out of his job as presidential adviser when his role in a sex scandal was conveniently leaked to the press.*

ease up

SEE **ease off/up**

EAT

ate, eaten, eating

eat away

1 eat sth away eat away sth

especially BrE to gradually reduce something by taking parts of it away: *New housing estates are still being built, and they are gradually eating away our countryside and woodlands.*

* SIMILAR TO: **erode** formal

2 eat away sth eat sth away

if water or chemicals eat something away, they gradually destroy it: *Acids are corrosive, that is, they eat away other materials.* | *The floor of the car had been eaten away by rust.*

* SIMILAR TO: **erode, corrode**

eat away at

1 eat away at sb

if an unpleasant thought eats away at you, it makes you feel very worried over a long period of time: *What she did is eating away at her. She bitterly regrets the hurt she caused.* | *Economic anxiety eats away at people who work in America.*

* SIMILAR TO: **eat sb up**

2 eat away at sth

to gradually destroy something by continuously damaging it: *It was discovered that pollution in the atmosphere was eating away at the carvings.* | *The disease eats away at the brain until it kills the patient.* | *Racial conflict is eating away at American society.* | *Workplace stress eats away at your energy and self-esteem.*

eat in

1 eat in

to eat a meal at home instead of going to a restaurant: *I’m too tired to go out – let’s eat in instead.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dine in** formal● OPPOSITE: **eat out**

2 eat in

to eat inside a restaurant instead of taking your food somewhere else to eat: *“Two burgers and two coffees, please.” “To eat in or take away?”*

eat into

eat into sth

to use or take away part of something valuable, especially money or time: *The company was forced to cut prices sharply, eating into its profits.* | *Jet lag can eat into precious holiday time.*

eat out**eat out**

to eat a meal in a restaurant, instead of at home: *I don't feel like cooking – let's eat out.* | *People are spending more money now on vacations, eating out, health clubs and things like that.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dine out**

● OPPOSITE: **eat in**

eat up**1 eat up eat up sth eat sth up**

to eat all of something: *There's some bacon in the fridge that needs eating up.* | *In parts of Binh Dinh province, huge rats were eating up the crops.*

eat up! *spoken* (=used to tell a child to eat all of his or her food) *Come on, Kaylee, eat up!*

2 eat up sth eat sth up

to use a lot of something, such as money or time, especially so that there is none left: *My car broke down last month, and the repairs ate up all my savings.* | *The job ate up most of his time, including weekends and holidays.*

* SIMILAR TO: **use up**

3 eat up sb eat sb up

if unhappy thoughts or feelings eat you up, they make you feel very upset, angry etc and you cannot think of anything else: *It just eats me up how those kids are totally ignored by their parents.* | *Angel lay on his bed, eaten up by jealousy – by the thought that Luke was going out with Maria.*

eat sb up inside *He may be a free man, but if he did kill his wife, it's going to eat him up inside.*

4 eat sth up eat up sth

AmE *informal* to be excited about something and enjoy it very much: *Maybe we should put out an investigative news program – audiences eat that stuff up.* | *Vickroy uses games to teach little kids how to get fit, and the kids eat it up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lap up**

EBB

ebbed, ebbed, ebbing

ebb away**1 ebb away**

if something, especially a feeling or someone's strength ebbs away, it gradually becomes weaker until it disappears completely: *As I thought about all the problems involved, my confidence began to ebb away.* | *The team had almost won, but their strength was ebbing away by the minute.* | *Liverpool's*

hopes of winning the European Cup were slowly ebbing away.

2 sb's life ebbs away

if someone's life ebbs away, they are dying: *The young soldier's life was slowly ebbing away.*

EDIT

edited, edited, editing

edit out**edit out sth edit sth out**

to remove part of a film, programme, book etc before it is shown or printed, for example in order to make it shorter or avoid offending people: *Large parts of the interview were edited out before it was shown on TV.*

+ of *Several offensive passages had been edited out of the book.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut**

EFF**EFF off**

● **Eff off** is another way of saying **fuck off**. **Fuck off** is extremely rude and offensive.

eff off!

BrE *spoken informal* used to tell someone very rudely to go away: *Just eff off, will you, and leave me alone!* | *Why don't you tell him to eff off?*

* SIMILAR TO: **fuck off!** *taboo spoken*, **piss off** *spoken informal*

EGG

egged, egged, egging

egg on**egg sb on egg on sb**

to encourage someone to do something, especially something that is not sensible or safe: *Joe didn't want to jump, but his friends kept egging him on.* | *The two men, egged on by an excited crowd, started to fight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **goad on**, **lead on**

EKE

eked, eked, eking

eke out**1 eke out sth eke sth out**

to make money, food, or supplies etc last as long as possible by using them carefully because you only have a small amount available: *A lot of elderly people have to eke out very small pensions as best they can.*

2 eke out a living/existence

to get enough food and money to live, but only with difficulty: *People had to choose between going to work in the towns, or eking out a miserable existence on their farms.*

3 eke out a win/victory etc

AmE to win by only a few points or votes: *Ann Richards eked out a victory over Williams.*

ELBOW

elbowed, elbowed, elbowing

elbow out

elbow out sb/sth **elbow sb/sth out**

to force someone or something out of a position or job, especially so that another person or thing can have it: *David was worried that the other people at work were trying to elbow him out of his job.* | *According to our survey, Seattle is now the best place to locate a business, elbowing out Atlanta for the top spot.*

EMANATE

emanated, emanated, emanating

emanate from

emanate from sth/sb

formal to come from a particular place or person, and to spread from them: *Delicious smells were emanating from the kitchen.* | *A series of financial shocks emanated from New England.* | *These ideas emanated from Jacques Reuff, among others.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come from**

EMBARK

embarked, embarked, embarking

embark on/upon

● **Embark upon** is more formal than **embark on** and is mostly used in writing.

embark on/upon sth

to start doing something, especially something new and difficult that will take a long time: *In the 1950s, China embarked on a major programme of industrialization.* | *Burton decided to give up his teaching post, and embark on a career in the City.*

EMBROIDER

embroidered, embroidered, embroidering

embroider on

embroider on sth

to add details that you have invented to a

story or description, in order to make it sound more interesting or impressive: *The story was repeated from one person to another, and each one embroidered on it a little.* | *Goldwyn did not try to hide his origins, but he would sometimes embroider on them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **embellish** formal

EMBROID

embroided, embroidered, embroiding

be embroidered in

be embroidered in sth

to be involved in an argument, war, or an unpleasant situation, especially when you did not want to be involved in it: *They found themselves embroidered in a long and bitter legal battle with their former employers.* | *The Americans were afraid of becoming embroidered in another Vietnam War.* | *Profumo became embroidered in a steamy sex scandal which ended his career.*

EMPTY

emptied, emptied, emptying

empty out

1a empty out sth **empty sth out**

if you empty out a container, you remove everything that is inside it: *I emptied out the shopping bags and put everything away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn out**

1b empty out sth **empty sth out**

if you empty things out from a container, you remove them from it: *He slowly emptied out all his clothes from the drawers and packed them into suitcases.*

2 empty out

if a place empties out, all the people in it leave: *The club usually empties out about two in the morning.*

ENAMOUR BrE **ENAMOR** AmE**be enamoured of/with**

1 be enamoured of/with sth

formal to like something very much: *Farmers weren't particularly enamoured of the idea of a common agricultural policy.* | *She became so enamored with Parisian designs that she directed Cassini to copy them for her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be keen on**

2 be enamoured of/with sb

old-fashioned literary to be very fond of someone: *It was obvious to everyone that Lady Westville was not enamoured of her husband.*

Mr Darcy seems very enamoured with you. | Gustave became so enamoured of Gertrude that he would hardly let her out of his sight.

ENCASE

encased, encased, encasing

encase in

encase sth/sb in sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to cover or enclose something or someone completely with something else: *The statue was transported back to Britain and encased in glass to protect it. | The wealthy upper classes encased their dead in immense coffins lined with lead.*

ENCROACH

encroached, encroached, encroaching

encroach on/upon

● **Encroach upon** is more formal than **encroach on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 encroach on/upon sth

formal to gradually take away someone's rights or freedom, or reduce someone's power or authority – used to show that you disapprove of this: *Civil Liberty groups are worried that the new laws will encroach upon our freedom of speech.*

2 encroach on/upon sth

formal to reduce the amount of time that someone has available to do their work or do what they want to do: *Weitz has had a lot of personal problems this year, which have obviously encroached on his work. | Most people try to prevent their work from encroaching on their private lives.*

3 encroach on/upon sth

formal to gradually cover more and more land, or take control of someone else's land – used especially to show that you disapprove of this: *Everywhere we look, new housing developments are encroaching on our countryside. | In the King's absence, his enemies began to encroach on his territories.*

* SIMILAR TO: **invade**

END

ended, ended, ending

end in

end in sth

to have a particular result, or to finish in a particular way – used especially to say that something is unsuccessful or has a bad ending: *In Britain, two out of three marriages end in divorce.*

end in failure/disaster/tragedy etc Talks aimed at preventing the strike ended in failure after six hours of negotiation. | The match ended in tragedy when one of the boxers died in the ring.

end in tears (=end with people feeling unhappy, annoyed etc – often used humorously) Stop quarrelling you two! You know it'll all end in tears.

* SIMILAR TO: **culminate in** formal

end up

1 end up

to be in a situation that you did not intend or want to be in, because of something that has happened to you or something you have done

end up in court/prison/hospital Tom got into a fight and ended up in court. | Soon afterwards she ended up in hospital after a drug overdose.

+ **as** Too many teenage girls are ending up as single parents.

+ **with** You'll end up with pneumonia if you're not careful.

* SIMILAR TO: **wind up, finish up** BrE informal, **land up** BrE

2 end up doing sth

to do something that you did not intend or want to do, especially because you cannot seem to avoid doing it: *He came for a couple of days and ended up staying a month! | We always seem to end up arguing with each other.*

3 end up

to arrive in a place without planning or wanting to go there, for example because you lost your way: *We took several wrong turns, and ended up in Wigan by mistake. | They ended up in a bar near the docks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wind up, finish up** BrE informal

ENDEAR

endeared, endeared, endearing

endear to

endear sb to sb

if a person's character or behaviour endears that person to you, it makes you like them: *Sarah's very keen to learn, which endears her to her teachers. | Clinton's sexual antics didn't exactly endear him to the voters.*

endear yourself to sb (=to make yourself popular with people by the way you behave or what you achieve) *Wilkinson scored the only goal, immediately endearing himself to the fans.*

ENDOWendowed, endowed, *endowing***endow with****be endowed with sth**

formal to naturally have a particular ability or feature, especially a good one: *Healy was a good public speaker and endowed with extraordinary energy.*

be well/richly endowed with sth (=have a lot of it) *The island is well endowed with mineral deposits.*

ENGAGEengaged, engaged, *engaging***engage in****1 be engaged in sth**

E

to be involved in something, especially something that continues for a long time: *Officials are engaged in a debate with the company over the safety of its newest aircraft.* | *The French government were engaged in a desperate attempt to maintain their control of Indo-China.*

2 engage in sth

formal to take part in an activity or a particular area of interest, business etc: *We try to create opportunities for students to engage in new and challenging activities.* | *Women were discouraged from engaging in political life.*

3 engage sb in conversation

formal to start a conversation with someone: *She tried to engage Anthony in conversation, but he didn't respond.*

engage on/upon

● **Engage upon** is more formal than **engage on** and is mostly used in writing.

be engaged on/upon sth

BrE formal if you are engaged on a particular type or piece of work, that is what you are doing at the time: *During the war Richards was engaged on work of a secret nature.* | *The chairman, Ed Borkovsky, is currently engaged on a European tour to promote the conference.*

ENGROSS**be engrossed in****be engrossed in sth**

to be very interested or involved in something, especially so that you do not notice or show an interest in anything else: *Rourke was so engrossed in conversation with the girl that he didn't even see me come in.* | *Anna seemed*

to be completely engrossed in her new life at university and we hardly ever heard from her.

* SIMILAR TO: **be absorbed in**

ENLARGEenlarged, enlarged, *enlarging***enlarge on/upon**

● **Enlarge upon** is more formal than **enlarge on** and is mostly used in writing.

enlarge on/upon sth

formal to give more details or information about something you have already said or written: *I sat patiently, waiting for Tom to enlarge on his last remark.* | *Would you care to enlarge on your last remark?* | *In a recent interview she enlarged on this theme in conversation with Kenneth Harris.*

* SIMILAR TO: **expand on/upon**

ENQUIRESEE **inquire****ENSURE**SEE **insure****ENTER**entered, entered, *entering***enter for/in****a enter for/in sth**

to take part in a race, competition, or examination: *Twenty yachts entered in the annual Fastnet race on Wednesday.* | *Candidates may enter for both examinations, if they wish.*

b enter sb/sth for sth**enter sb/sth in sth**

to arrange for a person, team, animal etc to take part in a race, competition, or examination: *Do you know how many teams have been entered for the competition?* | *Peter entered his horse in a local show and won several prizes.*

enter into**1 enter into an agreement/contract etc**

to make an official agreement to do something or to pay someone else to do something: *Compaq and Microsoft announced that they had entered into an agreement to develop new products and markets.*

+ **with** *Birmingham City Council have entered into a contract with a building company for the construction of a block of offices.*

2 enter into sth

to start to become involved in something, especially a discussion or a relationship: *The Mexican government was willing to enter into negotiations as soon as possible.* | *At the time I didn't feel ready to enter into a new relationship.*

3 enter into sth

to be an important part of a situation or be something that you consider, especially when you are making a choice

enter into it *If we are choosing a new employee, age doesn't enter into it," said Anne Clinton, the company's Personnel Manager.*

enter into sth *Of course, other considerations entered into the decision-making process.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come into sth**

enter on/upon

● **Enter upon** is more formal than **enter on** and is mostly used in writing.

enter on/upon sth

formal to begin something, especially something that will continue for a long time: *The economy is entering upon a period of sustained growth.*

* SIMILAR TO: **embark on/upon**

ENTITLE

entitled, entitled, entitling

be entitled to**be entitled to sth**

if you are entitled to something, you have the right to have it or to do it: *All children under sixteen are entitled to free medical treatment.* | *I'm only giving you my advice – you're entitled to your own opinion.*

entitle sb to sth *Three of these tokens entitle you to free entry to Warwick Castle.*

ERODE

eroded, eroded, eroding

erode away**1 be eroded away/erode away**

if rock or soil is eroded away or erodes away, water or the wind gradually removes its surface or breaks it into pieces, until it disappears: *All the soil and loose stones had been eroded away, leaving only the smooth grey rock.* | *Parts of the cliff are in danger of eroding away.*

2 be eroded away/erode away

if someone's power, confidence, freedom etc is eroded away or erodes away, it is gradually destroyed: *When John left me, I felt that all my self-respect and confidence had been eroded away.* | *Over a decade, English military power eroded away.*

ETCH

etched, etched, etching

etch into/on**1 be etched into/on sth**

if a picture, pattern, or writing is etched into something made of metal, glass, or stone, it is cut into it and forms a permanent part of it: *When he retired they gave him a beautiful glass bowl, with his initials etched into it.* | *Ancient drawings were etched on the walls of the cave.*

2 be etched into/on sb's face

literary if an expression is etched into someone's face, it is so strong and noticeable that it looks permanent: *She felt sad, looking at the grey lines of weariness etched into his face.*

3 be etched into/on your mind/brain/memory

literary to be something that you will never forget because it had such a powerful effect on you – used especially about something unpleasant: *I saw scenes of violence which will be etched on my mind forever.*

EVEN

evened, evened, evening

even out**a even out**

if the way that something is shared or divided evens out, it becomes more equal: *Some people seem to get all the luck – but it usually evens out in the end.* | *The payments you make will even out over the year.*

b even out sth even sth out

to make something become more equal, by sharing or spreading something more equally: *We want to try and even out the work load a little, so that nobody has more than they can handle.*

even up**even up sth even sth up**

to make a situation more equal or fair, especially in a game or competition: *Mike came in and joined our team, which helped to even things up a little.* | *When we needed one more player to even up the sides in football, we used to ask Bob.*

EXPAND

expanded, expanded, expanding

expand on/upon

● **Expand upon** is more formal than **expand on** and is mostly used in writing.

expand on/upon sth

to give more details or information about something that you have already said or written: *I'd like to expand on that point in a minute.* | *Hutton expands on this theme in the next chapter of his book.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enlarge on/upon**

EXPATIATE

expatiated, expatiated, expatiating

expatiate on/upon**expatiate on/upon sth**

old-fashioned literary to speak or write about a particular subject in detail or for a long time: *Alistair began to expatiate very amusingly on his liking for good food.*

EXPECT

expected, expected, expecting

expect of**1 expect sth of sb/sth**

to think or demand that someone should do something because it is their duty or it seems reasonable: *When I first joined the company, I wasn't sure what was expected of me.*

expect a lot/more of sb *She seems to expect an awful lot of her staff.* | *Middle class parents tend to expect more of their children and push them a lot harder at school.*

2 expect sth of sb

to think that it is likely that someone will do something or behave in a particular way: *My husband made a fantastic recovery – far better than we expected of him.* | *The money had been carefully invested, as might be expected of the Tyson family.*

EXPLAIN

explained, explained, explaining

explain away**explain away sth** **explain sth away** X

to give reasons for a mistake you made or something bad that happened, to try and make people think it is not your fault or not very serious: *David wondered how he would explain away the accident.* | *NATO had a hard time explaining away the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.* | *Unemployment was at its highest level ever, and the figures were not easily explained away.*

+ **as** *Dad's sickness could no longer be explained away as the flu.*

EYE

eyed, eyed, eyeing

eye up**1 eye up sb** **eye sb up**

informal, especially BrE to look at someone carefully, in a way that shows you find them sexually attractive: *That guy at the bar keeps eyeing you up, Kelly.* | *Margot saw two younger women eyeing up her boyfriend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **check out** AmE, **ogle**

2 eye up sth **eye sth up**

BrE informal to look at something for a long time or very carefully, because you want it or are interested in it: *Ed's gone to buy that hi-fi he's been eyeing up for weeks.* | *She was eyeing up a Danish pastry in the window.*

F

FACE

faced, faced, facing

face about

face about

BrE to turn so that you are looking in the opposite direction: *He paused, lit a cigarette, then faced about and walked quickly away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn around**

face down

face down sb/sth face sb/sth down

especially AmE to deal with someone or something in a strong and confident way: *Lyman faced down a roaring lion when he was on an African safari.*

face off

face off

AmE if two people or groups face off, they fight, argue, or compete against each other: *Under Louisiana law, the two top candidates will face off in the second election November 16.* | *The Twins and The Braves faced off at 6:00 last night in Atlanta.*

face-off N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

AmE a situation in which two people or groups are fighting or playing a game against each other: *The situation gradually calmed down after a 24-hour face-off between demonstrators and the police.*

face up to

face up to sth

to accept that an unpleasant fact is true or that a difficult situation exists, and realize that you have to deal with it instead of trying to ignore it: *It won't be easy to find another job; you'd better face up to it.*

face up to the fact (that) *It's often difficult to face up to the fact that you are no longer young.*

face up to your responsibilities *"He's never really faced up to his responsibilities as a father," Suzy said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **face**

be faced with

be faced with sth

if you are faced with a difficult problem, situation, choice etc, you have to deal with it:

There was almost no evidence and police were faced with a seemingly impossible task. | *The business was doing really badly, and we were faced with mounting debts.* | *Faced with these sorts of difficulties, many women chose to give up their careers as soon as their first child was born.*

FACTOR

factored, factored, factoring

factor in/into

factor in sth factor sth in

factor sth into sth

to include a particular thing when you are calculating the total amount of something or making a judgment or decision about something: *Once interest payments are factored in, the debt over 30 years increases to \$694 million.* | *When you are measuring a school's success, the students' backgrounds need to be factored in.*

● OPPOSITE: **factor out**

factor out

factor out sth factor sth out

especially AmE to not include a particular thing when you are calculating the total amount of something or making a judgment or decision about something: *The firm projects that wages will rise 11% after inflation is factored out.*

● OPPOSITE: **factor in**

FADE

faded, faded, fading

fade away

1 fade away

if something that you can hear or see fades away, it gradually becomes less loud or clear, and then disappears: *She listened to Zach's footsteps fading away down the staircase.*

+ **into** *Dave's figure faded away into the darkness.*

2 fade away

if something such as a feeling, idea, or attitude fades away, it gradually becomes less strong and then disappears: *Hopes of a peace settlement were beginning to fade away.* | *Eventually all opposition to the idea faded away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dissolve** formal

3 fade away

to gradually become weaker and then die: *Mum never really recovered after the operation – she just faded away.*

fade inALSO **fade up** BrE**fade in** **fade in sth** **fade sth in**

if sound or a picture fades in, or is faded in, it gradually becomes louder or clearer – used about recorded sound or pictures in a film, television programme, record etc: *Romantic music slowly fades in, as the lovers walk hand in hand into the sunset.* | *The computer game starts with a lot of multicolored stars, and then some text fades in.*

fade out**1 fade out**

to gradually disappear or stop happening: *The marches and the protests faded out and people went back to their normal lives.* | *Sometimes the trail faded out and they had to search for another one.*

2 fade out **fade out sth** **fade sth out**

if sound or a picture fades out, or you fade it out, it becomes less loud or clear and gradually disappears – used about recorded sounds or pictures in a film, television programme, record etc: *The film we were watching faded out and was replaced by a newflash.* | *The DJ faded out one record and put on another.*

fade upSEE **fade in****FAFF**

faffed, faffed, faffing

faff about/around**faff about/around**

BrE informal to waste time doing unnecessary things, especially when you should be doing something else instead: *Have you nearly finished faffing around in the bathroom?* | *We spent the whole morning faffing about trying to find a garage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** informal, **fart about/around** informal, **putz around** AmE informal

FAG

fagged, fagged, fagging

be fagged out**be fagged out**

BrE spoken informal to be extremely tired: *I'm completely fagged out – I didn't get to sleep till 4 am.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be shagged out** BrE spoken informal

FAIN

fainted, fainted, fainting

faint away**faint away**

BrE to suddenly become unconscious for a short time, because you are very weak, ill, or shocked: *Several fans at the match had fainted away in the blazing heat.*

* SIMILAR TO: **faint**

FAKE

faked, faked, faking

fake out**fake sb out** **fake out sb**

AmE informal to deceive someone by making them think you are planning to do something when you are really planning to do something else: *Sherrard faked out Jespersion, moved past him, and scored the winning goal.*

FALL

fell, fallen, falling

fall about**fall about**

BrE informal to laugh a lot about something, especially without being able to stop: *The situation was so ridiculous that we all just fell about.*

fall about laughing *All the kids fell about laughing as soon as the teacher left the room.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up** informal, **crease up** BrE informal

fall apart**1 be falling apart**

to be in very bad condition, and need repairing: *I'm not going in your car – it's falling apart!* | *The school was in a very old building, which looked like it was falling apart.*

2 fall apart

if something falls apart, it breaks into pieces, especially because it is old or badly made: *The book fell apart in my hands as soon as I picked it up.* | *I'd only had the shoes a couple of months before they fell apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come apart**, **disintegrate** formal

3 fall apart

if an organization, system, relationship etc falls apart, it is not working successfully any more and often fails completely: *Diana's marriage to Charles was falling apart.* | *By the end of 1934, the Independent Labour Party was falling apart.* | *In countries like Hungary*

and Poland, the old Communist system had largely fallen apart.

be falling apart at the seams (=used to emphasize that something is in very bad condition) *When Thatcher took over, the British economy was falling apart at the seams.*

* SIMILAR TO: **collapse**

4 fall apart

if someone falls apart, they have problems which affect them mentally or emotionally and they cannot think or behave normally: *My father had just died and everything was going wrong – in the end I just fell apart. | She's so tense about her job – if she goes on like this, she'll fall apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crack up** *informal*

5 sb's world/life falls apart

if someone's world or life falls apart, something bad happens which changes their life, causing them serious problems and making them upset: *When Jim's wife left him, his world just fell apart. | Saxton's life fell apart when he failed a drugs' test two weeks before the Olympic Games.*

fall away

1 fall away

if something falls away from the surface that it is joined to, it breaks off and becomes separated from it: *As soon as I picked up the flower, its petals fell away and fluttered to the ground.*

+ from *Several large rocks had fallen away from the cliff into the sea.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall off**

2 fall away

if land, a road etc falls away, it slopes down, especially suddenly: *Sarah ran forward and then stopped as the ground fell away before her. | To our left, the road seemed to fall away into a valley.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop away**

3 fall away

NOT PROGRESSIVE

if a feeling or something that has a bad effect on you falls away, you stop feeling it or being affected by it: *At last Petey saw her coming, and his anger immediately fell away. | As soon as I found out the truth, all my worries fell away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go away, disappear**

4 fall away

especially BrE if the amount or rate of something falls away, it decreases: *Our profits have fallen away sharply during the last two years. | Support for the strike has started to fall away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall off, fall back, drop**

5 fall away

BrE if a sound or the wind falls away, it gradually becomes quieter or less strong and then disappears: *The singer's voice grew louder, and then slowly fell away. | The fierce wind which started in the evening, fell away during the night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **die away**

fall back

1 fall back

to suddenly move backwards or away from someone or something, because you are very surprised, frightened etc: *Flossie's father was so surprised that he fell back against the door. | She ran forward to the figure on the ground, and the rest of the crowd fell back, silent.*

* SIMILAR TO: **recoil** *formal*

2 fall back

if soldiers fall back, they move back away from the enemy in order to avoid fighting: *General Patton immediately ordered his men to fall back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **retreat**

3 fall back

to move or travel more slowly than another person, car etc, with the result that you are behind them: *As soon as we were in sight of the truck, we fell back in order not to be seen. | Grand Hawk fell back to second place after the last jump.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop back, fall behind**

4 fall back

especially BrE if the amount or rate of something falls back, it decreases: *Car sales fell back dramatically in the second half of the year. | The pound climbed to a healthy 2.50 Deutschmarks, before falling back later to 2.47.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop**

fall back on/upon

● **Fall back upon** is more formal than **fall back on** and is mostly used in writing.

fall back on/upon sth

to use something because other things have failed or because there is no other choice left: *If this doesn't work, we'll just have to fall back on our original plan. | Celia fell back on the only excuse she could think of. | You should save a bit of money – then you'll always have something to fall back on.*

fall-back ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a fall-back position, method, plan etc is one that you use when your first choice fails: *It is important that we have a good fall-back position, in case these negotiations break down.*

fall-back ^N [C]

something that you have available to use for when your first method, choice etc fails: *Many people have a second insurance policy as a fall-back.*

fall behind**1 fall behind** **fall behind** sb

to gradually get behind other people who you are with, because you are moving more slowly than them: *I started to fall behind almost as soon as the race began. | The little boy had fallen behind his mother and was crying.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lag behind, drop behind**

● OPPOSITE: **keep up**

2 fall behind **fall behind** sb/sth

to fail to make as much progress or to achieve the same standard as another person, country, organization etc: *Children from poor families are more likely to fall behind at school. | They were worried that Russia was falling behind the US in the arms race.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lag behind**

● OPPOSITE: **keep up**

3 fall behind **fall behind** sth

to fail to do something by a particular date that has been agreed, especially paying money that you owe, or finishing some work

+ **with** *After losing his job, Darren fell behind with his mortgage payments. | He fell behind with his rent and was thrown out of the apartment.*

fall behind schedule *The project to build the bridge had already fallen behind schedule, and there were still some technical problems to overcome.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get behind**

4 fall behind sth

to fail to increase at the same rate as something else: *Over the last few years, our salaries have fallen behind inflation. | Demand fell behind production, and prices dropped.*

● OPPOSITE: **keep up**

5 fall behind **fall behind** sth/sb

to fail to score as many points as another team or player in a competition: *Princeton started slowly, and fell behind 16-9 in both games. | Osborne's team fell behind Miami 17-7 in the second half.*

fall down**1 fall down**

to fall onto the ground: *She slipped on the ice, fell down and broke her leg. | During the night, several trees had fallen down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall over**

2 be falling down

if a building is falling down, it is in very bad condition and needs repairing: *There were very few hospitals, and the ones that did exist were falling down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **delapidated** *formal*

3 fall down

BrE to fail to be good enough or to be successful because of a particular reason or in a particular way: *Where the book falls down is in the poor quality of the colour reproductions. | "What if someone doesn't keep up with the payments?" "That's when the whole system falls down."*

fall down on the job (=fail to do what you should be doing on your job) *I'm appalled by her attitude. It suggests I'm falling down on the job.*

downfall ^N [SINGULAR]

when someone loses their position of power, or stops being successful

+ **of the downfall of** *Margaret Thatcher*

be sb's downfall if something is someone's downfall, it causes them to lose their position of power, or stops them from being successful: *In the end, his pride was his downfall.*

fall for**1 fall for** sth

informal to be tricked into believing something that is not true: *You didn't think I'd fall for that old excuse, did you? | Politicians seem to think that we'll fall for any old rubbish.*

fall for sth hook, line, and sinker (=be tricked into believing something completely, although it is not true) *He said that he wanted to leave his wife and marry her, and she fell for it hook, line and sinker.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be taken in by sth**

2 fall for sb

to suddenly feel very attracted to someone and feel that you love them: *It's the story of a middle-aged teacher who falls for one of his students. | A lot of people wonder why Fergie fell for Johnny Bryan.*

3 fall for sth NOT PASSIVE

to like something very much as soon as you see it, and feel that you want to have it: *Mark had only seen the house once, but he'd fallen for it immediately.*

fall in**1 fall in**

if a roof or ceiling falls in, it falls to the ground, especially because it is old or damaged: *The house was still there, but the*

windows were all broken and the roof had fallen in.

* SIMILAR TO: **cave in**

2 fall in

to start walking or forming lines behind or next to other people: *The soldiers fell in, one behind the other.*

fall in behind/beside sb "This way!" he shouted and the group fell in behind him.

fall into

1 fall into sth

to start to be in a bad condition or in a bad situation – used in the following phrases:

fall into decay/ruin/disrepair/disuse *The cathedral fell into disrepair over the next fifty years.*

fall into a coma *Griffin fell into a coma before he reached the hospital.*

2 fall into sth

to start doing something or being involved in something, often without intending to – used especially in the following phrases:

fall into conversation/a discussion (=start talking) *On the way home, I fell into conversation with the man sitting beside me.*

fall into the habit of doing sth *At work, he'd fallen into the habit of having a cup of coffee every time he passed the machine.*

fall into a deep sleep *I fell into a deep sleep as soon as I lay down.*

3 fall into a category/group/type etc

to belong to a particular group of things or people that is different from other groups: *The subjects you can study fall into three distinct groups. | Our customers have always fallen into several different categories.*

4 fall into sth

to contain or be divided into two or more different parts: *Your role will fall into two main areas: staff recruitment and training. | The evening's discussion falls into three parts.*

fall in with

1 fall in with sb

informal to become friends with someone or with a particular group of people after meeting them by chance: *I hope she doesn't fall in with the wrong kind of people at college. | In France, Deng fell in with some young Chinese communists, led by Chou-En-lai.*

2 fall in with sth

BrE to accept someone else's plan, suggestion etc and not try to change it or disagree with it: *I'm quite happy to fall in with whatever you decide. | Lea decided it was best to fall in with his wishes, in order to keep the peace.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go along with**

fall off

1 fall off

if something falls off, it becomes separated from something that it is joined to, especially because it is old or damaged: *I picked up the suitcase and the handle fell off. | One of the engines fell off the plane on a flight from Miami to Minneapolis.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop off**

2 fall off

if the amount, rate, or standard of something falls off, it decreases or becomes lower: *Jaguar's US car sales have fallen off since 1986. | The standard of acting seemed to fall off in the second half of the play.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop, drop off, fall away**

fall-off ALSO **falling-off** N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

when the amount, rate, or standard of something decreases or becomes lower

+ *In Some clubs have had to close due to a fall-off in attendance. | a falling-off in demand*

fall on

fall on sth

if a date falls on a particular day of the week, it happens on that day: *Christmas fell on a Saturday that year.*

fall on/upon

● **Fall upon** is more formal than **fall on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 fall on/upon sb

if a duty or job falls on someone, they become responsible for dealing with it or getting it done, especially because someone else cannot do it: *When her mother died, responsibility for the family fell upon Sheila.*

it falls on sb to do sth *Jane was off sick, so it fell on me to organize the whole thing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall to**

2 fall on/upon sth

literary to start eating food quickly and eagerly, because you are very hungry: *He fell on the meal in front of him, as if he hadn't eaten for weeks.*

3 fall on/upon sb

literary to suddenly attack or get hold of someone: *Some of the older boys fell on him, and broke his glasses.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set on/upon**

4 fall on/upon sb

literary to throw your arms around someone and often kiss them, because you are happy

to see them or excited about something: *The kids fell on their uncle as soon as he opened the door.*

5 fall on/upon sb

literary to happen to someone – used about something unpleasant: *Alexi was afraid of the punishment and revenge that might fall upon him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **befall** formal, **happen to**

fall out

1 fall out

to have an argument with someone and stop being friendly with them

+ **with** *Becker was depressed because he'd fallen out with his girlfriend.*

+ **over** *Apparently the two men fell out over money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **argue**, **quarrel**

falling-out N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

if you have a falling-out with someone, you have an argument with them and stop being friendly with them: *There were reports that some members of the team had had a falling-out.*

2 fall out

if your hair or a tooth falls out, it becomes loose and separates from your body: *Dad's hair fell out when he was only thirty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come out**

3 fall out USUALLY IN COMMANDS

if soldiers fall out, they stop standing in a line and move away to different places: *The soldiers were ordered to fall out and return to base.*

● OPPOSITE: **fall in**

fall over

1 fall over

to fall to the ground, or to fall down from an upright position: *The Rangers defender slipped and fell over as he was running for the ball. | That pile of books will fall over if you put any more on top.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall down**, **topple over**

2 fall over sth

to hit your foot against something by mistake and fall to the ground: *I fell over an empty box that someone had left outside the door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **trip over**

3 be falling over yourself to do sth

to be very eager to do something, especially when this seems very surprising: *The manager was falling over herself to be helpful. | Suddenly he found that women were falling over themselves to go out with him.*

fall through

fall through

if an agreement, plan etc falls through, something prevents it from happening or being completed successfully: *My holiday plans have fallen through, so I don't know where I'll go this year. | We'd accepted an offer of \$200,000 for the house, but the sale fell through at the last moment.*

fall to

1 fall to sb

if a duty or job falls to someone, they become responsible for dealing with it or getting it done, especially when this is difficult or unpleasant: *No one else wanted to do it, so the job fell to me.*

it fell to sb to do sth *It fell to me to give her the bad news.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall on**

2 fall to sth

literary to suddenly start doing something: *Everyone fell to work, and they didn't stop till midday.*

fall to doing sth *Whenever the family got together, they always fell to arguing about politics.*

fall under

1 fall under sb's control/rule/influence

to become controlled, governed, or influenced by a particular group, country, or person: *By then large areas of the country had fallen under Palestinian control. | The Commission had fallen under the influence of the KGB.*

2 fall under sb/sth's spell

to become very attracted by someone or something: *As soon as I went to Paris, I fell under its spell.*

3 fall under a category/heading etc

to be included in a particular group or description of things: *The new job falls under the heading of Sales and Marketing.*

fall upon

SEE **fall on/upon**

FAN

fanned, fanned, fanning

fan out

1 fan out

if a group of people or things fans out, they move forwards and away from each other so that they gradually spread over a wide area:

He ordered his men to fan out and search every inch of the field. | Hundreds of volunteers will fan out along the coast to pick up litter.

* SIMILAR TO: spread out

2 fan out sth fan sth out

to arrange a group of things so that they form the shape of a half circle: *Theo fanned out the cards and asked me to pick one.* | *Cut up an apple and gently fan out the slices on a serving plate.*

FARM

farmed, farmed, farming

farm out

1 farm out sth farm sth out

to arrange for work to be done by another company or by someone outside your company, instead of doing it yourself: *Ian thinks we should farm the project out, but I think we can organize it ourselves.* | *Most of the editing is farmed out to freelancers.*

* SIMILAR TO: contract out

2 farm out sb farm sb out

to arrange for someone to be looked after by someone else, because you are too busy to look after them: *My parents were both working, so ended up being farmed out to my grandparents or one of my aunts.*

FART

farted, farted, farting

● **Fart** is a rude word and some people are offended by it.

fart around

ALSO **fart about** BrE

fart about/around

informal to waste time doing silly or unnecessary things, especially when you should be doing something else: *Stop farting around and get on with your work!* | *I've been farting about in meetings all morning and I haven't had time to get anything done.*

* SIMILAR TO: mess about/around informal, piss about/around BrE informal

FASTEN

fastened, fastened, fastening

fasten on/upon

● **Fasten upon** is more formal than **fasten on** and is mostly used in writing.

fasten on/upon sth

formal to give particular attention to some-

thing, especially because you think it is important, useful, or serious: *The press was quick to fasten on the dangers of genetically modified foods.*

fasten on to sth *He immediately fastened on the fact that she didn't have much experience of marketing.*

* SIMILAR TO: home in on, latch on to/onto

fasten onto

fasten onto sb

to follow someone and stay with them, especially when they do not want you to: *Stella immediately fastened onto the best-looking man at the party and refused to leave his side.*

* SIMILAR TO: latch on to/onto

fasten up

fasten up sth fasten sth up

fasten up

to join together two sides of something such as a coat, shirt, bag etc so it is closed, or to become joined in this way: *Fasten up your coat – it's freezing outside.* | *My fingers are so numb I can't fasten my shirt up properly.* | *This bag is too full – it won't fasten up.*

* SIMILAR TO: do up

fasten upon

SEE **fasten on/upon**

FATHOM

fathomed, fathomed, fathoming

fathom out

fathom out sth/sb fathom sth/sb out

BrE to understand something or someone after thinking about them carefully, especially when they seem strange or confusing: *I sometimes find it difficult to fathom out the workings of Emma's mind.* | *It's hard to fathom out why a mother would abandon her child.*

* SIMILAR TO: fathom, figure out, work out

FATTEN

fattened, fattened, fattening

fatten up

fatten up sth/sb fatten sth/sb up

to make an animal fatter by giving it a lot of food. Also used humorously about people: *The turkeys are being fattened up for Christmas.* | *Keith always looks so thin – he needs fattening up a bit.*

FAVOUR BrE **FAVOR** AmE

favoured, favoured, favouring BrE
 favored, favored, favoring AmE

favour with

favour sb with sth

old-fashioned formal to give someone a look or a reply, or do something special for someone – often used humorously: *He favoured Lucy with a broad grin, then went back to his work. | It was several days before she favored him with an answer to his proposal.*

favour sb with your presence (=come to visit someone – used especially to criticize someone in a joking way because they are late or often do not come) *Will you be favouring us with your presence this evening?*

FAWN

fawned, fawned, fawning

fawn on/over

fawn on/over sb

to praise someone and be friendly to them, especially in a way that is not sincere, because you want them to like you or give you something: *Political candidates are fawning over wealthy businessmen, hoping for generous campaign donations. | The Prince was constantly surrounded by beautiful young women, all fawning on him and trying to get into bed with him.*

FEAR

feared, feared, fearing

fear for

fear for sth/sb

if you fear for something or someone, you feel worried that they may be in danger: *Calaway assured him that he has no reason to fear for his job.*

fear for sb's life/safety *Fearing for his life, Williams left the country. | Witnesses feared for their safety and refused to give reporters their true names.*

FEAST

feasted, feasted, feasting

feast on/upon

● **Feast upon** is more formal than **feast on** and is mostly used in writing.

feast on/upon sth

to eat a lot of a particular food with enjoyment: *Afterwards they went to a posh restaurant and feasted on smoked salmon and*

champagne. | At the festival you can feast on raw oysters and steamed clams. | Mythology portrays ancient gods feasting upon ambrosia and nectar.

FEED

fed, fed, feeding

feed back

feed back **feed back sth**

to give someone your opinion or the latest information about something, especially so it can be improved or changed

+ **to** *Consumers are able to feed back to the company about its products.*

+ **with** *I am grateful to all those who fed back with their comments and suggestions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **report back**

feedback N [U]

advice, criticism etc about how good or useful something is: *We've received some negative feedback from customers on the new computer software.*

feed in/into

feed sth into sth **feed in sth**

feed sth in

to put something into a machine, especially information or money: *Information about the weather conditions is fed into a computer so that forecasts can be made. | I kept feeding money into the machine, but I still didn't win anything.*

feed into

feed into sth

if a river or road feeds into a bigger river or road, it joins it: *Several rivers feed into the River Humber, including the River Derwent and the River Ouse.*

* SIMILAR TO: **join**

feed off

1 **feed off sth**

if an animal feeds off something, it gets food from it: *Crows circled overhead, waiting to feed off the bodies of dead animals.*

* SIMILAR TO: **feed on**

2 **feed off sth**

to use something in order to continue to exist or to get an advantage for yourself – used especially to show disapproval: *The press and the Royal Family feed off each other – they both need each other in order to survive. | Some people accused him of feeding off his father's reputation as a writer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **feed on**

feed on**1** **feed on sth**

if an animal feeds on a particular food, it usually eats that food: *Owls feed on mice and other small animals.* | *Butterflies feed on nectar collected from flowers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **feed off**

2 **feed sth/sb on sth**

to regularly give an animal or person a particular kind of food to eat: *The cattle are fed on barley and grass.* | *Parents feed their children on all kinds of rubbish, but they still seem to grow up OK in the end.*

3 **feed on sth**

to use something in order to become stronger or more successful, especially people's fears or worries – used especially to show disapproval: *The Fascists were able to feed on people's fears about the country's economic situation.* | *Prejudice feeds on mistrust and ignorance.*

* SIMILAR TO: **feed off**

feed to**feed sth to sth/sb**

to give an animal or person a particular food: *Don't feed those apples to the squirrels!* | *How can you feed that junk to your kids?*

feed up**1** **feed sb up**

BrE to give someone a lot of food, especially to make them healthy and not too thin: *When I was young, my grandmother was always trying to feed me up with sweets and biscuits.* | *A lot of models these days look like they need feeding up.*

2 **be fed up**

informal to be bored, annoyed, or unhappy, especially because a situation that you do not like has continued for too long: *You look fed up. What's the matter?*

+ **with** *People are fed up with airport delays.* | *She got fed up with being treated like some kind of servant.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hacked off** informal

FEEL

felt, felt, feeling

feel around for**feel around**

to use your hands to search for something you cannot see: *Richard reached into the attic and felt around for the boxes.* | *Feeling around for some pocket change to make a phone call, Tom stood up and left the table.*

* SIMILAR TO: **feel for**

feel for**1** **feel for sb**

to feel sympathy for someone because they are in a difficult, sad, or unpleasant situation, often because you have been in a similar situation yourself: *I feel for Donnie – it's not easy being a teenager.* | *She felt for Karen, but she had a family of her own to look after.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sympathize with**

2 **feel for sth**

to use your hands to search for something you cannot see: *I felt for the list I had put in my pocket.* | *Suzanne entered the dark hotel room and felt for the light switch.*

* SIMILAR TO: **feel around for**

feel out**feel sb out** **feel out sb**

informal to ask someone's opinion or feelings about something: *I'll try and feel him out about the idea and see what he thinks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sound out**

feel up**feel sb up**

informal to touch someone in a sexual way, without their permission in a way that is unpleasant and annoying: *Some guy tried to feel me up at the bar last night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **touch up** BrE informal

feel up to**feel up to sth**

to feel well enough to do something, or feel that you have enough energy or strength to do something: *Can we go for a run another time? I don't really feel up to it today.*

feel up to doing sth *Are you sure you feel up to going into work? | I didn't feel up to arguing with him, so I just agreed with everything he said.*

FENCE

fenced, fenced, fencing

fence in**1** **fence in sth** **fence sth in**

to surround an area or building with a fence: *The prison compound was fenced in with barbed wire.*

2 **fence in sth** **fence sth in**

to keep animals in an area surrounded by a fence: *Jimmy is planning to fence in his chickens to protect them from foxes.*

3 **fence in sb** **fence sb in** USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone feel that they cannot leave

a place or do what they want: *Mothers with young children often feel fenced in at home.*

fence off

fence off sth fence sth off

to separate one area from other areas with a fence: *The owner has fenced off the woodland to stop people getting in.*

+ from *The resort was fenced off from the rest of the island*

FEND

fended, fended, fending

fend for

fend for yourself

to take care of yourself without help from other people: *She should be old enough to fend for herself by now.* | *Towards the end of his life he could no longer fend for himself, and his neighbours used to come in to make his meals for him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look after yourself**

fend off

1 fend off sb/sth fend sb/sth off

to stop someone or something who is trying to attack or harm you, especially by pushing them away: *He managed to fend off his attackers until the police arrived.* | *Women can take self-defense classes to learn how to fend off an assault.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ward off**

2 fend off sth fend sth off

to avoid having to deal directly with something difficult or annoying, for example questions, criticisms, or an unpleasant situation: *Asheroft tried to fend off any awkward questions about his business affairs.* | *Shea's main role was to fend off criticisms of NATO's bombing campaign in Kosovo.*

FERRET

ferreted, ferreted, ferreting

ferret out

ferret out sth ferret sth out

to succeed in finding something that is difficult to find, especially a piece of information: *She had a way of ferreting out people's secrets.* | *The company is working to ferret out problems with its software.*

* SIMILAR TO: **unearth, dig**

FESS

fessed, fessed, fessing

fess up

fess up

AmE informal to admit that you have done something wrong, or to tell people about something wrong you have done: *Come on, fess up! Who ate the last cookie?*

* SIMILAR TO: **own up, admit, confess**

FETCH

fetched, fetched, fetching

fetch up

1 fetch up

BrE to arrive somewhere without expecting to or intending to: *He spent some time in Europe and eventually fetched up in Naples.* | *At lunchtime the four of them fetched up at the pub.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end up, land up** BrE, **wind up**

2 fetch up

BrE informal to bring food up from your stomach through your mouth: *Ugh! Winnie has just fetched up all over the floor!*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw up, vomit** formal

FIDDLE

fiddled, fiddled, fiddling

fiddle around

ALSO **fiddle about** BrE

1 fiddle around/about

to make small changes to something in order to try to repair it or make it work better, often in an unsuccessful and annoying way: *Derek fiddled around for half an hour, trying to get the television to work.*

+ with *The government should stop fiddling around with the education system and let teachers get on with their jobs.*

2 fiddle around/about

to waste time doing silly or unimportant things: *I'm fed up with fiddling around here all day. Can we go?*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** informal

FIGHT

fought, fought, fighting

fight back

1 fight back

to defend yourself when someone attacks you or causes problems for you, and try to defeat them or stop them: *Finn was wounded*

several times but he continued to fight back. | *Seles lost the first set, but then fought back to win the match 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.* | *In the past, people who were discriminated against were often too scared to fight back.*

fight-back N [C]

when a person, team, organization etc defends themselves against an attacker or opponent and tries to defeat them: *In the second half, United staged a fight-back that almost brought them victory.*

2 fight back tears/anger/ the urge to do sth etc

to force yourself not to cry or show your feelings, or force yourself not to do something that you very much want to do: *Fighting back his tears, he waved goodbye to her from the station platform.* | *Sometimes I have to fight back the urge to hit him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold back**

fight down

fight down sth fight sth down

to force yourself not to do something that you very much want to do, or force yourself not to be affected by your feelings: *Janice fought down the impulse to scream.* | *He steadied himself against the door, fighting down a wave of dizziness and nausea.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fight back**

fight off

1 fight off sb/sth fight sb/sth off

to use violence to make someone or something who is attacking you go away: *He fought off his attackers and called the police.* | *The man tried to strangle her, but she managed to fight him off.*

2 fight off sth fight sth off

to get rid of or try to get rid of an illness or an unpleasant feeling: *If you take extra vitamin C, it helps your body to fight off colds.* | *I tried to fight off my feelings of homesickness by going out as much as possible.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ward off, stave off**

3 fight sb/sth off fight off sb/sth

to prevent an opponent from defeating you, for example in sport, business, or politics: *Navratilova fought off Sanchez to win the final game of the tournament.* | *The company had to fight off strong competition from its rivals in order to get the deal.* | *So far he has succeeded in fighting off every challenge to his leadership.*

fight out

fight it out

to fight or argue until one person, team etc wins: *John and Margo are prepared to fight it out in court.* | *Next Saturday United and Inter*

Milan will fight it out for the European Championships.

fight it out among yourselves (=used to say that you do not want to be involved in someone else's argument or fight) *Let them fight it out among themselves – it's none of our business.*

* SIMILAR TO: **battle it out, slog it out** BrE informal

FIGURE

figured, figured, figuring

figure on

figure on sth

AmE to expect that something will be a particular amount or number, or expect that something will happen, and include it in your plans: *Ken figured on about 100 people coming to the party.*

figure on doing sth *Figure on spending \$700 to \$900 for a ticket to Paris.*

* SIMILAR TO: **count on, reckon on** BrE

figure out

figure out sth/sb figure sth/sb out

to understand something or someone, or find the answer to a question, problem etc, after thinking about them carefully: *I've known Zack for years but I still can't figure him out.* | *It took her a few minutes to figure out what he was trying to say.* | *I'm trying to figure out a way of paying him back the money I owe him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fathom out** BrE, **work out** especially BrE

FILE

filed, filed, filing

file away

1 file away sth file sth away

to keep papers with information on them in a particular place so that they are easy to find: *Should we file away these receipts or throw them out?* | *She keeps all of her notes neatly filed away in a cabinet next to her desk.*

2 file away sth file sth away

informal to carefully remember information about something so that you can use it later: *Every little mistake gets filed away in the back of her mind so that she can use it against you later.*

file for

file for sth

to officially ask for permission to do something, especially from a court of law

file for divorce/bankruptcy *After 10 years of marriage, the couple have decided to file for divorce. | The country's second largest insurance group have filed for bankruptcy with debts of over \$1 billion.*

FILL

filled, filled, filing

fill in

1 fill in sth fill sth in

especially BrE to write all the necessary information in the empty spaces on an official document or test: *Before you can open your account you'll need to fill in this application form. | The passengers all had to fill in their landing cards. | Make sure that you fill in your name, address, and daytime telephone number.*

fill in the blanks (=write your answers in the empty spaces) *I opened my Japanese workbook and started filling in the blanks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fill out, complete** formal

2 fill in sth fill sth in

F

to put a substance in a hole or crack in order to make a surface smooth again: *You'll need to fill in all the cracks before you paint the walls.*

3 fill sb in fill in sb

to tell someone about things that have happened recently or give them information that they need to know in order to do something
+ on *Talk to Jenny – she can fill you in on the details. | Mom calls us every Sunday to fill us in on all the latest family news.*

4 fill in

to do someone's job while they are ill or absent from work: *Who's going to fill in when Helen's on maternity leave?*

+ for *Quinn is filling in for the newspaper's regular reporter. | I can't find anyone to fill in for me on Wednesday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand in**

5 fill in time

if you fill in time before something happens, you do something to pass the time so that you do not get bored: *We've got some time to fill in before the show – let's go and have a drink.*

6 fill in sth fill sth in

to paint or colour the space inside a shape, especially on paper: *She drew a picture of a bird and used crayons to fill it in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **colour/color in**

7 fill sb in

BrE old-fashioned informal to attack someone and

hit them hard, especially because you are annoyed with them: *If he does that again, I'm going to fill him in!*

* SIMILAR TO: **beat up, do sb in** informal

fill out

1 fill out sth fill sth out

to write all the necessary information in the empty spaces on an official document: *If you want to join the library, you'll need to fill out an application form. | The patients all had to fill out a questionnaire which asked them about their previous medical history.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fill in** especially BrE, **complete** formal

2 fill out

if your body fills out, it becomes fatter or bigger – used especially about thin people who have become fatter or bigger: *Noah used to be a skinny little guy, but he's really filled out in the past year. | By age 13, her body had already started to fill out.*

fill up

1a fill up sth fill sth up

to make a container full by putting liquid or other things in it: *Can I fill up your glass? | We brought two big baskets for the apples, and quickly filled them up.*

1b fill up fill up sth fill sth up

to put petrol in a car so that the tank is full. The tank is the part of the car where petrol is stored: *They stopped to fill up at the next gas station.*

fill-up AmE N [C]

when you put enough petrol in your vehicle to fill the container that holds the petrol: *Gasco is offering a free carwash with every fill-up.*

2 fill up

to become full: *The pubs fill up quickly on Saturday nights.*

+ with *The show was due to begin in 20 minutes, and the theatre was already starting to fill up. | New roads rapidly fill up with cars. | The room began to fill up with smoke, and people started rushing for the exits.*

3 fill sb up

if a food fills you up, it makes you feel that you have eaten enough and you feel full: *It doesn't take much rice to fill me up. | I like to have porridge for breakfast. It really fills you up.*

4 fill (yourself) up

to make your stomach feel full by eating a lot of food

+ on *If you're extra hungry, fill up on rice, potatoes, or pasta dishes.* | *I used to fill myself up on cereal as soon as I got home from school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stoke up** BrE informal

5 fill up sth

if you fill up a period of time, you use it for a particular activity or purpose: *The manager expects us to fill up every minute of the day with work.* | *Three new programmes were introduced to fill up the full prime-time television slots.*

FILM

filmed, filmed, filming

film over

your eyes film over

if your eyes film over, they become covered with a thin layer of liquid, so that it is difficult for you to see: *She tried not to cry, but she could feel her eyes filming over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mist over**

FILTER

filtered, filtered, filtering

filter in

filter in

BrE to slowly drive your car into a line of traffic that is already moving, so that the other cars do not have to stop for you: *We had to slow down as more traffic filtered in from the south of Cambridge.*

filter out

1 filter out sth filter sth out

to remove a harmful or unwanted substance from a liquid or gas by passing it through a piece of equipment that separates them: *Workers will have to wear masks to filter out all the dust in the air.* | *The lenses are made of special glass which filters out harmful UV rays.*

2 filter out sth/sb filter sth/sb out

to separate or get rid of something or someone that you do not want from a group of things or people: *The interviews are intended to filter out unsuitable candidates.* | *We learn to filter out background noise when listening to a particular voice.*

filter through

filter through

if news or information about something filters through, people start to hear about it: *Reports began to filter through of mass executions and ethnic cleansing.*

FIND

found, found, finding

find against

find against sb

formal if a judge, court etc finds against someone, they decide that the person has lost their case: *If the judge finds against him, he'll spend the rest of his life in jail.*

● OPPOSITE: **find for**

find for

find for sb

formal if a judge, court etc finds for someone, they decide that the person has won their case: *Judge Hayes found for the defendant and ordered that he should be released immediately.*

● OPPOSITE: **find against**

find out

1 find out find out sth find sth out

NOT PASSIVE

to get information about something, either by chance or by asking questions, looking in books etc: *I don't know who wrote the song, but I'll try and find out.* | *Don phoned the hospital to find out the result of his test.* | *Teachers should encourage kids to find things out for themselves.*

+ **what/where/why etc** *Dad was really mad at me when he found out where I'd been.* | *Can you find out exactly what time the film starts?*

+ **if** *Find out if there's anyone here who speaks English.*

+ **that** *You'll be in trouble if anybody finds out about this.*

2 find sb out USUALLY PASSIVE

to discover that someone has done something wrong or illegal: *The only thing that made him stop cheating was his fear of being found out.* | *Brendan knew she would always find him out if he tried to lie to her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rumble** BrE informal

FINE

fined, fined, fining

fine down

fine down sth fine sth down

BrE formal to improve a process, system etc by making it more exact or effective, and especially by getting rid of parts of it that are not necessary: *The whole legal process has been fined down so that cases can be dealt with more quickly and efficiently.*

* SIMILAR TO: **refine**

FINISH

finished, finished, finishing

finish off

1 finish off sth finish sth off

especially BrE to complete the last part of something that you are doing: *Don't disturb him – he's just finishing off his homework. | It'll take me a couple of hours to finish this job off.*

* SIMILAR TO: complete, finish up AmE

2 finish off sth finish sth off

to eat, drink, or use the last part of something: *Ally and I sat outside, finishing off our meal. | You'd better finish this toothpaste off before you open a new one.*

* SIMILAR TO: polish off

3 finish off finish off sth finish sth off

to end an event, programme, meal etc in a particular way or by doing one final thing: *We finished off the evening by opening a bottle of champagne.*

+ with *Let's finish off with a roundup of the news.*

* SIMILAR TO: end, conclude formal

4 finish sb off finish off sb

BrE to make someone feel very tired, weak, or unhappy, so that they are unable to continue what they were doing or to live a normal life any more: *That last job's finished me off for the day! I'm going home. | We knew that if she failed again, it might finish her off completely.*

* SIMILAR TO: do in spoken

5 finish sb/sth off finish off sb/sth

informal to kill a person or animal, especially when they are already wounded or weak: *Two of the victims were still alive, so the executioners finished them off with bayonets.*

* SIMILAR TO: kill

6 finish off sth finish sth off

BrE to complete something by making it attractive in a particular way: *Low growing plants are useful for finishing off the edge of a path or flower bed. | a stunning piece of costume jewellery to finish off your party outfit*

7 finish off sb/sth finish sb/sth off

to defeat a person or team that you are competing against in a sport: *They were a team we should have easily beaten, but we couldn't quite finish them off.*

finish up

1 finish up

BrE informal to arrive or end at a particular place, after going to other places first: *I took a long holiday in Italy and finished up in*

Rome. | The route follows the Rivers Dee and Lune, before finishing up at Lake Windermere. | We finished up in a Chinese restaurant in Soho.

* SIMILAR TO: end up, wind up

2 finish up

BrE informal to get into a particular state or situation as the result of what you have done, especially without planning or expecting it: *One of the guys tried to bribe a police officer and finished up in jail.*

+ as *Soane came from a poor family, but he finished up as one of Britain's greatest architects.*

+ with *If you go out in this freezing weather, you'll probably finish up with pneumonia.*

* SIMILAR TO: end up, wind up

3 finish up doing sth

informal, especially BrE to do something at the end of an event or process, especially without planning or expecting it: *I often start off thinking of one story, and finish up writing something completely different. | If you move to another house, you could finish up paying an even higher rent.*

* SIMILAR TO: end up, wind up

4 finish up sth finish sth up

to eat or drink all of what you are eating or drinking: *Come on! Finish up your drinks. We have to go now.*

5 finish sth up finish up sth finish up

AmE to complete the final part of something: *Moore is finishing up his first season with the 49ers. | The report is due on Wednesday, but I think we might finish it up by Sunday night.*

* SIMILAR TO: complete, wrap up, finish off especially BrE

finish up with

finish up with sth

especially BrE to end an activity, event etc by having or doing a particular thing: *Most of us finished up with the orange and almond dessert. | The rowing season finishes up with Henley Royal Regatta.*

finish with

1 be/have finished with sth

to have stopped using or needing something: *Have you finished with the newspaper yet? | I usually give my old clothes away when I'm finished with them.*

2 be/have finished with sb

to have finished talking to someone, or dealing with them, especially when you are angry with them or want to punish them: *Don't go, Anna. I haven't finished with you*

yet. | "When I'm finished with you," Morrissey said, "you'll be lucky if you're still alive."

3 finish with sb NOT PASSIVE

informal to end a romantic or sexual relationship with someone: *Did you know that Mike's finished with Theresa?* | *There were just too many arguments, so in the end I finished with him.*

FINK

finked, finked, finking

fink on

fink on sb

AmE informal to tell the police or someone in authority that someone else has done something wrong: *Rita finked on me for taking long lunches at work.* | *The school's anti-vandalism policy encourages kids to fink on their friends.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell on** informal, **tattle on** AmE informal

FIRE

fired, fired, firing

fire away

fire away!

spoken informal used to tell someone that you are ready for them to begin asking you questions or speaking about something: *"Do you mind if I ask you something, Woody?" "Fire away."*

* SIMILAR TO: **shoot!** spoken informal

fire back

fire back

to quickly and angrily answer a question or remark

+ at *The Japanese government has fired back at its critics.*

fire off

1 fire off sth fire sth off

to fire a bullet, bomb etc into the air: *The terrorists fired off several shots into the air.*

fire off a gun *The Mexicans have a tradition of firing off guns to welcome in the new year.*

2 fire off sth fire sth off

to quickly write and send a letter or message to someone, especially an angry one protesting about something: *I fired off another furious e-mail to the editor.* | *The United States fired off a harshly worded protest, calling for international action.*

fire up

1 fire up sb fire sb up USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone become very excited, interested, or angry: *By the time we went into the contest we were all fired up with enthusiasm.* | *Uncle George always had terrific stories that fired up our imagination.* | *It was alarming the way she got so fired up about small things.*

2 fire up sth fire sth up

informal, especially AmE to make something start to burn, for example a cigarette or something you are going to cook on: *Millions of Americans are preparing to fire up their barbecues on Labor Day weekend.*

* SIMILAR TO: **light up**

3 fire up sth fire sth up

informal, especially AmE to make an engine, computer etc start to work: *Mercedes fired up the 52 horsepower engine and lifts off from the main runway.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start up**

FIRM

firmed, firmed, firming

firm up

1 firm up sth firm sth up

to make the details of arrangements, ideas etc more definite and exact: *I'll call you nearer the time to firm things up.* | *At the meeting Albright firmed up dates for the trip to Mexico.*

2 firm up sth firm sth up

if you firm up part of your body, you make the muscles stronger and get rid of fat by exercising: *These exercises are good for firming up your stomach.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tone up**

3 firm up sth firm sth up

to make your position of power stronger or safer: *The party was keen to firm up its support before the coming election.* | *Moscow is intent on firming up its defences along the Chinese border.*

* SIMILAR TO: **consolidate** formal

FISH

fished, fished, fishing

fish for

fish for sth NOT PASSIVE, USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to try to get something from someone, especially information or praise, often by asking them for it in an indirect way: *Jed was interested in my sister, Anna, and he was fishing for*

information about her habits and boyfriends. | It was election time again, and politicians were touring the country fishing for support.

fish for compliments (=try to get someone to say something nice about you) *I'm not fishing for compliments, but do you think this dress suits me?*

* SIMILAR TO: **angle for**

fish out

1 fish out sth/sb fish sth/sb out

informal to pull something or someone out of water: *I couldn't swim so Dad had to jump in and fish me out.*

+ of *Police fished her body out of the East River a week later.*

2 fish out sth fish sth out

informal to take something out of a bag, pocket etc after searching for it with your hand: *Phil put his hand in his pocket and fished out a few coins.*

FIT

F

fitted, fitted, fitting BrE
fit, fit, fitting AmE

fit in

1 fit in NOT PROGRESSIVE

to be happy with a group of people because they accept you easily, and because you have the same interests and attitudes: *As soon as we moved to this area, we felt that we fitted in.*

+ with *Ben just doesn't seem to fit in with the other children at school.*

2 fit in sth fit sb/sth in

to succeed in finding time to do something or see someone, especially when you have a lot of other things to do: *We'll be in Paris for a couple of days, so we should be able to fit in a trip to Versailles.* | *The doctor said that he can fit me in at 4.30.*

* SIMILAR TO: **squeeze in, slot in**

3 fit in

to arrange what you do in a way that is convenient for another person or group that you have to consider: *In a large family like ours, everyone has to learn to fit in.*

+ with *What's best for you? I'll try and fit in with your schedule.*

4 fit in

BrE if activities or arrangements fit in, they can take place between other arrangements without causing any problems

fit in well/beautifully/neatly etc *If we leave London by four o'clock, we can be home in time for the cinema – it'll all fit in quite well.*

+ with *Julie works as a school nurse, which fits in beautifully with running a home and a family.* | *The dates you've suggested fit in neatly with my own plans.*

5 fit in NOT PROGRESSIVE

to look suitable or nice in a particular place, or with other things: *The new houses that they're building in the village really don't fit in.*

+ with *I'm looking for a sofa that will fit in with the room's general style.*

6 where/how sb fits in

used to ask or describe what part someone has in a plan or situation: *It sounds like a great idea, but how do I fit in?* | *We'll need someone who speaks Russian, and that's where Sam fits in.*

fit in with

1 fit in with sth NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

if something fits in with a particular system, idea, or method, it is suitable for it or works successfully with it: *Julius decided to buy himself a more expensive car that would fit in with his lifestyle.* | *These ideas fit in well with traditional views of language learning.*

* SIMILAR TO: **match**

2 fit in with sth NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

if something fits in with a particular idea, statement etc, it says the same thing or has the same effect: *Sonny's behaviour did not fit in with what I knew of him.* | *Dr Oliver's version of events did not fit in with the facts as stated in the police report.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit with, match**

fit into

1 fit into sth NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

to become a suitable part of a plan, situation, or system: *Dubcek's policies did not fit easily into the Marxist system.*

where/how sth fits into sth (=used to ask or describe what part someone or something has in a plan, situation etc) *We need to consider how this software will fit into our training programme.*

2 fit into sth NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

to be the right kind of person to be in a particular group or situation and feel happy in it: *Vanessa wasn't sure that she would find it easy to fit into a police officer's life.* | *The people living opposite us didn't seem to fit into our small community at all.*

3 fit into sth

if something or someone fits into a type or group, it seems reasonable to include them in that type or group

fit into a category/type/pattern etc *His problems don't seem to fit into any of the usual categories.* | *George didn't fit into any recognizable social type.*

fit out

fit out sb/sth **fit** sb/sth **out**

especially BrE to provide someone or something with equipment, furniture, clothes etc: *The money we raise will be used for fitting out a new laboratory.* | *The apartments were very comfortably fitted out in contemporary style.*

+ with *As soon as we arrived we were fitted out with uniforms.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kit out** BrE

fit up

1 fit up sb/sth **fit** sb/sth **up**

especially BrE to provide someone or something with the equipment, furniture, clothes etc they need: *Anne and John spent their holiday fitting up their first home.*

+ with *Trentham asked the coach to fit him up with a pair of boxing gloves.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit out** especially BrE, **kit out** BrE

2 fit up sb **fit** sb **up**

BrE *informal* to deliberately make someone seem guilty of a crime, although they are not: *It was obvious that Cooper and Murphy had been fitted up and were innocent.*

fit sb up for sth *The police tried to fit me up for burglary.*

* SIMILAR TO: **frame**

fit with

fit with sth NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

if something fits with a particular idea, statement etc, it says the same thing or has the same effect or purpose: *The research shows that girls study harder than boys, and this certainly fits with our experience.* | *BMW's acquisition of Rover fits with the company's aim of widening its range of models.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit in with**, **match**

FIX

fixed, fixing, fixing

fix on

fix on sth/sb

to decide to choose a particular thing or person, especially after thinking about it carefully: *They've finally fixed on October 16th for their wedding.* | *We talked about the money for a long time before we fixed on a figure.*

* SIMILAR TO: **decide on**, **settle on**

fix up

1 fix up sth **fix** sth **up**

especially BrE to arrange something such as a meeting, date, deal etc: *Can we fix up a time when we can meet?* | *Racing driver Oliver Oakes has fixed up a sponsorship deal with Shell.*

get sth fixed up *Don't worry about the insurance - I'll get it fixed up.*

fix up to do sth BrE *I've already fixed up to go on holiday that week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **arrange**

2 fix up sb **fix** sb **up**

to provide someone with something that they need, or arrange for them to have or do something: *If you need anything, come and see me. I'll fix you up.*

+ with *When he came out of prison, they fixed him up with a job in a factory.*

be/get fixed up *Thanks, but I'm already fixed up with somewhere to stay.*

get sb fixed up *If you want to write professionally, we'll need to get you fixed up with an agent.*

3 fix sth up **fix** sth **up**

to work on something such as a building, room etc, in order to repair it, improve it, or make it suitable for something: *We bought an old house in Edinburgh, and spent months trying to fix it up and make it reasonably comfortable.*

+ for *We'd planned a lot of improvements, and Jack was fixing a room up for the baby.*

+ as *My son fixed up our garage as a recording studio.*

* SIMILAR TO: **do up** *informal*

4 fix sb up **fix** sb **up**

informal to provide a suitable partner for someone to meet in a romantic way or have a romantic relationship with: *Janie said that she could fix me up for the evening.*

+ with *I've been trying to fix my sister up with some nice guy for years.*

5 fix up sth **fix** sth **up**

to make something quickly using whatever is available, because you suddenly need it: *We fixed up a table, using some old boxes.* | *I'm sure I can fix up some sort of meal.*

6 fix yourself up

AmE to make yourself look attractive, especially before a special event: *Zoe spent two hours fixing herself up for the Christmas party.* | *I had just enough time to go home after work and fix myself up before meeting Bill for dinner.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gussy yourself up** AmE *old-fashioned*, **doll yourself up** *informal*

fix with**fix** sb **with a look/stare/gaze etc**

to look at someone very directly and for a long time, especially in an angry way: *Alison paused and fixed Guido with an irritated look. | As soon as I came in, my mother fixed me with an angry stare.*

FIZZLE

fizzled, fizzled, fizzling

fizzle out**fizzle out**

informal to gradually become less strong, less successful, or less serious, and then end or disappear, often in a disappointing way: *The rebellion fizzled out after a couple of weeks. | She's still very young, so I'm hoping that their romance will eventually fizzle out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **peter out****FLAG****F** flagged, flagged, flagging**flag down****flag down** sth **flag** sth **down**

to make a vehicle stop by waving at its driver: *I went outside and flagged down a taxi. | The police were flagging down motorists and questioning them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wave down****flag up****flag up** sth

BrE to attract people's attention to a particular idea, subject etc, or inform them about it: *The conference was an opportunity to flag up Scottish concerns across the European Parliamentary scene.*

FLAIL

flailed, flailed, flailing

flail aroundALSO **flail about** BrE**flail around/about**

to wave your arms and legs around in an uncontrolled way: *The child was flailing about in the water, coughing and shouting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **thrash about/around****FLAKE**

flaked, flaked, flaking

flake off**flake off** **flake off** sth

to break away from a surface in small, very thin pieces – use this especially about old paint or dry skin: *The walls were damp, and some of the white paint was flaking off. | There were ugly patches of red where the skin had flaked off her sunburned shoulders.*

* SIMILAR TO: **peel off****flake out****1 flake out** ✕

BrE informal to suddenly fall asleep because you are very tired: *He was so exhausted that he just flaked out on the sofa.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crash out** spoken informal, **zonk out** informal, especially AmE**2 be flaked out**

BrE informal to be extremely tired: *I'm flaked out now. Could we talk about this in the morning?*

* SIMILAR TO: **be shattered, be exhausted****3 flake out**

AmE informal to forget to do something that you promised to do: *Paula flaked out and didn't get the tickets for the play tonight.*

+ on Kathy kind of flaked out on us today.

FLARE

flared, flared, flaring

flare off**flare off** sth

technical to burn the waste gas that is produced when oil is pumped up from below the ground: *The Gulf states flare off gas equivalent to 92 million tonnes of oil every year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **burn off****flare out****flare out**

AmE literary to say something suddenly in an angry way

+ at Rothchild flared out at Julia when she questioned him.

flare up**1 flare up**

if something such as violence, a serious argument, or anger flares up, it suddenly starts or suddenly becomes very serious: *Violence has flared up again in the city, and ten people were*

killed in one day. | If the conflict flares up, NATO will respond. | Anger flared up inside her.

* SIMILAR TO: erupt formal

flare-up N [C]

when violence, an argument, or anger suddenly starts or becomes very serious: *There was an immediate flare-up of trouble in the north and west of the region. | a flare-up between the US Congress and the President*

2 flare up

to suddenly become very angry with someone about something they have said or done: *Helen flared up. "Look what you've done!" she shouted. | Frank couldn't say anything nowadays without her flaring up at him.*

* SIMILAR TO: blow up

3 flare up

if an illness, pain etc that you have had before flares up, you get it again or it becomes worse: *You should take some pills on holiday, in case the infection flares up again. | The pain in my legs tends to flare up when the weather's damp.*

flare-up N [C]

when an illness, pain etc that you had before suddenly comes back or becomes worse: *A flare-up of her arthritis had kept her in bed.*

4 flare up

to suddenly begin to burn brightly, or more brightly than before, especially for a short time: *Daniel lit a match and it flared up in the dark. | I put some more wood on the fire, and watched the flames flare up.*

FLASH

flashed, flashed, flashing

flash around

ALSO flash about BrE

1 flash your money around/about

to spend a lot of money in a way that is very noticeable, because you want other people to know that you have a lot and admire you: *Eddie's always enjoyed flashing his money around – expensive cars, clothes, that sort of thing.*

2 flash sth around/about

to show people that you have something valuable, because you are very proud of it and want them to admire it: *If you have jewellery with you don't go flashing it around – there are a lot of thieves in this part of town.*

flash back to

flash back to sth/sb

if your mind or thoughts flash back to a time,

event, or person in your past, you suddenly think of them or remember them: *Isabel's thoughts flashed back to Luke and the night they'd spent in San Remo. | His mind flashed back forty years to what his father had once told him.*

flashback N [C]

when you suddenly have a clear picture in your mind of something that happened to you in the past, often something unpleasant: *+ to Rachel, 25, still has vivid flashbacks to the day when she was attacked.*

flashback N [C,U]

a scene in a film, play, or book, which shows or describes something that happened in the past, or the method of telling a story in this way: *In a series of flashbacks we follow the sisters through their teenage years.*

in flashback In 'The English Patient', a lot of the story is told in flashback.

flash on

flash on sth

AmE to suddenly remember something or have a new idea: *When Maurice starts talking about caribou, I immediately flash on Alaska. | It was then that I flashed on the idea of spending Easter in Hawaii.*

flash out

flash out sth NOT PASSIVE

if someone's eyes or looks flash out a feeling or message, they suddenly express it: *Glover's eyes flashed out the clear message that he didn't believe what she had said.*

FLATTEN

flattened, flattened, flattening

flatten out

1 flatten out flatten out sth

flatten sth out

to become flat or flatter, or to make something become flat or flatter: *East of Richmond, the countryside begins to flatten out. | I opened the map and flattened it out in front of me.*

2 flatten out

if the rate or number of something flattens out, it stops increasing and stays at the same level: *Car sales are flattening out, earlier than expected this year. | House prices have started to flatten out after years of steady growth.*

* SIMILAR TO: level off/out

FLESH

fleshed, fleshed, fleshing

flesh out

flesh out sth flesh sth out

to add more details to a piece of writing, a speech, or a piece of music, in order to make it more interesting or to give more information: *Scott fleshes out the original story with details from his own imagination.* | *The chairman's report will flesh out the basic facts about sales and profits.* | *Drum and bass rhythms flesh out the melodies.*

FLICK

flicked, flicked, flicking

flick off

flick off sth flick sth off

to quickly make an electric light, machine etc stop working by pressing a switch: *Flicking off the downstairs lights, she went upstairs.* | *Gus moved over to the stereo and flicked it off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch off, turn off**● OPPOSITE: **flick on****flick on**

flick on sth flick sth on

to quickly make an electric light, machine etc start working by pressing a switch: *She opened the door and flicked on the light.* | *I flicked on the TV and took a can of lager from the fridge.*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch on, turn on**● OPPOSITE: **flick off****flick through**

flick through sth

to quickly look at the pages of a book, magazine etc, or at a pile of papers, photographs etc, in order to see what is in them, or to find something you are looking for: *Jilly was lying on the sofa, flicking through a magazine.* | *Lessing flicked through the pile of papers on his desk, but the one he needed wasn't there.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flip through, leaf through****FLINCH**

flinched, flinched, flinching

flinch from

flinch from sth USUALLY NEGATIVE

to avoid doing something because you do not like it or are afraid of it: *He was a brave man and a great leader who never flinched from his duty.*

flinch from doing sth *Ruth knew that she must not flinch from telling him the truth.*

FLING

flung, flung, flinging

fling into

fling yourself into sth

to suddenly begin to take part in an activity with a lot of determination or enthusiasm, often because something else you were involved in was not successful: *When the war ended, Carlos flung himself into the campaign for free elections.* | *Determined to put all thought of marriage out of her mind for ever, she flung herself into her work, staying up late into the night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw yourself into****fling off**

fling off sth fling sth off

to quickly remove a piece of clothing that you were wearing or a cover that was over you: *Dan flung his coat off and came through into the kitchen.* | *Flinging off the bedcovers, she got up and opened the window.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw off****FLIP**

flipped, flipped, flipping

flip for

flip for sb

AmE to suddenly begin to like someone very much: *Ben has really flipped for Laura, hasn't he?*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall for****flip off**

1 flip off sth flip sth off

to quickly make an electric light, machine etc stop working by pressing a switch: *I reached up and flipped off the light.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flick off, switch off, turn off**

2 flip sb off flip off sb

AmE to make a rude sign at someone by raising your middle finger and keeping your other fingers curled down: *The guy in the red Honda wouldn't let me in, so I flipped him off.*

flip on

flip on sth flip sth on

to quickly make an electric light, machine etc start working by pressing a switch: *She started the engine and flipped on the radio.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flick on, switch on, turn on**

flip out**flip out**

AmE informal to become very excited, very angry, or completely crazy: *My boyfriend flipped out when he saw me with another guy.* | *Poor Joanie, she's finally flipped out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go crazy, lose it** spoken

flip over

- 1 **flip over** **flip over sth** **flip sth over**

to quickly turn over, or to make something do this: *The car went out of control and flipped over onto its roof.* | *"Breakfast anyone?" Leonora said, flipping the eggs over in the pan.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

- 2 **flip over sth** **flip over**

to quickly change to another channel on a television

+ *to It is OK if I flip over to the news?*

* SIMILAR TO: **switch over** BrE, **turn over** BrE

flip through**flip through sth** NOT PASSIVE

to quickly look at the pages of a book, magazine etc, or at a pile of papers, photographs etc, in order to see what is in them, or to find something you are looking for: *Alex was standing by the telephone flipping through his address book.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flick through, leaf through**

FLIRT

flirted, flirted, flirting

flirt with

- 1 **flirt with sth** NOT PASSIVE

to consider doing something, or to be interested in something, but only for a short time and not very seriously: *In the '30s Crowley flirted briefly with fascism.*

flirt with the idea of *One or two of them were flirting with the idea of joining a rock band.*

* SIMILAR TO: **toy with**

- 2 **flirt with danger/disaster/death etc**

to do something that involves taking unnecessary risks, especially because you find it exciting: *Formula One driver Jim Clark knew he was flirting with death in every race.* | *Flirting with danger had offered an excitement that was better than anything Caroline had ever experienced before.*

FLOAT

floated, floated, floating

float around

ALSO **float about** BrE

- 1 **be floating around/about**

if an idea or story is floating around, a lot of different people are talking about it and passing it on to other people: *There are a lot of rumours floating about, but nobody really knows what's going to happen.* | *I'm quite worried about some of the strange ideas that are floating around these days.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go around, circulate** formal

- 2 **be floating around/about (sth)**

spoken if you say that something is floating around, you mean that you know it is somewhere near you even though you are not sure exactly where: *That book is definitely floating around the house somewhere.* | *Have you seen my glasses floating about anywhere?*

FLOOD

flooded, flooded, flooding

flood back

sth comes flooding back

if something comes flooding back, you suddenly remember it, usually because something else reminds you of it: *As soon as she was alone, all her fears came flooding back.*

it all comes flooding back *Every time I hear that song, it all comes flooding back.*

flood in/into

flood in **flood into sth**

to arrive or enter somewhere in very large numbers: *Letters of thanks have been flooding in from viewers.* | *Large numbers of refugees flooded into Macedonia.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour in/into**

flood out

- 1 **be flooded out**

to be forced to leave your home because of floods. A flood is a large area of water, which moves over an area that is usually dry, often causing damage: *The river burst its banks, and hundreds of Londoners were flooded out after the worst rain for twenty years.*

- 2 **flood out**

to leave a place in very large numbers

+ *of* *About 200,000 people were reported to be flooding out of the country.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour out**

F

flood with**1** flood sth with sth

to send large numbers of letters, complaints etc to an organization, especially more than the people there can deal with: *Campaigners flooded the Governor's office with angry letters of protest.*

be flooded with calls/complaints/requests etc (=receive a large number of telephone calls etc) *The telephone lines were flooded with calls from people wanting to help.*

2 flood sth with sth

to provide such large amounts of something in a place that it causes a problem: *A plot to flood Britain with the drug ecstasy has been smashed by the police.* | *Plans to recruit more foreign workers could flood the country with cheap labor.*

flood the market (=make so much of something available that its price drops) *Foreign suppliers are accused of flooding the market with cheap CDs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **swamp**

F FLOP

flopped, flopped, flopping

flop down**flop down**

to suddenly sit or lie down somewhere, especially because you are tired

+ **in/on/onto etc** "I'm exhausted," said Max, *flopping down in a battered armchair.* | *She got off her bike and flopped down on the grass.*

FLOUNDER

floundered, floundered, floundering

flounder around

ALSO **flounder about** BrE

1 flounder around/about

to move unsteadily and with difficulty, especially in water, mud etc: *Men were floundering about in the water, splashing and yelling.*

2 flounder around/about

to try hard to think of what to say or what to do, but with difficulty: *I floundered around, trying to think of the right word.*

FLOW

flowed, flowed, flowing

flow from**flow from sth**

to be the result of a particular situation,

event, plan etc, especially a good result: *Patients are already enjoying the extra benefits flowing from this new technology.* | *A number of policy changes will flow from the lessons we have learnt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stem from**

flow over**flow over sb**

if a feeling flows over you, you suddenly feel it strongly: *A wave of sadness flowed over her.*

let sth flow over you (=allow yourself to experience the beauty of something) *He closed his eyes and let the music flow over him.*

FLUFF

fluffed, fluffed, fluffing

fluff out/up**fluff out/up sth** **fluff sth out/up**

if you fluff out something soft such as hair or feathers, or something containing feathers, you brush or shake it in order to make it appear larger, feel softer etc: *The barn was full of chickens fluffing out their feathers against the cold.* | *Marge fluffed up the pillow behind her and leaned back.* | *Rod was doing her hair for her, fluffing it out like a real hairdresser.*

* SIMILAR TO: **plump out**

FLUNK

flunked, flunked, flunking

flunk out**flunk out**

especially AmE to be forced to leave school or college because your work is not good enough: *If Jacob doesn't study more, he's going to flunk out for sure.*

+ **of** *Mulroney flunked out of law school at 25.*

FLUSH

flushed, flushed, flushing

flush out**1** flush sb/sth out **flush out sb/sth**

to force a person or an animal to come out of the place where they are hiding: *Armed police flushed the rebels out without firing a shot.*

+ **from** *The dogs are sent in to flush out the fox from its den.*

2 flush out sth **flush sth out**

to clean something thoroughly by forcing a large amount of water or other liquid

through it: *You need to drink at least eight glasses of water a day to flush out your system.* | *The radiators had to be taken outside and flushed out with a hose.*

FLY

flew, flown, flying

fly around

ALSO **fly about** BrE

fly around/about

fly around/about sth

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if rumours, stories, or accusations etc are flying around, people are talking about them a lot in an excited way. Rumours are stories which are often not true about what might happen or might have happened: *Rumours were flying around Manchester that the band was about to split up.* | *There were a lot of accusations flying around at the time about who was to blame for the accident.*

fly at

fly at sb

to suddenly rush towards someone because you are very angry with them: *The old man flew at her in a rage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack**

fly by

fly by

if time flies by, it passes very quickly: *They started talking about old times, and the evening just flew by.* | *The days seemed to fly by and soon it was time to think about going back home.*

fly in

1 fly in

to arrive somewhere by plane

+ **from** *Her sister flew in from New York to be at the wedding.*

2 fly sth/sb in

to bring something or someone to a place by plane: *An ambassador from Finland was flown in to help settle the dispute between the two countries.* | *Cocaine is flown in from across the border.*

fly into

fly into a rage/temper/panic

to suddenly become extremely angry or frightened: *Whenever his girlfriend looked at other men, Joe would fly into a rage.* | *Major Sanderson flew into a temper when he heard that the soldiers had disobeyed his orders.*

fly out

1 fly out

to go somewhere by plane: *We didn't fly out until 11:30 last night.*

+ **to** *Bruce has been flying out to Colorado every week on business.*

2 fly sb/sth out

to send something or someone to another place by plane: *As soon as the trouble began, all the women and children were flown out.*

FOB

fobbed, fobbed, fobbing

fob off

1 fob off sb fob sb off

BrE to stop someone complaining or asking questions by giving them explanations, excuses etc that are not true: *Come on, tell me the truth. I'm not going to be so easily fobbed off this time.*

fob sb off with sth *Alan tried to fob her off with some story about losing her telephone number.*

2 fob off sb fob sb off

BrE to make someone accept something that is not as good as what they really want

fob sb off with sth *Don't let them fob you off with some cheap imitation.* | *People are much more selective about what they watch these days, and they don't want to be fobbed off with any old rubbish.*

fob off on/onto

fob sth off on/onto sb

fob off sth on/onto sb

BrE to persuade someone to do or have something that you do not want to do or have yourself, especially by deceiving them in some way: *She always tries to fob the worst jobs off onto me.*

FOCUS

focused, focused, focusing

focussed, focussed, focussing BrE

focus on/upon

● **Focus upon** is more formal than **focus on** and is used mostly in writing.

1 focus on/upon sth/sb focus sth on/upon

to give a lot of attention to a particular thing or person instead of others: *People have tended to focus on Marilyn's private life, rather than on her films.* | *At that time all her energy was focused on her career.*

focus attention on/upon sth/sb *At the conference, attention will be focussed on island communities in the developing world.*

focus on doing sth *Recent research has focussed on studying the genetic background to the disease.*

* SIMILAR TO: **concentrate on**

2 focus on/upon sth

to move the lens on a camera, telescope etc so you can see something clearly with it. The lens is the part of the camera etc that is made of glass, which light travels through: *The most important rule when taking portraits is to focus on the subject's eyes.*

FOG

be fogged in

be fogged in

AmE if a place or the people there are fogged in, the place is surrounded by low clouds so that it is impossible to see much or travel around: *"We're completely fogged in," said Lisa Howard, a spokeswoman for O'Haire Airport.*

fog up

fog up fog up sth fog sth up

if glass fogs up, or something fogs it up, very small drops of water cover it so that it is difficult to see through it: *My windshield fogged up, making it nearly impossible to see the road. | The cold, wet air fogged up her glasses as soon as she stepped outside.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mist up, steam up**

FOIST

foisted, foisted, foisting

foist (off) on/upon

● **Foist upon** is more formal than **foist on** and is used mostly in writing.

1 foist sth (off) on/upon sb

to force someone to accept or deal with something that they do not want: *I just wish he wouldn't keep trying to foist his opinions on other people. | Ryan was always foisting his chores off on his younger sister.*

2 foist sb (off) on/upon sb

to force someone to have to deal with or look after another person – often used humorously: *Karen's always trying to foist her children off on us.*

FOLD

folded, folded, folding

fold away

1 fold sth away fold away sth

to fold something into a small, neat, and usually flat shape, so that you can store it somewhere: *Can you fold away the chairs and put them in the kitchen cupboard? | She took her clothes out of the drier and began folding them away.*

2 fold away

if furniture or equipment folds away, it can be folded and made smaller, so that you can store it easily when it is not being used: *The good thing about this bed is that it folds away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fold up**

fold-away ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

a fold-away bed, table etc can be folded into a small shape so that it can be stored easily

fold in/into

fold in sth fold sth in

fold sth into sth

to gently mix a food into a mixture when you are cooking: *Beat the egg whites and fold them into the batter just before baking. | Make sure that you fold in the cream before adding the fruit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mix in/into**

fold up

1 fold up sth fold sth up

to fold something into a small, neat, and usually flat shape, so that you can store it somewhere: *I can never remember how to fold up the tent so that it fits into the bag. | She reached for the map and folded it up neatly.*

● OPPOSITE: **unfold**

2 fold up

if something such as furniture or equipment folds up, it can be folded and made smaller, so that you can store it easily when it is not being used: *The table folds up for easy storage when you're not using it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fold away**

fold-up ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

a fold-up bed, table etc can be folded into a small shape so that it can be stored easily: *Hattie kept a fold-up bed in the spare room.*

3 fold up

if a business folds up, it closes permanently because it has not been successful: *Experts have predicted that one-third of East Germany's 8,000 businesses could fold up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fold, go bust**

FOLLOW

followed, followed, following

follow on

1 follow on

to happen after or as a result of something else – used to say that two events or actions are connected with each other

+ from *The discussion groups are intended to follow on from this morning's lecture.*

following on from sth *Following on from the success of its Boboli pizzas, JS has introduced a new range of small pizzas called Bobolini.*

follow-on N [SINGULAR]

especially BrE something that happens after or as the result of something else: *The new coursebook is a follow-on of an earlier one.*

2 follow on

BrE to go somewhere at a later time than someone else, especially in order to meet them there: *The two climbers set off alone – the rest of the expedition were expected to follow on later.*

follow out

follow out sth follow sth out

if you follow out someone's instructions, orders etc, you do exactly what they have told you to do: *Soldiers are expected to follow out their orders without question.* | *Dennis seems unable to follow out even the simplest of instructions.*

* SIMILAR TO: carry out, obey

follow through

1 follow sth through follow through sth

follow through

to do what needs to be done in order to make something happen successfully in the way that you want, or in the way that you have planned: *Peter has a lot of great ideas, but he never seems to follow them through.* | *It had always been her dream to become a dancer. If only she had the courage to follow it through!*

+ with *Following through with his plan, MacArthur sought to take over Seoul by September 25th.*

2 follow sth through follow through sth

if you follow through an idea, suggestion etc you think about or discuss all the things that are connected with it and what effects it is likely to have: *Some people say that animals have no rights. If you follow this idea through to its logical conclusion, we can be as cruel as we like, without caring about the suffering we cause.*

3 follow through

to continue moving your arm or foot after you have hit, kicked, or thrown the ball in golf, tennis, football etc, in order to complete the movement: *Jasper has a strong swing, but he needs to follow through more consistently after he's hit the ball.*

follow through on

1 follow through on sth

especially AmE to do what you have promised, planned, threatened etc to do

follow through on a promise/plan/threat etc *Officials waited to see whether the terrorists would follow through on their promise to release the hostages.* | *It seemed unlikely that Iraq would start further conflict by following through on threats to attack a US spy plane.*

2 follow through on sth

especially AmE to deal with something such as instructions or complaints after you have received them: *The report found that managers rarely followed through on complaints from women in the company.* | *Some of the patients have behaviour problems that make it difficult for them to follow through on instructions from others.*

follow up

1 follow up sth follow sth up

to find out more information about something, and take action if necessary: *The police received a tip about the robbery, but they never followed it up.*

+ on *Public health officials are following up on numerous health complaints from workers at the factory.*

* SIMILAR TO: investigate

2 follow up sth follow sth up

to do something soon after you have done something else, especially in order to make sure it is successful: *The treatment is usually followed up by a series of check-ups at the local hospital.*

+ with *The band is planning to follow up their new record with a three-month tour of the US.*

follow-up N [C,U]

something that is done after something else, in order to develop it further or to make sure that it is successful: *The Pretoria talks were a follow-up to the first meeting between the government and the ANC.*

follow-up ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

follow-up meetings, visits, activities etc are done after something else, in order to develop it further or make sure that it is

successful: *They decided to have a follow-up meeting to find out how much progress had been made.*

FOOL

fooled, fooled, fooling

fool around

ALSO **fool about** BrE

1 fool around/about

to behave in a silly way for fun: *We used to fool around a lot in class.* | *a picture of the royal couple fooling around on the ski slopes* | *Stop fooling about, will you! I'm trying to work!*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** informal, **muck around/about** BrE informal

2 fool around/about

to use something in a careless way that is often dangerous

+ with *The fire was started by some children who were fooling about with matches.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play, mess around/about** informal

F

3 fool around/about

to have a short sexual relationship with someone else, when you already have a boyfriend or girlfriend, or you are already married – used to show disapproval

+ with *He found she'd been fooling around with another man, so he shot her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play around/about**

4 fool around fool around sth

AmE informal to go around a place, especially in a car, on a bicycle etc: *There was a time when Gary Cooper fooled around town in a green Bentley Corniche.* | *She fools around on a bicycle in her jeans.*

5 fool around

AmE informal to waste time doing unnecessary things, or do something much too slowly, especially when you should be doing something else: *We have to go to Cost Co by five and he's just fooling around!*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** informal, **faff about/around** BrE informal

fool with

1 fool with sth

AmE informal to touch, play with, or keep changing something, especially in a way that is not very sensible: *Don't fool with matches. You'll burn the house down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **play with**

2 fool with sth

AmE informal to be or become involved in something, especially when it is not sensible

to do this because it might cause problems: *I don't think Guinnett wants to fool with this. It's bordering on racism.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess with** informal

FOOTLE

footled, footled, fooling

footle about/around

footle about/around

BrE old-fashioned informal to waste time doing unimportant things, especially when you should be doing something else: *He's been footling around in the garage all morning.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** informal

FORCE

forced, forced, forcing

force back

force back sth force sth back

especially BrE to try hard not to show your feelings, especially when you are upset

force back your tears *Forcing back her tears, she waved goodbye from the taxi window.*

* SIMILAR TO: **choke back, fight back, hold back**

force down

1 force down sth force sth down

to make yourself eat or drink something with difficulty, especially because you do not like it, or because you are ill or upset: *David tried to force down a little soup, hoping it would make him feel better.* | *I didn't want to be rude, so I forced down the raw fish and smiled at my hosts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **choke down**

2 force down sth force sth down

to make a plane have to land, especially by threatening to attack it or because there is some kind of problem: *In 1995, American officials forced down about 20 planes carrying illegal drugs into the US.* | *The airliner was forced down over the Andes, after both its engines failed.*

force on/upon

● **Force upon** is more formal than **force on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 force sth on/upon sb

to make someone accept something even though they do not want it: *I get really annoyed when Nancy tries to force her religion on everyone else.* | *She kept forcing*

drinks on him all evening, and he wondered what she wanted from him. | People feel that the reforms have been forced upon them by the West.

2 force yourself on/upon sb

to make someone let you stay with them or go somewhere with them, when they do not really want you to: *I'm sorry, I didn't mean to force myself on you the other evening. | Marcus practically forced himself on us when we mentioned we were going out after work.*

3 force yourself on/upon sb

if a man forces himself on a woman, he makes her have sex with him, especially by using violence: *He tried to force himself on her, but ran away when she fought back. | Klingman swears that he has never forced himself on any woman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rape**

FORGE

forged, forged, forging

forge ahead

1 forge ahead

to make a lot of progress and become more and more successful: *In France the nuclear industry continues to forge ahead.*

+ with *The Russian leader said he will forge ahead with the economic reforms.*

2 forge ahead

to keep moving forward in a strong and powerful way: *The others forged ahead to the top of the hill. | I had to stop and rest, but Peggy forged ahead. | The USS Nimitz was forging ahead at about twenty knots.*

FORK

forked, forked, forking

fork out

fork out sth

informal to spend a lot of money on something, especially when you do not want to: *We had to fork out \$900 to fix our car. | My father refused to fork out any more money so that I could go to university.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shell out** *informal*, **cough up** *informal*

fork over

fork sth over fork over sth

AmE informal to give someone something, especially money, even though you do not want to: *Taxpayers have forked over \$1.1 billion in interest payments. | Are you hiding the last cookie? Fork it over!*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand over**

FORM

formed, formed, forming

form up

form up for up sb/sth

form sb/sth up

especially *BrE* if a group of people or things form up or someone forms them up, they move into a particular position, especially in lines: *We all had to form up in rows on the parade ground. | The teacher made us form up into a semi-circle. | Captain Haleigh formed up a line of tanks on either side of the battlefield.*

* SIMILAR TO: **form**

FOUL

fouled, fouled, fouling

foul out

1 foul out

AmE to make more than five mistakes in a game of basketball, by touching or holding another player in a way that is not allowed, with the result that you are not allowed to play in that game: *After having had only three players foul out all year, Tech finished its final game with four players disqualified.*

2 foul out

AmE if you foul out in the game of baseball, you hit the ball outside the playing area and it is caught by a player on the other team, so that your turn at hitting the ball is over: *Reid fouled out, leaving it to Weber to score the winning run.*

foul up

1 foul up sth foul sth up foul up

informal to do something badly or fail at something, especially by making careless mistakes: *I really fouled up the final exam – there's no way I'll pass the class now. | I don't know why you didn't get the letter. Someone in our office must have fouled up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw up** *spoken informal*, **mess up** *informal*

foul-up *informal* N [C]

when someone does something badly or fails at something, especially by making careless mistakes: *Prescott pins the blame firmly on foul-ups made by the previous government.*

2 foul up sth foul sth up

informal to completely spoil something such as a plan, a situation, or a relationship: *I hope I haven't fouled up all your plans. | Marrying him was the stupidest thing she'd ever done. It fouled up her entire life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **ruin**

3 **foul up sth** **foul sth up**

informal to cause an engine, machine, or system to stop working properly: *Bits of rust in the petrol can foul up the engine.* | *They had problems with the new software, and this fouled up the whole computer system.*

foul-up informal N [C]

when an engine, machine, or system stops working properly: *delays caused by computer foul-ups*

FOUND

founded, founded

founded on/upon

● **Be founded upon** is more formal than **be founded on** and is mostly used in writing.

be founded on/upon

to be based on something, especially a particular idea or belief: *Any relationship has to be founded on some degree of trust.* | *the democratic principles and values which our society is founded upon* | *Reflexology is founded on the belief that massaging the feet can affect the health of other parts of the body.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be based on**

F

FREAK

freaked, freaked, freaking

freak out1 **freak out** **freak sb out** **freak out sb**

informal to suddenly feel very shocked, worried, or frightened, or to make someone feel like this: *My parents freaked out when I quit school.* | *When I first saw the film it really freaked me out.*

2 **freak out**

informal to suddenly behave in a strange and uncontrolled way, for example because you have taken drugs: *Todd always freaks out when he smokes pot.* | *The poor woman freaked out completely, banging her head against the wall and screaming.*

FREE

freed, freed, freeing

free up1 **free up sth** **free sth up**

to make something such as time or money available to be used, by not using it for something else: *NASA hopes that the budget cuts will free up \$2 billion, which they can use for other projects.* | *She thought that if she went freelance, it would free her time up for doing things that she really wanted to do.*

2 **free up sb** **free sb up**

to make someone have more time available, by doing some of the things they usually do for them: *Why don't you get someone in to help you? It would take a lot of pressure off you, and free you up to do more important things.*

3 **free up sth** **free sth up**

to make a system work more easily and effectively by getting rid of things that prevent this from happening: *The Conservatives say they want to free up the economy by getting rid of unnecessary rules and regulations.*

FREEZE

froze, frozen, freezing

freeze out**freeze sb out** **freeze out sb**

to make it impossible for someone to take part in something by causing problems for them, especially in a way that seems unfair, or by ignoring them and being unfriendly to them: *Some companies try to freeze out the competition, so that they can have the market all to themselves.* | *I feel like Gary is trying to freeze me out of his life.* | *Many people feel that they have been frozen out of the housing market, and that they will never be able to afford their own home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **squeeze out, exclude, close out**
AmE

freeze over**freeze over**

to become covered with ice – used especially about lakes, rivers etc: *The lake freezes over for much of the winter.* | *Workers spread salt on the roads to prevent them from freezing over.*

be frozen over *In January the ponds and streams are all frozen over.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ice over, ice up**

freeze up1 **freeze up**

if a pipe, lock etc freezes up, it becomes blocked with ice and cannot be used: *We left the heating on in the house to stop the pipes from freezing up.* | *When I tried to open my car door I found the lock had frozen up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ice up**

2 **freeze up**

to be unable to move, speak, or do anything because you are so nervous or frightened: *He freezes up whenever the teacher asks him a question.* | *I can't play tennis – I just freeze up whenever the ball comes towards me.*

3 freeze up

AmE if a machine, engine etc freezes up, its parts stop moving and it cannot be used: *Inspectors believe the train's brakes froze up, causing a wheel to skip off the tracks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **jam up**

FRESHEN

freshened, freshened, freshening

freshen up**1 freshen up**

to quickly wash yourself or make yourself look more tidy so that you feel cleaner and more comfortable: *I'd like to freshen up back at the hotel room before dinner.*

2 freshen up sth freshen sth up

to make something look cleaner, brighter, and more attractive: *Use flowers from the garden to freshen up your house. | A new coat of paint will freshen up the walls.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up**

FRIG

frigged, frigged, frigging

frig about/around**frig about/around**

BrE informal to waste time doing unnecessary or unimportant things: *Where's Chris? I wish he'd stop frigging about!*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** informal, **muck around/about** BrE informal

FRIGHTEN

frightened, frightened, frightening

frighten away/off**1 frighten away sb/sth frighten sb/sth away****frighten off sb/sth frighten sb/sth off**

to make a person or animal go away by doing something that makes them afraid: *The boys threw stones into the bushes to frighten off the bears. | Reeves said he only fired the pistol to frighten the man away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scare away/off**

2 frighten away sb/sth frighten sb/sth away**frighten off sb/sth frighten sb/sth off**

to make a person or organization decide not to do something that they might have been interested in doing, by making them feel worried, unsure, or nervous: *The war has hurt the economy and frightened away investors. | A lot of people are frightened off by Bergman's reputation as a 'serious' film-*

maker, and they think his films must be really boring.

* SIMILAR TO: **scare away/off**

FRITTER

frittered, frittered, frittering

fritter away**fritter away sth fritter sth away**

to carelessly waste money on unimportant things, especially in small amounts, or to waste your time doing something unimportant: *His wife had frittered away all their savings on fancy clothes and trips into town. | Kitty felt she was frittering her life away among a lot of dull, provincial women.*

FRIZZ

frizzed, frizzed, frizzing

frizz up**frizz up sth frizz sth up** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE informal if your hair is frizzed up or you frizz it up, you make it stand up above your head in stiff curls: *Con says he doesn't like my hair frizzed up too much.*

FRIZZLE

frizzled, frizzled, frizzling

frizzle up**frizzle up sth frizzle sth up**

BrE informal to become dry or burnt or to make something do this: *The meal was all frizzled up in the bottom of the frying pan.*

FRONT

fronted, fronted, fronting

front for**front for sb/sth**

informal to be the person or organization used for hiding a secret or illegal activity: *The FBI suspected that he was fronting for a gang of drug smugglers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **act as a front for sb/sth**

front on/onto**front on/onto sth**

especially BrE if a building or town fronts on something, it faces it: *My childhood home was a giant Victorian house that fronted onto a park. | The town is about 30 minutes from San Francisco and fronts on the Pacific Ocean.*

* SIMILAR TO: **face**

FROST

frosted, frosted, frosting

frost over/up

frost over/up

to become covered in frost (= a thin layer of ice that looks like white powder): *When we woke up, the windows had frosted over and we could see our breath.* | *Turn on the heat – the windshield is frosting up.*

FROWN

frowned, frowned, frowning

frown on/upon

● **Frown upon** is more formal than **frown on** and is mostly used in writing.

frown on/upon sb/sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

if something is frowned on, people disapprove of it: *In those days divorce was still frowned on, and people were expected to stay married for the rest of their lives.* | *As children we were often smacked or beaten – something that I'm sure would be frowned on today.*

* SIMILAR TO: **disapprove of**

F

FRY

fried, fried, frying

fry up

fry up sth

fry sth up

informal to quickly fry some food in order to make a meal: *Do you want me to fry up some eggs?*

fry-up N [C]

BrE informal a quick meal made of fried eggs, bacon etc: *He has a really unhealthy diet – all he ever eats is fry-ups.*

FUCK

fucked, fucked, fucking

● **Fuck** is an extremely rude and offensive word.

fuck around

ALSO **fuck about** BrE

1 fuck around/about

taboo spoken to waste time or behave in a silly or careless way – used especially when you are extremely annoyed with someone: *I wish she'd stop fucking around and do some work for a change.* | *Are you serious about this, or are you just fucking around?*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** informal, **fool around/about**, **piss about/around** BrE informal

2 fuck sb around/about

taboo spoken to make someone angry or annoyed by wasting their time or causing problems for them: *They kept us waiting at the airport for ages, and then the flight was cancelled. They really fucked us around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** informal, **muck about/around** BrE informal

fuck off

1 fuck off!

taboo spoken used to tell someone to go away or stop annoying you when you are very angry: *Fuck off! I never want to speak to you again!* | *If he gives you any more trouble, just tell him to fuck off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off!** spoken informal

2 fuck sb off

BrE taboo spoken to make someone feel very annoyed or angry: *"He says he loves me, but he doesn't want to hurt his other girlfriend."* | *"It really fucks me off when people say that."*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** informal

3 fuck off

taboo spoken to leave somewhere suddenly – used especially when you are annoyed with someone for doing this: *And then he just fucked off and left me on my own without any money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** BrE informal

fuck over

fuck sb over

AmE taboo spoken to treat someone very badly: *My last boss totally fucked me over, so now I've decided to start my own business.*

get fucked over "Don't trust anyone there," Miguel told me. "You'll only get fucked over."

* SIMILAR TO: **screw** AmE informal

fuck up

1 fuck up

fuck up sth

fuck sth up

taboo spoken to do something badly or spoil something by making careless mistakes: *It's your last chance – don't fuck up this time.* | *I don't want to fuck up my chances of going to university.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** informal, **screw up** spoken informal

fuck-up N [C]

taboo spoken when someone does something badly or spoils something by making careless mistakes: *the usual fuck-ups at work*

2 fuck sb up

fuck up sb

taboo spoken to make someone so unhappy and confused that it is difficult for them to

deal with their feelings or live normally: *Everyone knows that heroin fucks you up. | When she left me, it really fucked me up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*

fuck with

fuck with sb

taboo spoken to annoy someone or make them angry: *If you fuck with Carney, you'll be sorry. | Don't fuck with me today - I'm in a bad mood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess with** *informal*

FUEL

fuelled, fuelled, fuelling BrE
fuelled, fueled, fueling AmE

fuel up

fuel up | fuel up sth | fuel sth up

to put petrol or other fuel into a vehicle: *We stopped in Everett to fuel up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gas up** AmE, **fill with petrol etc** BrE

FUMBLE

fumbled, fumbled, fumbling

fumble around

ALSO **fumble about** BrE

fumble around/about

to move your hands around in order to find something or do something, but with difficulty, for example because you cannot see or you feel nervous: *Frank fumbled around in the darkness, unable to find the light switch. | Before I learned how to use a computer, I would fumble about trying to work out which buttons to push.*

+ with *John nervously fumbled around with the papers on his desk.*

FUNCTION

functioned, functioned, functioning

function as

function as sth

to have a particular use or purpose: *The Institute functions as a museum and a centre for research. | In the daytime the dining room functions as an office.*

FUR

furred, furred, furring

fur up

fur up

BrE if the inside of a pipe or kettle furs up, it becomes covered with a hard grey substance

which is formed by chemicals in the water. A kettle is used for boiling water: *There's a lot of chalk in the water, and the kettle tends to get all furred up.*

FURNISH

furnished, furnished, furnishing

furnish with

furnish sb/sth with sth

formal to supply or provide something that is needed or wanted: *He should be able to furnish you with the information you need. | The embassy furnished us with a list of local hospitals and English-speaking doctors.*

* SIMILAR TO: **provide, give, supply**

FUSS

fussed, fussed, fussing

fuss at

fuss at sb

AmE to complain or tell someone continuously that you do not like something about them: *The girls' mother fussed at them, saying their clothes were sloppy and their hair was too long and loose.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pick at** especially AmE

fuss over

fuss over sb/sth

to give someone or something a lot of attention, often too much attention, because you like them or you feel concerned about them: *My aunts and uncles always fuss over me when I stay at their house. | They fussed over her as if she were a sick child. | Raye spent an hour fussing over her hair.*

FUTZ

futzed, futzed, futzing

futz around

futz around

AmE *informal* to waste time, especially by doing small unimportant jobs slowly: *I spent the entire day just futzing around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dink around** AmE *informal*, **diddle around** AmE *informal*, **faff about/around** BrE *informal*

G

GABBLE

gabbled, gabbled, gabbling

gabble on/away

gabble on/away

BrE *informal* to talk quickly for a long time in a way that is boring or difficult to understand: *He was a nice old man, but he spent the whole journey gabbling on about his past.* | *The waiter was gabbling away in French, and she couldn't make out a word of what he was saying.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rattle on** *informal*

GAD

gadded, gadded, gadding

gad about/around

gad about/around

BrE *informal* to go to many different places to enjoy yourself, especially when you should be doing something else: *I'm stuck at home with the kids while he's gadding about with his friends!*

* SIMILAR TO: **gallivant about/around**

gadabout N [C]

BrE someone who goes out a lot to enjoy themselves and often does not do much work: *Charlie had always been a gadabout, spending most of his time with one girl or another.*

GAG

be gagging for it

be gagging for | sth

BrE *informal* if someone is gagging for something, they want to do it or have it very much

sb is gagging for it (=someone wants to have sex very much) *Emma Thompson plays Peter's friend Maggie, who is obviously gagging for it.*

GAIN

gained, gained, gaining

gain in

gain in | sth

if you gain in something, for example weight, height, or confidence, you become heavier, taller, more confident etc: *The baby was starting to gain in weight.* | *As he grew older, he gained in wisdom and experience.*

gain on

1 gain on sb/sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to gradually get closer to a person, car etc when you are chasing them: *Max turned and saw that the police car was gaining on them.* | *His horse was getting tired, and the other horses were starting to gain on him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up with**

2 gain on sb/sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to gradually improve compared to something or someone else, and become almost as successful, good etc as them: *A new opinion poll shows the Republicans gaining on the Democrats.* | *In the 1980s women's wages started seriously gaining on men's for the first time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch up with**

GALLIVANT

gallivant about/around

gallivant about/around

gallivant around | sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to spend time going to different places to enjoy yourself – used when you disapprove of the person who does this: *Bob's wife spent six months gallivanting around Europe while he was in the hospital.*

+ **with** *Her sister Rosa was always gallivanting around in bars with older men.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gad about/around** BrE *informal*

GALLOP

galloped, galloped, galloping

gallop through

gallop through | sth

informal to do something or say the words of something very quickly in order to finish it as soon as possible, often so quickly that you do not have time to do it well: *The priest galloped through the service as fast as he could.* | *Try to put some feeling into the poem, instead of just galloping through it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rush**

GALVANIZE

also **GALVANISE** BrE
galvanized, galvanized, galvanizing

galvanize into

galvanize sb into | sth

to make someone suddenly realize that they must start doing something

galvanize sb into action *The urgency of his voice galvanized the staff into action.*

galvanize sb into (doing) sth *The Omagh bomb shocked public opinion and galvanised the political parties into going ahead with the peace process.*

GAMBLE

gambled, gambled, gambling

gamble away

gamble sth away **gamble away sth**

to lose lots of money or possessions by playing card games, trying to win money at races etc and not winning: *Men in top hats drank champagne and gambled away their fortunes.*

gamble on

gamble on sth

to make your plans according to what you expect and hope will happen, although it is a risk because it may not happen: *They were gambling on reaching the summit before the snow started falling again. | Rover is gambling on the success of its new luxury car.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rely on/upon, count on/upon**

GANG

ganged, ganged, ganging

gang together

gang together

to join together in a group, especially to oppose someone: *The smaller supermarkets are ganging together to beat the bigger ones at their own game.*

gang up

gang up

to join together in a group to attack or oppose someone, especially in a way that seems unfair

+ on *She felt we were all ganging up on her and trying to stop her from doing her job. | The British establishment ganged up on him, and wrongly accused him of being a troublemaker.*

+ against *Markenkov's rivals ganged up against him and forced him to give up his position as party secretary.*

GAS

gassed, gassed, gassing

gas on

gas on

BrE *informal* to talk about something for too long in a boring way

+ about *He's always gassing on about football.*

gas up

gas up **gas sth up** **gas up sth**

AmE to put gas (=petrol) in a car of vehicle: *We'd better gas up before we get on the freeway.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fill up**

GASP

gasped, gasped, gasping

gasp out

gasp out sth **gasp sth out**

to say something with difficulty because you are breathing very quickly and deeply, for example because you have been using a lot of effort, or your body is weak: *"I think I've been shot," he gasped out, then fell to the ground.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gasp**

GATHER

gather around

ALSO **gather round** BrE

gather around sb/sth

gather round sb/sth

gather around/round

to come together and form a group around someone or something: *A small crowd of admirers gathered around her after the concert. | Now, children, I want you all to gather round and I'll tell you a story.*

gather in

gather in sth **gather sth in**

to collect a group of things together and put them or store them somewhere – used especially about collecting crops: *The farmers were out in the fields, gathering in the harvest.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gather**

gather round

SEE **gather around**

gather up

1 **gather sth up** **gather up sth**

to collect things from different places in order to take or put them somewhere: *She gathered up her things and quietly left the office. | We collected all the apples that were on the ground, gathering them up in big bags.*

2 gather sth up gather up sth

BrE to pull cloth together, especially in folds: *Jenny gathered up the curtain material and stitched it together.*

3 gather up sb gather sb up

literary to put your arms around someone and hold them closely, especially in order to comfort them or show that you love them: *He gathered his daughter up in his arms, and kissed her.*

* SIMILAR TO: hug, embrace

4 gather yourself up

literary to stand up: *He gathered himself to his full height and puffed out his chest.*

GEAR

geared, geared, gearing

gear to/towards

ALSO gear toward especially AmE

be geared to sth/sb

be geared towards sth/sb

to be organized or designed in a way that is suitable for a particular purpose, situation, or type of person: *At Club 18-30, all of our holidays are geared to maximum fun.* | *There is a specialized sports and fitness program which is geared towards the needs of older people.*

geared to/towards doing sth Many schools are totally gearing towards passing exams instead of providing a broad education.

gear up

gear up

to prepare for something that is going to happen soon, or for something that may be necessary

+ for *Unemployment fell by more than 3,000 as the region started to gear up for the tourist season.*

+ to do sth *He was struggling to deal with the rebels at the same time as gearing up to run for re-election.*

gear yourself up *Apple has been gearing itself up for the launch of its new computer, the iMac.*

be geared up (for sth/to do sth) (=be well prepared for sth) *After years and years of married life, a lot of people aren't geared up to live independently.*

* SIMILAR TO: prepare

GEE

geed, geed, geeing

gee up

1 gee up!

BrE spoken old-fashioned used to tell a horse to move forwards or go faster

* SIMILAR TO: giddy up! spoken

2 gee sb up gee up sb

BrE informal to make someone feel more confident and encourage them to try harder to succeed: *Last week's 5-goal success against Swindon will gee United up.*

* SIMILAR TO: cheer up, encourage

3 gee sb up gee up sb

BrE informal to persuade someone to do something more quickly or try harder to do something: *Ring the builders, and see if you can gee them up a bit.*

GEN

genned, genned, genning

gen up

1 be genned up

BrE old-fashioned informal to know a lot about a particular subject: *Why don't you ask Sue? She's pretty genned up about that sort of thing.*

2 gen up

BrE old-fashioned to find out all the information you can about something so that you are ready to do something

+ on *It's a good idea to gen up on the company before you go to an interview.*

get genned up *I'll get genned up on what I've got to do at the wedding.*

GET

got, got BrE gotten AmE, getting

get about

1a get about

BrE to be able to move around places without much difficulty – use this about people who are old, ill, or injured: *My grandfather's eighty now, and he doesn't get about much.* | *Phil had broken his leg, but could still get about on crutches.*

* SIMILAR TO: get around

1b get about

BrE to travel around a city or area: *The streets are filled with bicycles, still the best way of getting about in Parma.*

* SIMILAR TO: get around

2 **get about**

BrE if news or information gets about, a lot of people hear about it – use this especially about information that should be secret: *"Who told you that!" "Well, you know how things get about in a small community," said Dimity awkwardly. | I was sure that Maslin was having a homosexual affair, but how would Mrs Maslin hear if such a story got about?*

word gets about (=many people hear about something) *Word had got about that the company was in trouble, and clients began to cancel their orders.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get out, get around**

3 **get about**

BrE spoken to travel to a lot of different places: *Tommy certainly gets about – last month he was in Japan, and now they've sent him to Singapore.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around**

4 **get about**

BrE spoken to have sexual relationships with a lot of different people: *That Brendan gets about a bit, you know. Every time I see him he's with a different woman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around**

get above**get above yourself**

BrE to think that you are more important or powerful than you really are: *That guy's getting above himself – he's only been in the job a few weeks and he thinks he can tell other people what to do.*

get acrossa **get sth across** **get across sth**

NOT PASSIVE

to succeed in making someone understand an idea or message

get a point/message/idea across *Animal rights activists held a demonstration outside the store to get their point across.*

+ to *What I'm trying to get across to you in this seminar today, is the importance of team work and communication.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get over**

b **get across**

if an idea or message gets across, someone succeeds in making people understand it: *Aids charities are concerned that the message about condoms and safer sex isn't getting across to many young people.*

get after1 **get after sb/sth**

to chase someone or something: *You'd better*

get after your dog! He's in the neighbours' garden again. | The man leaped over the fence and ran down the road. "Go on, get after him!" I shouted.

* SIMILAR TO: **chase, go after**

2 **get after sth**

to try to stop a problem from developing or spreading: *Get after weeds before they become established and take over everything | We should start getting after the important cancer risks such as smoking, preventable infections and high fat diets.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack**

3 **get after sb**

AmE informal to tell someone to do something and remind them again and again: *Paul's mother always gets after him for leaving the kitchen in a mess.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on at sb** BrE informal

get ahead**get ahead**

to be successful in your job so that you can progress to a more important job or a higher rank: *Work hard and you'll get ahead. That's what capitalism is all about.*

+ in *There are things I want to do in my life: earn a good salary, get ahead in a career.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get on** BrE, **progress**

get along1 **get along**

to deal with a job or situation, especially when you do it successfully and make progress: *John's getting along really well in his job – his boss really likes him. | Educators should concentrate on teaching the skills necessary to get along in a competitive world – reading, math, science.*

how is sb getting along? (=used to ask how someone is dealing with a new job or situation) *How's your daughter getting along at university?*

+ with *"How are you getting along with the painting?" "Fine – it's almost done."*

get along without (=succeed in dealing with a situation without someone or something) *You're too sick to go to work – they'll just have to get along without you. | You can't get along without a sense of humour, especially in this job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cope, manage, get on** especially BrE

2 **get along**

if two or more people get along, they have a friendly relationship

+ with *Rachel doesn't get along with her dad at all.*

get along well (together) "How's your new roommate?" "Really nice, yeah – we get along really well."

be easy/difficult to get along with I've always found him a bit difficult to get along with.

get along like a house on fire (=get along very well) It was clear that he and Simone were getting along like a house on fire.

* SIMILAR TO: **get on**

3 I must be getting along

spoken used to tell someone that you must leave, because you have things to do: *Well, I must be getting along – the kids'll be home from school soon.*

get around

1a get around get around sth

to travel around a city or area: *One of the best ways to get around Amsterdam is by boat. | If we hired a car, we'd be able to get around and see more.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** BrE

1b get around

to be able to move around places without much difficulty – use this about people who are old, ill, or injured: *Even though she's over 90 and nearly blind, she still gets around with a little help. | The Capitol building has ramps and elevators so that wheelchair users can get around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** BrE

2 get around sth

if you get around a problem, you find a way of dealing with it, especially by avoiding it: *There's no way your mother can stay here – we'll just have to get around it somehow. | When the train drivers held a one-day strike many commuters got around the problem by taking the day off. | Stores introduce new security systems, but experienced shoplifters always find ways to get around them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get round** BrE, **get over**

3 get around sth

if you get around a law or rule, you find a legal way of doing something which the law or rule was intended to prevent: *Most companies are looking for ways to get around the tax laws. | Smart lawyers who offer advice on how to get around the new restrictions on share dealing.*

4 get around

if news or information gets around, a lot of people hear about it – use this especially about information that should be secret: *The rumours are already starting to get around. | Sirkov put a twenty pound note in his hand. "We don't want this to get around if we can possibly avoid it."*

word gets around (=many people hear about something) *Word must have got around that the band was staying there, and by evening the hotel was surrounded by screaming fans.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** BrE, **get round** BrE

5 get around sb NOT PASSIVE

BrE to gently persuade someone to do what you want by being friendly to them: *"Won't your dad mind?" "Don't worry – I know how to get around him."*

* SIMILAR TO: **get round** BrE

6a get around

to travel to a lot of different places: *Steve's just come back from Hong Kong – he certainly gets around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** BrE *spoken*

7 there's no getting around sth

especially spoken used when you are mentioning an unpleasant fact that cannot be changed or ignored: *There's just no getting around the fact that people will have to pay more tax or services will have to be cut. | He didn't love his wife anymore. There was no getting around it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **there's not getting away from sth, there's no getting round sth** BrE

8 get around

spoken to have sexual relationships with a lot of different people: *She gets around, you know – she was well known for it at school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get about** BrE *spoken*

get around to

get around to sth

to finally do something that you have been intending to do for some time: *I kept meaning to write to him, but I just never got around to it.*

get around to doing sth *I got the Doolittle book for Trent's mom but I haven't got around to taking it to the Post Office yet.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get round to sth** BrE

get at

1 what sb is getting at

what someone really means, when they are not saying it directly: *I see what you're getting at, but I think you're wrong.*

what are you getting at? *Come on, Sergeant, what are you getting at? Are you trying to suggest that I knew something about it?*

* SIMILAR TO: **what sb is driving at**

2 get at sth

to succeed in reaching or getting something:

When firemen tried to open the garage door to get at the fire, they found it welded shut. | The book you want is up there. You'll have to stand on a chair to get at it. | Software that enables you to get at the information you need more quickly.

* SIMILAR TO: reach

3 get at the truth/the facts

to discover the truth about a situation, especially when other people do not want you to discover it: *Brian Cox plays a top government investigator determined to get at the truth when his friend disappears in mysterious circumstances.* | *There's a great deal of secrecy in government departments, which makes it difficult for ordinary people to get at the real facts.*

4 get at sb/sth

to reach someone or something and attack or harm them: *Plant the seedlings in a sheltered position where the frost can't get at them.* | *An angry crowd surrounded a police van and pounded on the vehicle in an effort to get at the man who had been detained.*

* SIMILAR TO: attack

5 get at sb

BrE *informal* to criticize someone in an unfair and annoying way: *My Mum's always getting at me about my clothes.* | *Rob feels as if he's being got at all the time.* | *I'm not trying to get at you personally – I just think that we should all try to work more as a team.*

* SIMILAR TO: criticize, pick at especially AmE

6 get at sb

informal to threaten the people who decide whether someone is guilty in a court of law, in order to influence their decision: *At least eight members of the jury had been got at.*

* SIMILAR TO: noble BrE *informal*

get away

1 get away

to succeed in leaving a place or a person, especially when this is difficult: *There's a meeting after work, but I should be able to get away by seven.* | *She just wouldn't stop talking – I couldn't get away.*

+ from *People come to the national park to get away from city noise and traffic.*

* SIMILAR TO: escape

2 get away

to escape from someone who is chasing you: *Two officers went after them, sir, but they got away.* | *The two men got away in a blue pick-up truck.*

+ with *Thieves got away with a million dollar's worth of jewellery.*

* SIMILAR TO: escape

getaway N [SINGULAR]

if you make a getaway, you escape after doing something illegal, especially stealing something: *He scooped the money into a cardboard box and made his getaway on the subway.*

getaway ADJ

a getaway vehicle is used by thieves to escape after they have stolen something: *McCarthy and Powers had carried out the robbery, and Guthrie had driven the getaway car.*

3 get away

to take a holiday away from the place where you normally live: *Are you going to be able to get away this summer?* | *Work's really stressful at the moment – I need to get away for a few days.*

get away from it all (=have a relaxing holiday) *an island paradise, the perfect place to get away from it all*

getaway N [SINGULAR]

a relaxing holiday – used especially in advertisements: *Valentine's Day is near, and it's a wonderful time for a romantic getaway.*

4 get away!

BrE *spoken informal* used to say that you are very surprised by something or do not believe it: *"Simon asked me to marry him." "Get away!"*

* SIMILAR TO: go on! *spoken informal*

get away from

1 get away from sth

to start doing things differently or thinking differently from the way that people have usually been doing things or thinking: *We need to get away from the old idea that the doctor knows everything.* | *Courtney wanted to get away from her punk image and become a glamorous movie star.* | *Freud wanted to get away from the narrow concept of sex as merely a means of reproduction.*

* SIMILAR TO: break away (from)

2 get away from sth

to begin to talk about other things, rather than the subject you should be discussing: *I think we are getting away from the main issue.*

3 there's no getting away from sth

you can't get away from sth

especially spoken used when talking about an unpleasant fact that cannot be changed or ignored: *There's no getting away from the fact that educational standards have fallen over the last 20 years.* | *If you want to lose weight, you have to give up alcohol – you can't get away from it.*

get away with

1 get away with sth NOT PASSIVE

to not be noticed or punished when you have done something wrong

get away with it *The kid was being so rude, and his mother just let him get away with it! | These people are breaking into cars and just getting away with it – they never seem to get caught.*

get away with doing sth *I don't know how they manage to get away with paying such low wages.*

get away with sth *They were identical twins, and so cute they could get away with anything.*

get away with murder (=do something wrong many times or do something serious and not be punished) *These are people with money and influence, so they can get away with murder.*

2 get away with sth NOT PASSIVE

spoken to be able to do something that it is not the best thing to do, but that is acceptable: *I'm so envious of people who can wear bright colours like orange and yellow. I can't get away with wearing anything like that. | I think we can get away with one coat of paint on the ceiling.*

G

get back

1 get back

to return to a place after going somewhere else: *We'll probably get back at about nine. | I'm tired. We got back really late last night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return**

2 get sth back

to have something given back to you: *I took pity on him and lent him £40. Well, he gets paid next Friday, so I'll get it back on Saturday. | Did you get your books back?*

get your money back (=a shop or company returns the money that you paid for something) *If they cancel the show, will we get our money back?*

3 get sb back

to do something to hurt or embarrass someone, in order to punish them for hurting or embarrassing you: *His wife got him back by coolly advertising his Rolls Royce in the paper and then selling it, for £100.*

+ for *Don't worry – I'll get her back for this!*

* SIMILAR TO: **payback**

4 get sb back

to persuade a lover, wife, or husband who has left you to start having a relationship with you again: *"Do you think she's trying to get him back?" asked Melissa, anxiously.*

5 get back!

used to tell someone to move away from something or someone: *Get back, he's got a gun!*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep back**

get back at

get back at sb NOT PASSIVE

to do something to hurt or harm someone, in order to punish them for hurting or harming you: *Then she started dating my best friend, just to get back at me. | Sounds as if he was doing it deliberately to get back at her, doesn't it?*

+ for *The court heard how Wright had kidnapped his boss to get back at her for firing him.*

get back into

1 get back into sth

to start doing a job or activity again after not doing it for a period of time: *The former chief of Kmart Corp. is getting back into the retail business, this time selling videos over the Internet. | The children were growing up, and I decided I wanted to get back into nursing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return to**

2 get back into sth

to start to get used to doing something that you did regularly in the past, but have not done for a period of time: *I hadn't done any exercise for a long time, so it took me a while to get back into it.*

get back to

1 get back to sth

to start doing something again after not doing it for a period of time

get back to work *I found it really hard getting back to work after my vacation.*

get back to sleep *Judy woke up in the middle of the night and couldn't get back to sleep.*

get back to normal (=become normal again) *The war was over, and life was slowly beginning to get back to normal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return to**

2 get back to sb

especially spoken to talk to someone again at a later time, especially by telephone – use this especially when you are too busy to talk to them now: *Okay, so I'll try and get back to you in the next few days. | He said he'd let me know, but he never got back to me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **call back** especially spoken, **ring back** BrE especially spoken, **phone back** especially spoken

3 **get back to sth**

to start talking about something after not talking about it for a period of time: *As usual, we got back to the subject of money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return to**

get back together+ **get back together**

if two lovers or people who are married get back together, they start having a relationship again, after spending a period of time apart: *Do you think Eleanor and Mark will get back together?* | *"Is she still going out with Leo?" "Yeah. They broke up last year, but then they got back together."*

* SIMILAR TO: **get back with sb**

get back with**get back with sb**

to start having a relationship with a lover, husband, or wife again, after spending a period of time apart: *I knew Tom wanted to get back with his ex-girlfriend, and it made me feel very insecure.* | *D'you think Natalie will get back with Scott?*

* SIMILAR TO: **get back together**

get behind1 **get behind**

if you get behind with a regular payment such as rent, you have not paid as much as you should have

+ with BrE *I've been getting behind with the mortgage, and I'm worried that the bank will repossess my house.*

+ on AmE *Werner got behind on his rent after he lost his job.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall behind**

2 **get behind**

if you get behind with your work, you have not done as much as you should have: *I'm worried that if I stay off sick I'll get behind.*

get behind with your work *Lauren was getting behind with her work, but there was no one to turn to.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall behind**

3 **get behind sb/sth**

to support or encourage someone or something and help them to be successful: *The England fans were great. They really got behind us.*

get by1 **get by**

to have or know just enough of something to deal with a particular situation, but not

enough to make it easy: *"Can you speak French?" "I know enough to get by."*

+ on *He routinely works 14-hour days, getting by on four or five hours of sleep a night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **manage**

2 **get by**

to have enough money to buy the things you need to live, but no more: *He earns just enough to get by.*

get by on \$200/£50 a week/month etc *"I have families in my district trying to get by on \$4.25 an hour," Green said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **scrape by**

3 **get by**

if a vehicle or a person gets by, they pass something that was stopping them from continuing: *Cars pulled into the side of the road to let the ambulance get by.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass**

get down1 **get down**

to move your body so that you are close to the ground: *Two men burst in with guns "Everyone get down! Get down on the floor!"*

get down on your hands and knees (=kneel with your hands on the floor) *Every Friday morning my grandmother would get down on her hands and knees and wash the tile floor in the entry hall.*

get down on your knees (=kneel, especially to pray) *For the first time in his life, he got down on his knees and prayed.*

2 **get sth down**

to succeed in reducing the amount or number of something: *Forty members of staff were made redundant in an attempt to get costs down.*

+ to *The government has got inflation down to 4%. | We got staffing down to 3000.*

3 **get sb down** NOT PASSIVE

if a situation gets you down, it continues over a period of time, making you feel increasingly unhappy and tired: *I'd been unemployed since I left college, and it was really getting me down.*

let sb/sth get you down *She had been battling against cancer and had refused to let the illness get her down. | Geoff, don't let them get you down!*

* SIMILAR TO: **depress**

4 **get sth down**

to write something quickly, especially so that you do not forget it: *Let me get your number down before I forget it. | Don't stare at a blank screen all day – just get something down!*

get sth down on paper (=write something instead of just thinking or saying it) *Get together for a discussion and come up with some ideas, then get them down on paper.*

* SIMILAR TO: **write down, jot down**

5 get sth down

to succeed in swallowing food or drink, especially when this is difficult because you are ill: *My throat was still sore and I couldn't get anything down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **swallow**

6 get that down you

BrE *spoken* used to tell someone to drink or eat what you are giving them, because it will make them feel happier or more comfortable: *Piper thrust a mug of tea into my hands. "Here, get that down you."*

get down on

get down on sb

AmE *informal* to criticize someone continuously over a period of time: *The press should stop getting down on our troops.* | *The bosses at CBS got down on him from time to time, but the workers loved him.*

get down on yourself "I'm going to keep being positive. I'm not going to get down on myself," Burkett said.

* SIMILAR TO: **criticize**

get down to

get down to sth

to finally make a serious effort and start doing something: *After Christmas I'm going to get down to some serious jobhunting.* | *I've got an essay to write, but I just can't get down to it.* | *By the time we got down to work, it was already 10.30.*

get down to doing sth *I must get down to writing that letter.*

get down to business (=start dealing with the most important things without wasting any time) *There's a lot to get through today, so let's get down to business.*

* SIMILAR TO: **settle down to**

get in

1 get in

to go into something such as a car or small boat: *Gegs pulled up in his car. "Get in - I'll give you a ride."* | *Eric held the boat steady while the children got in.*

2 get in

to be allowed to enter a place: *There's a new club opened in town, but you have to be 21 to get in.* | *We wanted to see the Bulls game but we couldn't get in.* (=all the tickets were sold)

3 get in

to succeed in entering a place: *How did you get in? I thought the door was locked.* | *Firefighters tried to get in through the window, but were beaten back by flames.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enter, gain access** *formal*

4 get in

to arrive at your home or at work: *Listen, I'll have Mike call you when he gets in.* | *What time did you get in last night?*

5 get in

if a train, ship, or plane gets in at a particular time, it arrives at that time: *What time does your train get in?* | *Our flight was delayed and we got in late.*

+ **to** *We get in to Dallas around noon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **arrive**

6 get sb in

to arrange for someone to come to your home, office etc to do a job, especially to repair something: *The washing machine isn't working - we'd better get someone in to fix it.*

7 get sth in get in sth

to find the time or opportunity to do something even though there is not much time, because you have other things to do: *The President managed to get in a round of golf before the talks began.* | *I want to get a couple of hours' work in before I go out.* | *We need to get some practice in before the performance.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit in**

8 get sth in

to give or send written work, a letter etc to a person or company, before a particular time or date: *Please get your assignments in by Thursday.* | *Did you get that application form in?*

9 get in

BrE if a politician or political party gets in, they are elected: *The Democrats got in with a huge majority.* | *What has happened to all those women MPs who got in at the last election?*

* SIMILAR TO: **to be elected**

10 get sth in

to go outside and gather things together, and put them in a place where they will not be spoiled by the weather: *The whole village was working to get the harvest in.* | *Can you help me get the washing in?*

11 get in

to succeed in getting a place at a university, college etc: *Students who don't have at least a B average have no hope of getting in.*

12 **get sth in**

BrE especially spoken to buy a supply of something you need and bring it home: *We need to get some food in – I'll go to the supermarket on my way home.*

13 **get sth in**

if a shop gets a product in, it gets a supply of it to be sold: *We get new things in all the time, so try next week.*

14 **get sb in**

if a shop, theatre etc gets people in, it attracts them in: *We're putting on a special promotion to try and get people in.*

15 **get in first**

to say something before the person that you are competing or arguing with is able to say anything: *Reid went to see the management, but discovered that Karen Skinner had got in first and made a complaint about him.* | *She opened her mouth, but he got in first. "Where the blazes have you been?" he demanded before she could blink.* | *Trust the Daily Mail to get in first, with exclusive pictures of the prince's new love.*

16 **get sth in**

BrE spoken to go to the bar and buy drinks for yourself and the person or people who are with you: *You grab a table – I'll get the beers in.*

get in on**get in on sth**

to start doing something that other people are already doing or planning, because you think you will get an advantage: *The success of children's films like 'Aladdin' and 'The Lion King' made people think "This is a big market – let's get in on it."*

get in on the act (=get in on something that seems to be successful) *US Air began offering a booking service directly over the Internet, and now other airlines are getting in on the act too.*

get into1 **get into sth** **get sb into sth**

to become involved in an unpleasant or difficult situation, or involve someone else in such a situation: *Pietro, these are dangerous men! Have you any idea what you are getting into?*

get (yourself) into trouble/difficulties/a mess *These kids get into all sorts of trouble while their parents are at work.* | *"How on earth did you get yourself into this mess?" she asked. Sian just burst into tears.* | *Three people were rescued from a yacht which got into difficulties in heavy seas off Bardsey Island.*

get sb into trouble/a mess *They got us into this mess – it's up to them to get us out of it.*

2 **get into a fight/argument etc**

to become involved in a fight or argument: *She and another gal got into an argument outside a bar in Jackson Mississippi.* | *Ryan got into a shouting match with the coach, and then stormed out of the club.*

3 **get into sth** NOT PASSIVE

to start to do something regularly

get into the habit of doing sth *Get into the habit of taking regular exercise.*

get into a routine (=start doing things regularly, at the same time every day or week) *The thing is you've got to get into a routine haven't you? Children need routine.*

4 **get into sth** NOT PASSIVE

to be accepted as a student by a college or university: *My father and brother were sure he would get into Harvard or Yale without any trouble.*

5 **get into sth**

BrE to be accepted as a member of a sports team: *I practised every day, determined to get into the school football team.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make** especially AmE

6 **get into sth**

to succeed in getting a particular job or working in a particular area: *She was doing real estate law and hated it, and she wanted to get into environmental law.* | *Susan wants to be a theatre manager, but I think it's a very difficult business to get into.*

7 **get into a state/mood/panic**

to become upset, anxious, angry, frightened etc: *David got into a terrible state over the exams, you know – he couldn't sleep for weeks.* | *When the children didn't arrive, she got into a panic and phoned the police.*

8 **get into sth** NOT IN PASSIVE

to become interested in a book, film, piece of music etc, so that you enjoy it and want to read, see, or hear more: *I tried to read 'Moby Dick' when I was at college, but I just couldn't get into it.* | *Peter tapped his feet and bobbed his head, really getting into the music.*

9 **get into sth**

to start talking about a particular subject: *Let's not even get into it, honey. I'll break down crying – I miss my man so, so much.* | *Before we get into a debate on the single currency, I'd just like to make a few announcements.*

10 **what's got into sb** BrE spoken

what's gotten into sb AmE spoken

used to show that you are surprised because

someone is behaving very differently from the way they usually behave: "Out!" Eunice ordered, pointing at the door. "This is crazy!" he said. "Eunice, what's got into you?"

* SIMILAR TO: **what's the matter with sb?**

11 can't get into

if you cannot get into clothes, they are too small for you: "It's a lovely dress but I'm too fat to get into it." "You're not fat!"

12 get into power/government

to start having political control of a country: *If the Social Democrats got into power, they would change the whole system of local government.*

13 get into groups/pairs/threes etc

if students in a classroom get into groups, they form small groups so that they can work together: *So if you could get into groups of maybe about four, and come up with four or five possible solutions...*

get in with

get in with sb

to become friendly with a person or group – used especially when you disapprove of this relationship: *She had married a rich man, and then used his money to get in with Chicago's social elite.*

get in with the wrong crowd (=become friendly with people who influence you to behave badly) *Shanie wasn't a bad kid – she just got in with the wrong crowd.*

get off

1 get off sth get off

if you get off a bus, plane, large boat, train etc, you leave it: *They saw Edwin getting off the ferry and raced to meet him.* | *Get off the subway at Seventy-eighth Street – the restaurant is just across the street.* | *This is where I get off – I'll call you! Bye!*

2 get off get off sth

to leave your place of work when you have finished work for that day: *I get off early on Friday, so maybe we could go to the movies or something?* | *But she doesn't get off work until five thirty, so you know she won't be there until six thirty.*

3a get off

spoken to leave the place where you are or start a journey: *What time do you want to get off in the morning?*

+ to *Right, I'll get off to the shops and get her the stuff that she wants.*

3b get sb off

to help someone, especially a child, so that they are ready to leave a place

+ to *I'll come round after I get the kids off to school.*

4a get off

to not be punished for a crime or something you have done wrong: *If he gets off, it's because he has a smart lawyer.*

get off with a fine/two months etc (=get a punishment that is less severe than you deserve) *If she's very lucky, she may get off with a fine.*

get off lightly (=get a punishment that is less severe than you deserve) *You got off lightly. You could have been sent to prison.*

4b get sb off NOT PASSIVE

if a lawyer gets a criminal off, he or she succeeds in persuading the court that the criminal should not be punished: *I know a man who killed his wife with a hammer. His lawyer got him off on a plea of temporary insanity.*

5 get off sth get sb off sth

to stop being dependent on something that you used to have regularly, or to make someone else do this: *I wanted to get off drugs, but my family wouldn't support me – they just didn't want to know.* | *Getting people off welfare and into paying jobs is a major national priority.* | *At this stage the mother should be getting the baby off breast milk and onto solid food.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come off**

6 get off the phone

to stop using the telephone: *I'm waiting for Veronica to get off the phone, so I can call Mom.*

7 get off! get off sth!

spoken used to tell someone to stop touching you or stop touching something: *"I'm going to tickle you!" "No, get off! Get off!" | Get off those chocolates – they're mine!*

8 get sth off

informal to send a letter, package etc by mail, especially before a particular time: *I have to get this application off today.*

+ to *I'll get that confirmation letter off to you as quickly as possible.*

* SIMILAR TO: **send off**

9 get off sth get sb off sth

to stop talking about a subject and talk about something else, or to make someone else do this: *Can we get off politics and talk about something else for a change?* | *The Minister was naturally anxious to get me off the subject of the 'Save our Schools' campaign.*

10a get off

BrE to succeed in going to sleep, especially when this is difficult: *I just couldn't get off last night – it must have been the coffee.*

get off to sleep *When she finally got off to sleep, she was tortured by dreadful nightmares.*

10b get sb off

BrE to succeed in making a baby go to sleep:
Duncan's upstairs trying to get the baby off.

11 get off

AmE informal to have an orgasm (=reach the point of greatest sexual pleasure): *I just could not get off, so we went to see a sex therapist.*

12 get off sth

AmE to succeed in doing something: *The Kings not only failed to get off a single shot but also gave up a short-handed goal.*

13 get off sth

AmE to tell a joke or say something funny:
Lionel got off a one-liner about making more than the President because he had a better year than the President.

14 get off

AmE spoken informal to have a good feeling because you have taken drugs: *We did some speed, man, and really got off.*

+ on *Jack used to get off on cocaine, but he's straightened up now.*

15 where does sb get off doing sth ?

AmE spoken used when you think someone has done something to you that they have no right to do: *Where does he get off telling me how to live my life? | I don't know where he gets off treating you like that!*

16 get off it

AmE informal used to tell someone to stop talking or thinking about a particular subject: *Get off it. If you want to talk about love, maybe it's better you talk about it without me around.*

17 tell sb where to get off

BrE spoken to speak angrily to someone because what they have done, said, or asked is unfair, unreasonable, or rude: *"Morris asked me to work late again." "Bloody cheek! I hope you told him where to get off."*

* SIMILAR TO: **tell sb where to go**

get off on

get off on sth

informal if you get off on something, it gives you a feeling of pleasure and excitement, especially sexual excitement: *This guy enjoys scaring people – he gets off on that kind of thing. | porn addicts who get off on weird sex*

get off with

get off with sb

BrE informal to start a sexual or romantic

relationship with someone: *She spent the whole evening trying to get off with Michael.*

get on

1 get on

especially BrE if two or more people get on, they have a friendly relationship

+ with *"How do you get on with Julie?" "Oh, fine."*

get on well (together) *Janet's a lovely person. We've always got on well together.*

be easy/difficult to get on with *I've always found him a bit difficult to get on with. | She's easy to get on with is Eileen – my interests are very much like hers.*

not get on *Those two don't get on, do they?*

* SIMILAR TO: **get along**

2 get on sth get on

to go onto a bus, train, boat, plane etc: *We drove her to Columbus and she got on the plane to San Francisco. | The inspector examined my ticket. "Where did you get on?" "Trafalgar Square."*

* SIMILAR TO: **board** formal

3 get on

to deal with a job or situation, especially when you do it successfully and make progress: *Martin's getting on very well in his new job.*

how is sb getting on? (=used to ask how someone is dealing with a new job or situation) *How's your daughter getting on at university?*

+ with *How are you getting on with your research project?*

get on without sb (=succeed in dealing with a situation without someone or something) *I shall miss you – in fact I don't know how I'll get on without you.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get along**

4 how did you get on?

spoken used to ask someone about the result of their visit, examination etc: *"How did you get on at the doctor's?" "All right, she gave me some antibiotics and she said the infection should clear up."*

* SIMILAR TO: **how did it go?** spoken, **how did you make out?** spoken, especially AmE

5 get on

especially spoken to continue doing something that you were doing before

+ with *Get on with your work! | We should leave the President's love-life alone, and let him get on with the business of running the country.*

get on BrE *I'd like to stop and chat, but I really must get on.*

get on with it! (=used to tell someone to work faster) *Come on, get on with it! We haven't got all day!*

6 get on

BrE to be successful in your job so that you can progress to a more important job or a higher rank: *That new bloke's very keen – you can see he really wants to get on.*

+ in *If you want to get on in politics, you have to take every opportunity that comes your way.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get ahead, progress**

7 be getting on

spoken if someone is getting on, they are getting old: *We're both getting on, now, and we can't travel about like we used to.*

8 get on the phone/telephone

to start talking to someone on the telephone, especially to discuss business: *The day didn't start with small talk and coffee. You were expected to get on the phone and start making money.*

+ to *He got on the phone to Campbell and Bruce and told them we were cancelling our order.*

9 it's getting on/time's getting on

BrE spoken used to say that it is getting late: *We'd better get started – time's getting on.*

G

10 get it on

AmE informal to have sex: *I heard they were getting it on in his office.*

get on at

get on at sb

spoken to keep criticizing someone, especially about something that they have not done and should have done: *My mother's always getting on at me – she says my room's a disgrace.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep on at, nag**

get on for

be getting on for 90, 10 o'clock, £500 etc

BrE to be almost a particular age, time, number, or price: *Her grandad must be getting on for eighty; | I should be going home – it must be getting on for midnight.*

get onto/get on to

1 get onto/on to sth

to begin to talk about a particular subject, after you have been talking about something else: *I don't know how we got on to this, but we were just talking about funerals. | As usual we got onto the subject of money.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come on to**

2 get onto/on to sb

BrE to telephone or write to a person or organization, especially because you want them to do something for you: *"Did you get on to the electrician?" "Yes, he's coming tomorrow to have a look at the wiring." | I'm afraid I can't help you. You'd better get onto the Embassy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **contact**

3 get onto/on to sb

BrE if the police, government officers etc get onto someone who is secretly doing something illegal, they find out about that person and their illegal activities: *The police got onto Timmy just as he was planning to leave the country. | How did they get on to him? Surely Tracey hadn't given him away?*

4 get onto/on to sth

to be elected as a member of a committee, political organization etc: *Her political career began when she got onto the local council in 1979.*

5 get onto/on to sth

BrE to succeed in being accepted on a course or scheme (=an official plan intended to help people by giving them money, training etc): *It's an excellent course, but it's really difficult to get onto it. | To get on to the scheme you have to produce a business plan, and then pass an interview.*

6 get onto/on to it

to start dealing with a problem, especially in an effective and determined way: *Anyway, this new solicitor got onto it, and he was really good. We got £2,000 compensation. | Also please instruct the records office to prepare a report on Manville and all his known contacts." "Yes sir. I'll get onto it right away."*

get out

1 get out

to get out of a car, train, small boat etc: *Jack told Fogarty to stop the car, and we got out to have a look at the view.*

+ of *I got out of the car and strode up to the front porch.*

2a get out

to escape from a place that it is difficult to escape from, or where there is danger: *How did the dog manage to get out? The gate was shut.*

+ of *Nobody's gotten out of Kansas County Jail in 50 years.*

get out alive *We were lucky to get out alive. The whole building was on fire.*

* SIMILAR TO: **escape**

2b get sb out

to help someone to escape from a place that is difficult to escape from or where there is danger: *There were two people trapped in the house, but firefighters managed to get them out.*

3 get sth out

to take something out of a bag, cupboard, container, your pocket etc: *I got the dictionary out and looked up 'passport' and 'lost,' and tried to explain the situation to the hotel receptionist.*

+ of *Ursula got a bottle of pills out of her handbag. "Here, take two of these."*

4 get out!

spoken used to rudely order someone to leave a room or a building because you are angry with them: *Get out! I'm trying to do my homework.*

+ of *Miriam trembled with rage. Her lips became pale. "Get out of this house, you lying bastard!"*

5 get out

to leave an unpleasant situation: *After nearly five years in the Navy, Ofstedahl decided he had to get out.*

+ of *"Dan's dead." Ira told me. "And I'm getting out of this god-damned business, before it kills me too."*

6 get out

to go to different places in order to meet people and enjoy yourself, especially when you do not often do this: *No wonder you're depressed, Carol, stuck in this tiny flat all day. You need to get out and meet people. | It's difficult to get out when you've got young children.*

* SIMILAR TO: go out

7 get out

if news or information gets out, people hear about it, even though it is supposed to be a secret: *"Mrs. O'Dwyer," I said, "if this gets out, the consequences to the Presidency and the nation would be difficult to imagine."*

word gets out (=people hear a secret) *The gig was supposed to be a secret, but word got out and 2,000 fans turned up at the tiny Manchester venue.*

* SIMILAR TO: leak out

8 get sth out

to succeed in saying something when this is very difficult: *She was so upset she couldn't get the words out at first. "I... I saw you, Sherman, I saw you... with her." | Ceballos was laughing so much he could barely get his lines out.*

9 get sth out

to succeed in producing something, so that it is available for people to buy: *We have to get the album out in time for Christmas.*

* SIMILAR TO: bring out

10 get sth out

to remove dirt from cloth

+ of *I couldn't get that stain out of your blue dress, Monica.*

get out of**1** get out of sth

to avoid doing something that you have promised to do or are supposed to do: *I've got a business meeting at 2.00, but I'll see if I can get out of it.*

get out of doing sth *He's not really ill – he's just trying to get out of going to school.*

get out of a contract/agreement etc (=avoid having to obey a legal agreement that you agreed to obey) *a pop singer who went to court to try to get out of his contract with the record company, Sony | Once you've signed it, it becomes a legally binding document. You'll need a lawyer to get out of it, believe me.*

* SIMILAR TO: wriggle out of, duck out of informal

2 get sth out of sb

to force or persuade someone to tell you or give you something: *The police finally managed to get the information out of him after 8 hours of questioning. | We are trying to get more money out of the government to help fund our project.*

3 get sth out of sth NOT PASSIVE

to gain enjoyment from doing something, or to think that it was useful: *My argument has always been the more work you put into something, the more you get out of it. | The course was really good – I got a lot out of it.*

get pleasure/satisfaction out of sth *I get a lot of satisfaction out of what I do for a living.*

4 get out of sth

to stop a habit, or to stop doing an activity that you did regularly

get out of the habit of doing sth *My mother just couldn't get out of the habit of telling me what to do, even though I was grown up with children of my own.*

get over**1** get over sth/sb

to begin to feel better after a shock or an experience that upset you

get over sth "It took me a year to get over Lester's death," Frank Eng recalled many years later. | "Bobby never really got over his war experiences," said Meyer. "He still has nightmares from Vietnam." | It's been a terrible shock, losing her job like this – she needs time to get over it.

get over sb (=stop feeling upset about a romantic relationship with someone that ended) She's just getting over a guy from Seattle. They met on vacation, fell in love, bought a house, and then it all went horribly wrong.

2 get over sth

to get well again after an illness: He's still trying to get over that bout of flu he had. | The color had returned to his face, and he appeared to have gotten over his nausea.

* SIMILAR TO: recover

3 get over sth

to succeed in controlling feelings of fear or nervousness, so that you feel calm again: "I'm scared of the dark." "Well, you're going to have to get over being scared of the dark." | She discovered that, once you got over the nervousness, it was a terrific thrill to be this high in the air, flying over roads, houses, and cornfields.

G

4 get sth over get over sth NOT PASSIVE

to succeed in communicating ideas or information so that other people understand them

get a point/message/idea etc over Anti-smoking campaigners are using a series of newspaper adverts to get their message over to the public.

get over to sb that We're trying to get over to people that they must drive more slowly when there is ice on the road.

* SIMILAR TO: get across

5 get over sth

to successfully deal with a problem or difficulty etc: At 600 mph the plane became uncontrollable. We got over this problem by redesigning the wings.

* SIMILAR TO: get around, get round BrE

6 can't/couldn't get over sth

spoken used to say that you are very surprised or shocked by something: We went to see a play last night, and it was terrible! I just couldn't get over how bad it was. | "I can't get over the way you look," Deborah exclaimed. "You've lost so much weight!"

7 get sth over

to do and finish something unpleasant that you do not want to do, but that you must do: The bridegroom looked as if he just wanted to get the whole thing over as quickly as possible. | "You can make a statement later if you're

not well enough." I sat up. "I'd rather get it over, officer."

get over with

get sth over with NOT PASSIVE

to do and finish something unpleasant or difficult that you have to do, so that you can feel more relaxed when it is done: I just want to get these exams over with. | She had to tell Mervyn that their marriage was over. It was no use sitting here – she had to go in and get it over with.

get sth over and done with (=get something over with) It's always painful breaking bad news to people, but the sooner we get it over and done with the better.

get round

1 get round sth

BrE if you get round a problem, you find a way of dealing with it, especially by avoiding it: We're having a problem with one of the machines, but don't worry, we'll get round it somehow. | When the train drivers held a one-day strike many commuters got round the problem by taking the day off.

* SIMILAR TO: get around, get over

2 get round sth

BrE if you get round a law or rule, you find a legal way of doing something which the law or rule was intended to prevent: Arms manufacturers found ways of getting round the ban on trade with Iraq. | Skilful lawyers are often able to get round laws intended to regulate particular business activities.

* SIMILAR TO: get around

3 get round

BrE if news or information gets round, a lot of people hear about it: News soon got round that Nick was back in town. | It's a small place so gossip gets round pretty quickly.

word gets round (=many people hear something) Word must have got round that the band were staying there, and by evening the hotel was surrounded by screaming fans.

* SIMILAR TO: get around, get about

4 get round sb NOT PASSIVE

BrE to gently persuade someone to do what you want by being friendly to them: Freddie knows exactly how to get round his mum. | If she thinks she can get round me with her soft talk, she can think again.

* SIMILAR TO: get around

5 there's no getting round sth

BrE especially spoken used when talking about an unpleasant fact that cannot be changed or

ignored: *There's no getting round the fact that, even in the church, racism is a problem.*

* SIMILAR TO: **there's no getting around sth, there's no getting away from sth**

6 get round to sth

BrE to finally do something that you have been intending to do for a long time: *"Didn't you ever learn to drive?" "I was always meaning to, but somehow I never got round to it."*

get round to doing sth *When the office finally got round to answering my letter, it was too late.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get around to sth**

get through

1 get through sth get sb through sth

to deal with a difficult experience or period of your life and come to the end of it, or to help someone to do this: *It's going to be hard to get through the next couple of days.* | *"Oh Glen, how will I get through this?" she said, and the tears welled up again, splashing down her face.* | *It was his determination and sense of humour that got him through the crisis.*

2 get through

to succeed in talking to someone on the telephone: *Dave's been trying to call them all day, but he just couldn't get through.*

+ to *When I finally got through to the computer helpline, they put me in a queuing system for half an hour.*

3 get through sth

to finish something that you are doing, especially work or a book that you are reading: *I really want to get through this book – I've only got two more chapters to read.* | *I've got some work to do, but it's fairly straightforward – I should get through it quite quickly.*

* SIMILAR TO: **finish**

4a get through sth

to pass a test or examination, or successfully complete a course: *The students' main aim is to get through the course and pass the examinations.* | *Zoe reckons that an exchange visit to France helped her get through her French Higher exam.* | *Getting through law school was tough.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass**

4b get sb/sth through sth

to do what is necessary to help someone or something pass a test or examination: *A good school does more than just get its students through their exams.* | *You'll never get that car through its emission test.*

5a get through get through sth

if a new law or plan gets through, it becomes officially accepted by a parliament, committee etc: *The Council meets on Wednesday, and*

we're hoping that these proposals will get through.

get through Congress/Parliament *Baker's tax reforms had a fairly good chance of getting through Congress more or less intact.*

5b get sth through get sth through sth

if a government, president etc gets a new law or plan through, it becomes officially accepted: *The government had intended to get the bill through before Christmas.*

get sth through Congress/Parliament *President Clinton failed to get his health-care reforms through Congress.* | *It took four years to get the bill through Parliament.*

6 get through

to succeed in reaching a place in spite of difficulties: *The Red Cross parcels were not getting through, and prisoners in the camps were starving to death.*

+ to *All the roads are blocked – there's no hope of getting through to Whitby until the weather improves.*

7 get sth through

to succeed in sending food, equipment etc to people in an area that is difficult to reach because of war, bad weather etc: *In order to get supplies through, the Soviet parliament approved special measures allowing the military to take over the railways.*

+ to *The troops' primary role is to get humanitarian aid through to the stricken region.*

8 get through sth

BrE to spend a lot of money, or use a lot of something such as food or drink: *She gets through at least £200 every weekend – I don't know what she spends it on.* | *You got through those biscuits quickly!*

get through to

1 get through to sb

to succeed in making someone understand something, especially when this is difficult: *What the hell do you have to do to get through to these stupid people!* | *The report shows that the message about safer sex isn't getting through to teenagers.*

get it through to sb that *You must try to get it through to him that you're not happy, and that your relationship is in trouble.*

2 get through to sth

to succeed in reaching the next stage of a game or competition: *The contestant that gets through to the final round has a chance to win \$50,000.* | *The local rugby club got through to the semi-finals of a big national competition.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach**

get to

1 get to sth

to arrive at a place or reach a particular stage in a process, story etc: "What time did you get to the hotel?" "Three o'clock in the morning." | Janine looked preoccupied, but she cheered up when we got to the restaurant. | We'd just got to the bit where Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost.

* SIMILAR TO: reach

2 get to sb

spoken if something or someone gets to you, they make you feel more and more annoyed or upset, even though you try not to let them affect you: She's always complaining, always so negative about everything – it's really getting to me. | Rachel's having a bad time at work – it's beginning to get to her. | Don't let him get to you – he's just teasing you.

3 where has sb/sth got to?

spoken used to ask where someone or something is, when they are not where they should be: I wonder where Sophie's got to? She should be here by now. | Where's my bag got to? It was here on the table a minute ago.

4 get to doing sth

non-standard to start doing something, especially without intending to: We were in the car coming home, and we got to talking about people who were at school with us. | I got to thinking perhaps I ought to try a different kind of job.

* SIMILAR TO: start

get together

1 get together

if two or more people get together, they meet for a social occasion, or in order to discuss or organize something: We must get together for a drink sometime. | There used to be a group of us – we used to get together and play bridge, and have dinner parties. | I've got a meeting at 3.00, but we can get together and talk about it after that. | The idea is that management and workers will get together and discuss ways of improving staff morale.

+ with When are we getting together with Terry and Gretch? Next Saturday?

* SIMILAR TO: meet up

get-together N [C]

a party or informal social occasion: a family get-together | We're having a get-together on Saturday, if you'd like to come.

2 get sth together

to collect several things and put them in one place: Hang on a minute – I just need to get my things together. | I need to go up into the attic and get some stuff together for that yard sale.

3 get sb together

if you get a group of people together, you arrange for them to meet in order to do something: Why don't we get everyone together and go bowling or something? | She's going to try to get some people together to work on an arts festival.

4 get together get it together

spoken if two people get together or get it together, they start a romantic or sexual relationship: I always thought those two should get together – they've got a lot in common. | Maybe if Moira and me had been able to get it together again, everything would have been all right.

+ with She had a boyfriend in Texas, but when she came back here she got together with Michael.

5 get sth together get together sth

spoken to organize or prepare something: I still haven't got the schedule together, but I am hoping to have it finished by tomorrow. | He's going to be hungry – maybe I'd better get a meal together.

* SIMILAR TO: put together

6 get yourself together

to begin to be in control of your life and emotions, so that you can succeed in doing the things you have planned to do: Amanda was still trying to get herself together, when another crisis devastated her life. | We thought his career was over, but he's managed to get himself together over the past 18 months.

7 get it together/get your act together

to begin to be in control of a situation, and do things in an organized and confident way: If McCallen gets it together, he can win this race. | Come on, Doyle, get it together, or we'll never solve this case. | When is the United Nations going to get its act together in Bosnia?

8 get sth together

to succeed in getting enough money for a particular purpose: "Are you going on vacation this summer?" "Yeah, if I can get the money together." | Money's tight, Joe. Some months I can barely get the rent together.

get up

1a get up

to wake up and get out of your bed, especially in the morning: What time do you have to get up tomorrow? | She got up, had a bath, took four aspirins, then went to sit in the garden. | I hate getting up in the morning, especially in winter.

1b get sb up

to make someone wake up and get out of

bed, especially in the morning: *Can you get the kids up? They're going to be late for school.*

2 get up

to stand up after you have been sitting or lying down: *Sherman got up and went over to the window. | I just got up and went. I was absolutely furious.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand up**

3 get up sth get sth up

BrE to organize something, especially something that involves asking other people to help or take part: *She's getting up a collection for Sue's birthday. | The local residents got up a petition, demanding a better bus service. | One of the teachers tried to get up a rugby team, but the kids weren't interested.*

* SIMILAR TO: **organize**

4 get up

BrE if a wind or storm gets up, it starts and gets stronger: *The wind got up during the night, and blew their tent away.*

5 get yourself up

BrE informal to dress in unusual clothes, especially clothes that make you look like someone else, such as a famous person, or a character from a story

+ in/as *Margaret and Mitzi had got themselves up in 1920s dresses, with long beads and those little hats.*

be got up as/like *He was got up as Count Dracula, complete with fangs and a long black cloak. | I saw a group of little girls got up like the Spice Girls.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dress up**

getup N [C]

informal a set of clothes, especially strange or unusual clothes: *There's always one contestant in some ridiculous cowgirl getup, thinking she looks patriotic.*

6 get sth up get up sth

especially AmE to improve your knowledge of something: *If you're going to Mexico this summer, you'd better get your Spanish up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brush up**

7 get it up

informal to have an erection (=when a man's sex organ becomes bigger and harder with sexual excitement): *When it came to their wedding night, poor Fred found he couldn't get it up at all.*

get up to

get up to sth

BrE to do something, especially something slightly bad or that people do not approve of: *God knows what they get up to while their*

parents are away. | As children, we all got up to tricks like pinching a few apples or knocking on someone's door and running away.

get with

get with it!

used to tell someone to be more modern and fashionable in the way they think and behave: *"I suppose they'll be playing that awful disco music." "Oh heavens! Don't be so old-fashioned, Granny. Get with it!"*

GIDDY

giddy up!

giddy up!

spoken used to tell a horse to move forwards or go faster

* SIMILAR TO: **gee up!** BrE spoken old-fashioned

GINGER

gingered, gingered, gingering

ginger up

1 ginger sth up ginger up sth

BrE to make something that is dull more exciting by adding new or unusual things: *The play's director tried to ginger things up by adding some dramatic special effects.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spice up, vamp up**

2 ginger sb up ginger up sb

BrE to encourage people to work harder: *The threat of reorganization appears to have gingered up the workforce.*

GIVE

gave, given, giving

give away

1 give away sth give sth away

to give something that you do not want or need to someone, without asking them to pay for it: *"Do you still have your old course-books from university?" "No, I've given them all away."*

+ to *Before leaving America she gave away her furniture to her family and friends.*

2 give away sth give sth away

if a company or store gives away a product, they give it to people without asking them for any payment in order to attract more customers: *They're giving away free glasses with every bottle of wine. | Cell-phone networks are giving phones away in order to get subscribers.*

giveaway N [C]

something that a company or store gives to people without asking for payment:

There are usually a lot of cheap giveaways on offer at Christmas.

giveaway ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

given free by a company in order to advertise its products: *giveaway dairies*

giveaway prices

prices that are very low: *The shop was selling off all its old stock at giveaway prices.*

3 **give away sth** **give sth away**

to give something as a prize in a competition: *We have five baseball caps to give away in this week's show – all you have to do is answer one simple question.* | *They're giving away 200 free tickets to see the band on tour.*

4 **give away sth** **give sth away**

to let someone know about something that should be a secret, especially by mistake: *I don't want to give away the ending. You'll have to see the movie for yourself.* | *In her interview she was careful not to give anything away about her plans for the future.*

give the game away (=make someone realize something that other people wanted to keep a secret) *The thing that gave the game away was when I found one of his socks under our bed.*

*SIMILAR TO: **reveal**

giveaway N [SINGULAR]

something that makes it easy for you to guess a fact that people are trying to keep secret: *The lipstick on his collar was a bit of a giveaway.*

sth is a dead giveaway *spoken* (=used to emphasize that something makes it very easy to guess a fact that someone wanted to keep secret) *I knew she'd been taking drugs – her eyes were a dead giveaway.*

5 **give sb away**

to accidentally show other people how you really feel, or what you are trying to do, when you are trying to hide this: *Karen was trying to look cool and businesslike, but her face gave her away immediately.*

give yourself away *Most shoplifters give themselves away by constantly looking round for cameras.*

6 **give sb away**

if you give someone away who is hiding from the police, soldiers etc, you tell the police or soldiers where that person is, or that this is the person they are looking for: *Campbell managed to avoid arrest for several months, until finally someone in his family gave him away to the local police.*

*SIMILAR TO: **betray**

7 **give away sth** **give sth away**

to let your opponents have an advantage or allow them to win, by playing badly or making silly mistakes: *Arsenal gave away two*

goals in the first five minutes of the game. | *Some people in the party have accused him of giving away the election.*

8 **give sb away** **give away sb**

if a man gives away the woman who is getting married, he takes her to the front of the church to the man she is going to marry, and gives permission for her to marry: *The bride was given away by her uncle, Andrew Johnson.*

give back

1 **give back sth** **give sth back**

to give something back to the person who owns it or who gave it to you: *If the wedding is cancelled, do I have to give back the ring?*

+ *The government is giving back nine million pounds to Oxford City Council, after making a mistake in the housing budget.*

give sb back sth *Give him back his hat!*

give sb sth back *Mom! Tell Josh to give me my doll back!*

*SIMILAR TO: **return** [formal]

2 **give sth back** **give back sth**

to make it possible for someone to have a particular quality, ability, or freedom that they used to have in the past, but they lost

+ *to The protesters are calling for the government to give power back to the people.*

give sb back sth *A little warm food and rest will give you back some strength.*

give sb sth back *The doctors are hoping the operation will give Murphy his sight back.*

*SIMILAR TO: **restore**

give in

1 **give in**

to finally agree to something you were unwilling to agree to before, especially after someone has spent a long time arguing with you or trying to persuade you: *With a sigh, she gave in.* | *"Okay, Ellie, we'll do it your way this time."* | *In the end he gave in and paid her the full price for the painting.*

+ *to The Russian government has so far refused to give in to the terrorists' demands.*

2 **give in**

to accept that you have been defeated and stop competing or fighting: *Arsenal refused to give in, and scored three goals in the second half to win the game.*

*SIMILAR TO: **give up**

3 **give in sth** **give sth in**

BrE to give something such as an official letter or a piece of written work to someone in a position of authority: *The next day Davies gave in his resignation.* | *I still haven't*

finished my homework yet, and we're supposed to give it in tomorrow morning.

* SIMILAR TO: hand in

give in to

give in to sth

if you give in to a feeling that you want to do something, you allow yourself to do it, especially after trying not to for a long time: *In the end he gave in to temptation and lit up his first cigarette of the day.* | *Lady Chatterley spends much more time with the gamekeeper, and finally they both give in to their desires.*

* SIMILAR TO: yield to

give of

1 give of yourself/your time/your money etc

formal to do things for other people in a generous way, especially when it involves your own time or money, and without expecting them to do anything for you: *He thanked all the club members who had given of their time in order to make the show a success.* | *If you want to be a teacher you have to be prepared to give of yourself.*

2 give of your best

formal to do something as well as you are able to do it: *Companies should try to create an environment in which employees can give of their best.* | *It was a pretty mediocre performance – I didn't feel that any of the actors really gave of their best.*

* SIMILAR TO: give your best

give off

1 give off sth give sth off

to produce something such as a smell, heat, light, energy, gas, or a sound: *The flowers gave off a sweet scent.* | *the enormous amount of energy which is given off by nuclear reactions*

* SIMILAR TO: produce, give out

2 give off sth

if someone gives off a particular quality, they seem to have that quality from the way they look or behave: *Felicity gave off an impression of light and warmth.* | *Robert's father gave off an air of superiority and smugness.*

* SIMILAR TO: give out, exude formal

give onto

give onto sth

BrE if a door, window, room, garden etc gives onto a place, it leads to that place or you can see that place from it: *The sitting-room gives onto a garden full of fruit trees.* | *Our apartment gave onto a balcony that overlooked the sea.*

* SIMILAR TO: open onto/on to

give out

1 give out sth give sth out

to give something to a lot of people, especially a large number of things or all of them: *Protestors were giving out leaflets in front of the embassy.* | *Police in Paris gave out over 100,000 tickets for driving offences last year.* | *"Are there any more plates?" "No. I've given them all out."*

* SIMILAR TO: hand out

2 give out sth give sth out

to tell people information, especially publicly or officially: *You shouldn't give out your credit card details over the Internet.* | *The Foundation gives out free advice on pregnancy and contraception.*

be given out (=be announced) *The results will be given out at the end of the show.*

3 give out

if something such as a part of your body or a machine gives out, it stops working because it has been used too much, or it is old or damaged: *She screamed so much that in the end her voice gave out.* | *The light's starting to go very faint. I think the batteries have given out.*

* SIMILAR TO: pack up

4 give out

if a supply of something gives out, there is no more left because it has all been used: *How much longer before the fuel gives out?* | *Her patience finally gave out and she started yelling at the kids to be quiet.*

* SIMILAR TO: run out

5 give out sth give sth out

to produce something such as a smell, heat, light, energy, gas, or a sound: *Oil stoves give out a lot of heat.* | *As she bent down, her knee gave out a cracking sound.*

* SIMILAR TO: produce, give off

6 give out

if someone gives out a particular quality, they seem to have that quality from the way they look or behave: *Gilles gave out an air of confidence and calm authority*

* SIMILAR TO: give off, exude formal

7 give out a message/signal

to make people have a particular idea about something by what you say or do: *I'm worried that if I don't punish the children, it may give out the wrong message.*

* SIMILAR TO: send out

give over

give over!

a BrE spoken informal used to tell someone to

be quiet or to stop doing something that is annoying: *Give over, you two! If there's any more trouble, you'll both go straight to bed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut it out!**/**cut that out!** spoken informal

b BrE spoken informal used to tell someone that you do not believe what they have just said and that you think it is very surprising: *"Susan says she and Curly are getting engaged." "Give over! They've hardly known each other five minutes!"*

* SIMILAR TO: **you're having me on** BrE spoken informal, **you're putting me on** AmE spoken informal

give over to

1 be given over to sth

to be used only for a particular purpose or activity: *Large areas of the countryside are being given over to ugly out-of-town supermarkets. | Tuesday afternoons were usually given over to sports and leisure activities. | The whole of the first session is given over to an interview with Edmont Couchot, Professor of Arts at the University of Paris.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be devoted to**, **be taken up by sb/sth**

2 give yourself over to sth

give your life over to sth

to spend all your time and energy doing something or thinking about something: *She had given her life over to caring for Jane. | In his youth Green gave himself over to the pursuit of pleasure.*

3 give sth/sb over to sb

to allow another person, organization etc to have control of something or someone and be responsible for them: *He gave the boy over to the care of the local authority. | Control over the country's finances was given over to parliament.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand over**

give up

1 give up sth give sth up NOT PASSIVE

to stop doing something that you did regularly, for example a job or a sport: *She gave up her job at the nursing home and moved to London. | I used to play a lot of football, but I had to give it up after the accident.*

give up doing sth *Teri's given up going to New Year's Eve parties after her unfortunate experience last year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop**, **quit**

2 give up sth give sth up give up

NOT PASSIVE

to stop smoking, drinking etc because you think it is bad or unhealthy

give up doing sth *Vanessa's been feeling much better since she gave up smoking.*

give up sth *He gave up alcohol when he became a Muslim.*

give sth up *David's drug habit is slowly killing him – Dr Ryan could help him give it up.*

give up "Cigarette?" "No thanks, I'm trying to give up."

* SIMILAR TO: **stop**, **quit**

3 give up give up sth NOT PASSIVE

to stop trying to do something, especially because it is too difficult: *They searched for the ball for a while, but eventually they gave up and went home.*

give up doing sth *After about ten minutes I gave up trying to explain it to her.*

I give up spoken (=used to say that you cannot guess the answer to a question or joke) *"How much d'you think this suit cost?" "I don't know. \$200, \$500 ... \$1000? Oh, I give up!"*

give up the struggle (=stop trying to do something that is very difficult) *a crisis that brought him to the point where he finally gave up the struggle and resigned*

4 give up sth

to let someone else have something that is yours, especially when you do not really want to: *Lack of money forced Salah to give up his London apartment. | The Confederate Army refused to give up any of the territory they had won.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relinquish** formal

5 give yourself up

to allow the police or enemy soldiers to make you a prisoner when they have been trying to catch you: *General Lee sent a message to the rebels, urging them to give themselves up.*

+ **to** *Two of the escaped prisoners have given themselves up to the police.*

* SIMILAR TO: **surrender**

6 give up sth give sth up

to use some of your time to help other people or to help something succeed, instead of for your own enjoyment or advantage

+ **to do sth** *We should like to thank the mayor for giving up his valuable time to support our fundraising campaign. | Fiona gave up all her weekends to be with her mother, who was now seriously ill.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sacrifice**

7 give up hope

to stop hoping that something good will happen or that things will get better: *Just*

when they had almost given up hope, Jenny became pregnant.

give up hope of doing sth When the factory closed, most of the workers gave up hope of ever getting another job.

* SIMILAR TO: **despair**

8 **give up sb** **give sb up** NOT PASSIVE

to end a friendship or romantic relationship with someone, even though you do not want to: *He's started going out with Rita, but he doesn't want to give up this other girl!*

9 **give up sb** **give sb up**

to give your child to someone else so that the child legally becomes part of that person's family

give sb up for adoption *I refused to give up my baby for adoption – he was mine.*

10 **give sb up for dead/lost**

to begin to believe that someone is dead and stop looking for them: *Three Americans who had been given up for dead were found alive yesterday. | No trace of the boat could be found and the crew were given up for lost.*

11 **let's give it up (for sb)!**

spoken informal used to tell people to hit their hands together in order to show that they have enjoyed something, or approve of someone: *Come on, everybody, let's give it up for the Spice Girls!*

* SIMILAR TO: **let's have a round of applause for sb**

12 **give sb up** NOT PASSIVE

spoken to stop expecting someone to arrive: *Where have you been? We'd almost given you up.*

give up on

1 **give up on sth** NOT PASSIVE

to stop trying to make something happen or succeed: *Never give up on your dreams – the things you really want to do. | In 1991 the Russians finally gave up on their Marxist strategy.*

give up doing sth *By 4 am I'd given up on trying to sleep, so I got up to have a shower.*

* SIMILAR TO: **abandon**

2 **give up on sb** NOT PASSIVE

to stop hoping that someone will improve or do what you want them to: *He'd been in a coma for six months, and the doctors had almost given up on him. | You've left the tickets behind? I give up on you, Henry, I really do.*

* SIMILAR TO: **despair of**

give up to

1 **give yourself up to sth**

literary to allow a strong feeling of pleasure,

desire etc to completely fill your mind: *When, at last, we were together, we gave ourselves up to the pleasures of love.*

2 **be given up to sth**

if a period of time is given up to an activity, all of it is used for that activity: *The afternoons were given up to sport and recreation.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be given over to**

GLAM

glammed, glammed, glammng

glam up

glam sth/sb up **glam up sth/sb**

BrE informal to make something or someone look more attractive, especially by adding decorations or putting on special clothes: *A plain dress can be glammed up with gold sequins.*

glam yourself up *We glammed ourselves up and went on down to the film premiere.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doll up**

GLANCE

glanced, glanced, glancing

glance off

glance off sth **glance off**

if a beam of light or a moving object glances off a surface, it hits it at an angle and then moves away in another direction: *Light from the setting sun glanced off the metal buildings. | A bullet struck the side of their car and glanced off.*

GLAZE

glazed, glazed, glazing

glaze over

glaze over

if someone's eyes glaze over, they start to look bored or tired: *Whenever anyone tried to explain the statistics to Mr Vernon, his eyes would start to glaze over.*

GLOM

glommed, glommed, glomming

glom onto

1 **glom onto sth**

AmE if one thing gloms onto another, the first thing fastens itself firmly to the second: *The researchers found that the antibodies glom onto the virus and destroy it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **latch onto**

2 **glom onto** sb

AmE to try to spend time with someone and become friends with them, especially when they do not want you to do this: *Lisa glommed onto Rita and her friends and followed them wherever they went.*

* SIMILAR TO: **latch onto**

GLORY

gloried, gloried, glorying

glory in

glory in sth NOT PASSIVE

to enjoy something very much and feel unreasonably proud about it: *Her brother was not ashamed of his violent behaviour. On the contrary, he gloried in it.*

glory in doing sth How he gloried in retelling his adventures!

* SIMILAR TO: **revel in**

GLOSS

glossed, glossed, glossing

gloss over

gloss over sth **gloss** sth **over**

USUALLY PASSIVE

G

to deliberately avoid talking about unpleasant facts, or to say as little as possible about them: *There were problems in our relationship that couldn't be glossed over. | A skilful speech that had glossed over all the embarrassing details*

GLOW

glowed, glowed, glowing

glow with

glow with pleasure/pride etc

to look very happy because you are pleased, proud etc: *Parker glowed with pleasure at the thought of all the money he was going to make.*

GLUE

be glued to

be glued to the television/screen etc

informal to be watching the television etc with all your attention or for a long time: *The kids are glued to the TV all day.*

GNAW

gnawed, gnawed, gnawing

gnaw at

1 **gnaw at** sb/sth NOT PASSIVE

to make someone feel continuously worried, frightened, or uncomfortable: *Feelings of guilt gnawed at him. | The problem had been gnawing at his mind for months.*

2 **gnaw at** sth NOT PASSIVE

to gradually harm or damage something: *the poisonous gas gnawing at your lungs*

gnaw away

gnaw away sth **gnaw** sth **away**

NOT PASSIVE

to gradually destroy something: *The disease steadily gnaws away the body's defences.*

GO

went, gone, going

go about

1 **go about** sth

if you go about something in a particular way, you start to do it or deal with it in that way: *Growing orchids is not so difficult, providing you go about it in the right way.*

how do you go about doing sth? (=what is the best way to start doing or dealing with something) *How do I go about finding out about the different courses available? | Joe had always wanted to get into politics, but he had no idea how to go about it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set about, tackle**

2 **go about your business/work/daily life etc**

to continue doing your job or your activities in the usual way, often after something unusual has happened: *Even after last night's air attack, the people of the town are going about their business as usual. | I watched Frank going about his work, and wondered how to tell him the news.*

3 **go about doing** sth

BrE if someone goes about doing or saying something, they do it a lot, especially when it is annoying or unpleasant for other people: *Mima went about saying that it was all my fault. | You shouldn't go about spreading malicious gossip.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go around/round doing sth**

4 **go about**

BrE to dress or behave in a particular way, especially regularly or over a period of time

+ **in** *In the days that followed, Liza went about in a daze, not knowing what she*

should do. | You can't go about in shorts and sandals at the office – you should wear a suit.

* SIMILAR TO: go around/round

5 go about sth go about

BrE to move or travel around a place, going from one part of it to another: *She went about the room, putting everything back in its place.* | *Before an election, party leaders usually go about from town to town making speeches.*

* SIMILAR TO: go around/round

6 go about go about sth

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE if a story or piece of information is going about, a lot of people are talking about it and telling other people, especially when it is not certain that it is true: *That story's been going about the office for weeks now and it's absolute rubbish!*

+ that *Rumours have been going about that the couple are planing to get married.*

* SIMILAR TO: go around/round, circulate formal

7 go about USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE if an illness is going about, a lot of people are getting it: *At least three people are away with flu – there's a lot of it going about at the moment.*

* SIMILAR TO: go around/round

8 a ship/boat goes about

BrE if a ship or boat goes about, it turns around and starts to go in the opposite direction: *The boat went about and headed back towards the land.*

* SIMILAR TO: turn around/round

go about with ALSO go about together

especially BrE

go about with sb go about together

BrE to spend a lot of time with someone and go to different places together, and have a friendly or romantic relationship with them: *Ed's going about with a girl who's a lot younger than he is.* | *Didn't you and Frank use to go about together when you were at university?*

go after

1 go after sb/sth

to follow or chase someone, in order to catch them, attack them, or talk to them: *She looked so upset. Do you think I should go after her?*

* SIMILAR TO: follow

2 go after sth

to try to get something, especially a job or a particular type of business: *I've decided to go*

after that job in Ohio. | *The firm now wants to go after the Japanese market.* | *Tobacco companies are going after teenage smokers in a big way.*

go against

1 go against sth

if something goes against an idea, principle, or rule, it seems wrong or very different from it, or breaks that rule: *Her parents didn't want her to get a divorce. It went against their religious beliefs.* | *Einstein's theory went against all the accepted views about how the universe worked.* | *The Russians claimed that intervening in Kosovo went against the principle of respecting national sovereignty.*

it goes against the grain (=used to say that something is very different from what you believe or think you should do, and you do not want to do it): *It goes against the grain to tell a complete stranger everything about your private life.*

2 go against sth/sb

to not do what someone has asked or advised you to do, or to do something different to it

go against sb's advice/wishes/orders etc
He went against his doctor's advice and started work the following week.

go against sb *She never expected her mother to go against her father like that.*

* SIMILAR TO: ignore

3 go against sb

if a court case, decision, vote, result etc goes against you, you lose or you do not get the result that you want: *Our lawyer had warned us that the case might go against us.* | *De Gaulle had made it clear that he would resign if the vote went against him.*

things go against you spoken (=used to say that events happen in a way that is bad or unsuccessful for you) *By the end of the 1980s, things started to go against us, and we lost a lot of money.*

go ahead

1 go ahead

to do something that you have been planning or preparing to do, especially after considering it and trying to decide if you should do it

+ with *In 1964 the British and French governments announced that they had decided to go ahead with the tunnel.* | *Last night railway workers looked likely to go ahead with their strike.*

go ahead and do sth *After two years of marriage, we decided to go ahead and have a baby.* | *In the end, the newspaper went ahead and published the story.*

the go-ahead

if someone gives you the go-ahead to do something they give you official permission to start doing it: *The movie was given the go-ahead and production started in May.*

2 go ahead

if an event that has been planned goes ahead, it takes place, especially in spite of problems or opposition: *The match went ahead, despite the terrible weather conditions.* | *Mr Connelly went into hospital, but was told that his operation could not go ahead.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take place**

3 go ahead!

a spoken used when giving someone permission to do something, for example smoke, open the window etc, after they have asked you if they can do it: *"Do you mind if I smoke?" "No, go ahead."*

b spoken used when encouraging someone to start doing something: *Go ahead, Matt, we're all dying to hear your story.*

c spoken used when telling someone in a threatening way that you do not care if they do something: *"If you don't get off my land, I'll take you to court." "Go ahead!"*

4 go ahead

to go somewhere before or in front of other people who you are with: *You go ahead and we'll catch up with you later.* | *I'll go ahead in my car, because I know the way.*

go along**1 go along**

to go to a place or an event, especially in order to meet and talk to people: *An old friend asked me to come to dinner, so I went along and really enjoyed myself.* | *They're having a party at Patrick's house. Do you feel like going along?*

2 do sth as you go along

if you do something as you go along, you do it while you are doing something else – used especially to say that someone decides how to do something while they are doing it, without planning or preparing it: *I'm sure she was making her speech up while she went along.* | *You can't just make the rules of the game as you go along!* | *You can't really teach acting – you tend to learn as you go along.*

3 be going along

if something is going along in a particular way, it is progressing in that way: *They've been going out together for six months, and everything seems to be going along quite nicely.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come along**

go along with**go along with sth/sb**

to accept a particular idea or plan, or to agree with someone about something, especially because it might upset someone or cause trouble if you do not: *I wasn't very keen on the idea, but I went along with it just to keep everyone happy.* | *Chirac fears that if he goes along with Kohl and his policies, it could threaten his own political future.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall in with**

go around

ALSO **go round** BrE

● In British English, people usually use **go round**. In American English, people only use **go around**.

1 go around/round

to go to see someone for a short time, especially at the place where they live: *I think I'll go round and see Jim on my way home tonight.*

† to *Marie went around to Bella's place, to try and persuade her to come to the party.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go over**

2 go around/round sth

to move or travel around a place going from one part of it to another: *A detective came in and went around the house to make notes.* | *I spent the morning going around the city taking photographs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about** BrE

3 go around/round sth go around/round

to go to a number of different places of the same type, one after the other: *Mr and Mrs Taylor went around the shops, ordering what they thought was necessary.* | *An inspector came and went round all the classrooms.*

† to *We went round to all the clubs, but Des wasn't in any of them.*

4 go around/round doing sth

to say or do something frequently or regularly, especially when it is annoying or unpleasant for other people: *You can't go around accusing people of things like that.* | *Paul's been going round telling everyone about my relationship with Danny.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about**

5 go around/about

to dress or behave in a particular way, especially regularly or over a period of time: *When you're the boss, you have to dress properly – you can't go round in jeans.* | *I can't see anything without my glasses – I might as well go around with my eyes shut.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about**

6 go around/round **go around/round** sth

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a story or piece of information is going around, a lot of people are talking about it and telling other people, especially when it is not certain to be true: *I don't usually pay any attention to the gossip going around at work.*

+ that *There's been a rumour going round that they're planning to close the factory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about** BrE, **circulate** *informal*

7 enough/plenty etc to go around

if there is enough food, drink, work etc to go around, there is enough for everyone to have some: *Do you think we've got enough pizza to go round?* | *Builders are really having a hard time these days – there just isn't enough work to go around.*

8 go around/round **go around/round** sth

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if an illness is going around, a lot of people are getting it: *There's so much flu going around – I hope you don't get it.* | *A particularly unpleasant virus was going around the school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about** BrE

go around with
ALSO **go around together***especially* BrEALSO **go round with/ together** BrE**go around/round with** sb**go around/round together**

to spend a lot of time with someone and go to different places together, and have a friendly or romantic relationship with them: *Do you remember Laura? She's going around with Ralph at the moment.* | *There was a gang of about six of us who went round together all the time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go about with**

go at**1 go at** sth

informal if you go at something in a particular way, you start to do it or deal with it in that way, especially with a lot of energy or enthusiasm

go at it *The women all seemed to really enjoy their work, and went at it with great enthusiasm and cheerfulness.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tackle**

2 go at sb

informal to start to fight, attack, or argue with someone: *Sophie went at him with a kitchen*

knife. | *We'd had to listen to the two of them going at each other all afternoon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack**

go away**1 go away**

to leave a place or a person: *Go away and let me get some sleep!* | *He pushed the letter under the door and went away.*

2 go away

to leave your home in order to spend some time somewhere else, especially for a holiday: *We're going away to France for a week.* | *Dad often had to go away on business.* | *I hated it when I first went away to college.*

3 go away

if a problem, pain, or something unpleasant goes away, it disappears: *After about an hour, the pain started to go away.*

sth goes away by itself (=it disappears without anyone doing anything) *Traffic problems won't just go away by themselves – it's up to us to take action.*

* SIMILAR TO: **disappear**

go back**1 go back**

to return to a place where you have been before, or to the place where you were until recently: *They left Africa in 1962, and they never went back.* | *I have to go back home at the end of the month.*

+ to *We went back to the hotel for dinner.*

* SIMILAR TO: **return**

2 go back

if something goes back to a time in the past, it was started or had its origin then

+ to *Parts of the castle here go back to the twelfth century.* | *It's a type of comedy that goes back to the early days of the cinema.*

sth goes back a long way (=it started a long time ago and has existed for a long time) *They're a very old family – their name goes back a long way.*

* SIMILAR TO: **date back**

3 go back **go back** sth

to consider or discuss things that happened at a time in the past, especially a long time ago: *Let's go back a few million years and look at the time of the dinosaurs.*

+ to *To understand psychiatric problems, you often have to go back to the patient's childhood.*

4 you can't go back/there's no going back

if you can't go back or there's no going back,

G

you cannot change your situation back to how it used to be: *Are you sure you want to do this? If we sell the house, there's no going back.* | *"Once you're part of our gang, you're always part of it," grinned Marley. "You can't go back."*

5 go back

if schools or students go back, the schools open and the students start studying again after the holidays: *When do the schools go back?*

★ **to** *The kids go back to school in the first week of September.*

SEE go back to

● **OPPOSITE:** break up

6 go back

if something that you have bought or borrowed goes back, you take it back to the place where you got it, for example because you want to change it, or you have finished using it: *I think these jeans will have to go back – they're a bit too small.* | *Don't forget the car has to go back tomorrow – we only hired it for a week.*

7 go back

if workers go back, they start working again after a strike. A strike is a period of time when workers refuse to work in order to try to get more money, better working conditions etc: *The miners say they won't go back unless they get more money.*

* **SIMILAR TO:** return to work

8 go back a long way/many years etc

if two people go back a long way, for many years etc, they have known each other for a long time: *Annie and Richard go back a long way – at least fifteen years.*

9 the clocks go back

when the clocks go back in the autumn, the time officially changes so that it is one hour earlier than it was before: *The clocks go back some time in October, don't they?*

● **OPPOSITE:** the clocks go forward

go back on

1 go back on sth

to not do what you have promised, agreed, or said you would do: *Everyone was hoping that Milosevich wouldn't go back on his promises.* | *The German Finance Minister warned Moscow against going back on its policy of reform.* | *Her father has already said he won't let us have any of his money, and I can't see him going back on his decision.*

go back on your word (=not do what you have promised or agreed to do) *"You can trust me," said Professor Higgins. "I never go back on my word."*

* **SIMILAR TO:** renege on *formal*

2 go back on sth

to change what you said before, or claim that you never said it: *One of the witnesses has gone back on her original story, and now says she may have been mistaken.*

* **SIMILAR TO:** change

go back over

go back over sth

to examine, consider, or repeat something again: *The judge went back over all the evidence at the end of a trial.* | *Would you mind going back over the rules for me one more time?* | *Someone ought to go back over the contents of these boxes and label them.*

go back to

1 go back to sth

to start to do something again that you were doing before, or used to do in the past

go back to work/school/university etc *After the operation, it was six weeks before I could go back to work.*

go back to sleep/bed *I tried to go back to sleep, but I couldn't stop thinking.*

go back to doing sth *I'd hate to go back to living abroad now.* | *After his career in showbusiness came to an end, he went back to being a taxi-driver.*

* **SIMILAR TO:** return to

2 go back to sth

to return to a situation or state that used to exist before something started or happened: *It will be a long time before things start to go back to normal after the war.* | *When the project went wrong, we had to go back to the beginning and start again.* | *Can't we just go back to being good friends?*

* **SIMILAR TO:** revert to, return to

3 go back to sb

NOT PASSIVE

if you go back to someone that you used to have a sexual relationship with or were married to, you start to have a relationship with them again: *Robin loves me. He'll never go back to his wife now.*

4 go back to sth

to start talking about or considering a particular point or subject again, especially in a discussion or meeting: *Can we just go back to Alan's point for a minute?* | *I'd like to go back to the first part of the film again.*

* **SIMILAR TO:** return to

go before

1 have gone before

to have happened or existed before – use this when you are comparing something with

what happened or existed before: *The cotton industry created a form of society that was different from any that had gone before.*

what has gone before *In many ways this programme improves on what has gone before. | The end of the match bore no resemblance to most of what had gone before.*

2 go before sb

if someone or something goes before a judge, committee etc, the judge etc hears and considers the information concerning them in order to make a decision or judgement about them: *Mr Holt's case went before Judge Hitz. | The proposal will go before the Planning Committee at their next meeting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come before**

go beyond

go beyond sth

to be much better, more serious, more advanced etc than something else: *The book's success went beyond anything we had expected. | She didn't just feel unhappy – it went beyond that.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exceed**

go by

1 go by

if time goes by, it passes: *Twenty years had gone by since I last saw him. | As time went by, our fears for her safety increased.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass**

bygone ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

especially literary used to describe a period of time as one that existed a long time ago: *The beautiful old buildings reminded me of a bygone age.*

2 go by

to move past you, especially when you are not moving: *I sat down at an open-air cafe, and watched the people going by. | Several number nine buses went by, one after the other.*

3 go by sth

AmE to stop at a place for a short time, usually to get something: *We have to go by the store on the way home to get something for dinner. | "Where were you?" "I just went by Jason's to pick up my jacket."*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop by, drop by** informal

4 go by sth

to use a particular thing when you are making a judgment or when deciding what you should do: *You can't go by that old map. It's completely out of date. | I know she looks very attractive, but you shouldn't only go by appearances.*

if sth's anything to go by (=used when saying that something is likely to be true, because something else is true) *It should be a great movie, if Kubrick's other work is anything to go by.*

5 go by sth

to obey the rules of something: *There was one point in the game when he certainly wasn't going by the rules.*

go by the book (=be very careful to obey all the rules exactly) *There is a fixed procedure for making a complaint, and we prefer it if you go by the book.*

6 let sth go by

to deliberately ignore or forget about someone's remarks or actions, instead of getting upset about them or reacting angrily: *You have to try and remember the nice things people say, and let the others go by. | "I'll let it go by this time," the teacher said, "but I don't want it to happen again."*

* SIMILAR TO: **ignore, overlook**

go down

1 go down sth

to move along a street, passage etc in order to get somewhere: *If you go down the street and turn right, you'll see the station in front of you. | I went down the corridor and knocked on the staffroom door.*

2 go down go down sth

to go to a particular place near where you live, or the one that you usually go to

+ to *Why don't we go down to the town this afternoon? | The kids have gone down to the river.*

go down the shops/pub/village etc especially spoken *I thought I'd go down the shops with Doreen. | My Dad always used to go down the pub after dinner.*

3 go down

to visit or travel to a place – use this especially when the place is further south or is in the country: *At weekends, Wright used to go down and stay with his father in Mississippi.*

+ to *Three days a week Kate went down to Camberwell to teach at the School of Arts and Crafts.*

● OPPOSITE: **go up**

4 go down

to reach as far as a particular point or place

+ to *The road doesn't go down to the beach – we'll have to walk from here. | It was a beautiful light room, with windows that went down to the ground.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reach**

5 go down

if a price or the level of something goes down, it becomes lower: *The price of fruit goes down in the summer, when there's plenty of it about.* | *In parts of the country, the level of violent crime has been going down.*

+ to *When I came out of hospital, my weight had gone down to eight stone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop, decrease**

● OPPOSITE: **go up**

6 go down

BrE if the standard or quality of something goes down, it becomes worse: *The standard of the food in the canteen has gone down a lot recently.*

things have gone down *Things have really gone down at the school since the old head teacher left.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deteriorate** formal, **go downhill**

7 go down

if a computer goes down, or the telephone lines go down, they stop working because of a fault: *Make sure you save all your work on screen, just in case the computers go down.* | *The lines had gone down in the storm, and we were cut off for days.*

8 go down well/badly etc

if something that someone says or does goes down well, badly etc people react to it well or badly etc: *The band's given several performances around the country and they went down really well.* | *I could see at once that my comments had gone down badly.*

9 go down well/nicely etc

spoken if food or drink goes down well, nicely etc you enjoy eating or drinking it: *A long cold drink would go down very nicely, thank you.*

10 go down

when the sun goes down at the end of the day, it gradually gets lower in the sky until it disappears: *It was six o'clock, and the sun was going down for the day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set**

● OPPOSITE: **come up, rise**

11 go down

to fall to the ground, especially because of an accident or injury: *The leading horse went down at the last jump.* | *They were doing well until their best player went down with a badly sprained left ankle.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall down**

12 go down on your knees/on all fours

to get into a kneeling position, or in a position with your hands and knees on the floor: *Did he go down on his knees and ask you to*

marry him? | *I quickly went down on all fours and started to crawl towards the door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get down on your knees/on all fours**

13 go down

if a ship or boat goes down, it sinks: *Then our small boat began to go down and we found ourselves in the river.* | *The Titanic went down in 1912 in mid-Atlantic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sink**

14 go down

if a plane goes down, it crashes to the ground: *Gessler and his crew lost their lives when their aircraft went down between Lampedusa and Malta.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crash**

15 the lights go down

if lights go down in a theatre, cinema etc, they are turned off or made less bright so that the show can begin: *The lights went down as the orchestra started to play.*

16 go down

especially BrE to lose a game against another team or player

+ to/against *At Wimbledon, Lleyton Hewitt went down 6-4, 7-5 to Greg Rusedski.* | *United went down 2-0 against Bolton.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lose**

17 go down

BrE to move down to a lower group of teams or players who play against each other: *London Scottish have to win three of the remaining four matches if they want to be sure of not going down.*

+ to *At the end of the season, five clubs went down to the second division.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be relegated**

● OPPOSITE: **go up** BrE, **be promoted**

18 go down

if a tyre, balloon etc goes down, the air goes out of it: *It looks like the front tyre has gone down - I'll have to pump it up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deflate** formal

● OPPOSITE: **inflate** formal

19 go down

if a swelling goes down, it disappears. A swelling is an area on your skin which has become bigger because of an injury, illness, or infection: *If you rest your leg, the swelling should go down soon.* | *The dentist said it'll take a few hours before my face goes down again.*

● OPPOSITE: **swell up**

20 go down

BrE informal to be sent to prison: *It was a horrible crime and the boys involved deserved to go down.*

go down for life/10 years etc *Scott's wanted for murder. If they catch him, he'll go down for life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be sent to prison, be sent down**
BrE informal

21 go down

BrE *old-fashioned* to leave university after you have finished studying there or at the end of a term. A term is one of the periods into which the school year is divided: *The students have gone down for Easter.*

+ from *Brian got a job in the City of London when he went down from Oxford.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come down** BrE *old-fashioned*

● OPPOSITE: **go up** BrE *old-fashioned*

22 go down

AmE *informal* to happen: *I'll never understand exactly what went down the night my husband left me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **happen**

23 what's going down?

AmE *informal* used as a greeting when you meet someone: *Hey buddy! What's going down?*

* SIMILAR TO: **how are you?**

24 go down

informal to touch someone's sexual organs with your mouth and tongue in order to give them pleasure

+ on *an explicit shot of the artist going down on his girlfriend*

* SIMILAR TO: **perform oral sex**

go down as

go down as **sth** ✕

to be remembered or recorded as being a particular thing or type of person: *David Robinson is sure to go down as one of the greatest ever basketball players.*

go down in history as sth *Cardinal Hume will go down in history as a truly holy man.*

go down with

go down with **sth** ✕

especially BrE to get a particular illness, especially one that you catch from other people and which is not very serious: *Several people at work have gone down with flu. | It was a nice meal, but the day after I went down with an upset stomach.*

* SIMILAR TO: **contract** formal

go for

1 go for sth

to try to get, win, or achieve something: *What sort of job are you going for, Tim?* |

Suleymonglu is going for his third consecutive Olympic gold medal.

go for it! (=used to encourage someone to try to do or get something) *If it sounds like a good deal, go for it!*

sb really goes for it (=used to say that someone tries as hard as they can in order to get something) *spoken She's incredibly ambitious. If she sees a chance for promotion, she really goes for it.*

2 go for sth

to choose a particular thing because you think it is better or more suitable: *Go for the black dress – it looks much better on you than the blue one. | I've got to drive home, so I'd better go for something non-alcoholic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **choose**

3 go for sth/sb

NOT PROGRESSIVE
informal to like a particular type of thing or person: *What kind of girls do you go for? | I don't normally go for bright colours.*

4 go for sth

to be sold or available to buy for a particular price: *How much did the painting go for in the end? | Houses in Notting Hill now go for well over £1 million.*

5 go for sb

informal to attack someone physically or criticize them very severely: *Ben lifted his arm and for a second I thought he was going to go for me. | She always used to go for him in meetings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack**

6 that/the same goes for sb/sth

used to say that the same thing is also true about someone or something else: *I've always hated living in towns. Fortunately the same goes for my husband too.*

7 have a lot going for you

informal if someone or something has a lot going for them, they have a lot of advantages or good qualities: *We've always thought that the Austrian skiing resorts have a lot going for them.*

have everything going for you *It was so sad. She had everything going for her, and then she had that terrible accident.*

8 go for sth

if a particular amount of something, especially money, goes for a specific purpose, it is used for that purpose: *About 38% of the Department of Energy's budget goes for research and development. | \$54 million went for resettlement of refugees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on** BrE

9 go for your gun/knife etc

to move your hand quickly towards your gun, knife etc in order to use it to attack someone: *The police officer thought he was going for his gun, and shot him through the chest.*

go forward

1 go forward

if something has been planned to happen goes forward, it starts to happen or starts to make progress: *The project can only go forward if we are able to get further financial support.* | *It was argued that the trial should not go forward while President Clinton was still in office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go ahead**

2 go forward

if someone or something's name goes forward for a job, prize etc, their name is suggested for it and they are considered for it: *Six names went forward for the position of chairman, caused by the decision of Mr Ted Leadbitter to retire.*

+ to *The building is among twenty-nine regional winners which will go forward for national awards later this year.*

3 go forward

to compete in the next stage of a competition after winning the previous stage

+ to *The winner of the competition will go forward to the national final.*

* SIMILAR TO: **progress**

4 the clocks go forward

when the clocks go forward in the spring, the time officially changes so that it is one hour later than it was before: *The clocks go forward this Saturday.*

● OPPOSITE: **the clocks go back**

go forward to

go forward to sth

if a suggestion, idea, court case etc goes forward to an official group of people, it is taken to them so that they can consider it and make a decision about it: *Our recommendations went forward to the Finance Committee.* | *Proposals for the licensing system will now go forward to the Ministry for approval.* | *The case then went forward to the European Court of Human Rights.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go before**

go forward with

go forward with sth

to start to do something that you have planned: *Sagan ignored Coppola's request and went forward with the production of the movie.*

go in

1 go in

to enter a building or room: *It's starting to rain. Do you want to go in?*

* SIMILAR TO: **enter**

2 go in

to go to the place where you work: *Ed went in early every day last week.*

+ to *Can I take the car if you're not going in to work tomorrow?*

3 go in

to go to the centre of the town that you live in or near: *The traffic's so bad it's becoming impossible to go in by car.* | *I usually go in on my bike.*

4 go in

to go and stay in hospital in order to receive some treatment: *He's had to go in to have an operation on his eye.*

+ for *The actress reportedly went in for plastic surgery on her face last week.*

5 go in

to enter a dangerous building, area, or country in order to try and deal with the problems there: *OK men. We're going in!* | *The Prime Minister made it clear that, if necessary, NATO forces would go in on the ground.*

6 go in sth go in

to fit inside a container, space, hole etc: *I've made a cake but it's too big to go in the tin.* | *There must be something wrong with this cassette; it won't go in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit**

7 go in go in sth

to join a company, organization etc in order to work for them: *Bob went in at quite a low level, but he was quickly promoted.* | *I decided I'd go in the army when I finished at school.*

* SIMILAR TO: **join**

8 go in

BrE if the sun or moon goes in, it disappears behind some clouds so you cannot see it any more: *The sun had gone in and it was starting to get cold.*

● OPPOSITE: **come out**

9 go in

if a piece of information or a fact goes in, you understand it and remember it: *I tried to concentrate on what he was saying, but it just wasn't going in.* | *Sometimes you have to repeat things to her several times before it goes in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sink in**

10 go in

if a ball goes in during a game such as football or golf, it lands in the right place and the team or player scores a point: *In the last five minutes our luck suddenly changed and the ball went in.*

11 go in

to go into the sea in order to swim: *Michael was the only one who went in; it was too cold for me.*

+ for *Are you going in for a swim?*

go in for**1 go in for sth**

especially BrE to do, use, have etc a particular type of thing, because you like it, or because it seems a good idea: *In our family we don't go in much for formal meals, we usually just eat in front of the television. | Men don't usually go in for displays of emotion.*

2 go in for sth

BrE to choose a particular type of work as your job: *If you want to earn a lot of money, you should go in for law or something like that. | Farrar's father never wanted him to go in for a career in politics.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take up, go into**

3 go in for sth

BrE to compete in a competition, or to do an examination: *I decided I'd go in for the Young Entertainer of the Year contest. | There are several exams you can go in for if you want to improve your qualifications.*

* SIMILAR TO: **enter**

go into**1 go into work/school/hospital etc**

to go to work, school, hospital etc: *You don't look well enough to go into work today. | French children don't usually go into school on Wednesday afternoons. | Mike's going into hospital for an operation on his back.*

2 go into sth

to go to the centre of the town that you live in or near: *I thought I'd go into Cambridge this afternoon.*

go into town *Could you give me a lift if you're going into town?*

3 go into sth

to fit inside a container, space, hole etc: *All these clothes can't possibly go into that one tiny suitcase. | Which hole does this screw go into.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit**

4 go into sth

to start to do a particular type of work as

your job, or join a company, organization etc in order to work for them: *At sixteen he left school and went into the family business. | He wants to go into the army, but I've been trying to put him off. | People go into the medical profession for a number of reasons.*

5 go into sth USUALLY NEGATIVE

to talk about something, especially in a detailed way: *It's a difficult subject and there isn't time to go into it here. | "Why did you and Helen split up?" "I don't want to go into that right now."*

go into detail/the details *I won't go into all the details of the report, but I can tell you that there are no big surprises in it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **discuss**

6 go into sth

BrE to find out more about something, by getting all the necessary information: *Before you make any further plans, you'd better go into the cost of all this.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look into**

7 go into sth

to start to be in a particular state or situation, especially a bad one: *Her son went into a coma and never came out of it. | Business activity is slowing down, and the economy is expected to go into recession.*

go into debt *We had to go into debt in order to pay for our daughter's wedding.*

go into a decline *He started drinking heavily, and his health started to go into a rapid decline.*

8 go into sth

to start behaving in a particular way, especially because you feel annoyed, frightened, or think something is funny

go into a mood/temper *She's gone into one of her moods and is refusing to talk to anyone.*

go into a panic *The crowd went into a panic and started to run for the exits.*

go into fits of laughter *When I told them I was leaving, they all went into fits of laughter.*

go into hysterics *Sophie seems to go into hysterics whenever you mention that name.*

9 go into sth

if a lot of time, money, effort etc goes into doing something, it is used in order to do it: *Years of research went into the book.*

go into doing sth *Huge amounts of money have gone into developing new drugs to treat cancer.*

10 go into sth

to be used in something you are making or preparing: *Some rather expensive ingredients*

go into this recipe. | The statistics that went into this report were collected and researched at the University of California.

11 go into sth

to start or prepare to take part in a competition, election, or exam: *Summer's always a tense time for young people going into their exams.* | *The US team is extremely confident as it goes into Thursday's match against Brazil.*

12 go into sth

if a vehicle goes into something such as a tree, wall, or another vehicle, it hits it: *I didn't see the red lights and I went into the back of a BMW.*

* SIMILAR TO: **crash (into)**

13 go into sth

if a number goes into a second number, the second number can be divided exactly by the first: *Seven doesn't go into thirty-two.*

go in with

go in with sb

to join with another person, company, or organization in order to do something together: *The Vancouver-based company intends to go in with Occidental on the deal.* | *There would be a lot of problems if the Liberal Democrats went in with the Conservatives.*

go off

1 go off

to leave the place where you are and go somewhere else, especially in order to do something: *Gina got up quickly and went off on her bike.*

+ to All the men had gone off to the war.

+ to do sth Dad went off to watch the baseball game.

* SIMILAR TO: **go away**

2 go off sb/sth

BrE informal to stop liking someone or something that you used to like: *Pete went off me after he met another girl on holiday.* | *I used to enjoy tennis, but I've gone off it a bit now.*

3 go off

BrE if food or drink goes off, it is not good to eat or drink any more, for example because it has been kept too long, and it often smells bad: *Do you think this meat has gone off?* | *It doesn't smell too good.* | *Milk usually goes off after a few days.*

4 go off

if a bomb goes off, it explodes: *A bomb went off in East London in April last year, injuring seven people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **explode**

5 go off

if a light, machine etc goes off, it stops working: *There was a very strong wind, and suddenly all the lights went off.* | *The central heating always goes off at 9 o'clock in the evening.* | *The power goes off automatically if there's an earthquake.*

● OPPOSITE: **come on, go on**

6 go off

if a gun goes off, it fires: *I heard a gun go off in the distance.* | *Gillespie claimed that the gun went off accidentally during a struggle.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fire**

7 go off

if an alarm goes off, it makes a sudden loud noise, especially in order to warn people about something: *Police were called to the house when the burglar alarm went off at two in the morning.* | *I set my alarm clock to go off at six.*

8 go off well/smoothly/as planned etc

to happen successfully in the way that you had planned: *Rosie was very nervous, but all the arrangements went off really smoothly.* | *The campaign didn't go off as well as Blair had hoped.*

9 go off

to suddenly start talking or thinking about something completely different: *Ian suddenly went off into a description of his awful childhood.* | *Her mind had obviously gone off somewhere, and she sat staring out of the window.*

10 go off go off sth

if a road, line etc goes off in a particular direction, it separates from another road or line and follows a different direction: *About two miles further on, the track goes off to the right.* | *Draw a horizontal line, and another going off it at an angle of about 30°.*

11 go off

BrE informal to become worse in standard or quality: *It used to be a lovely hotel, but it's gone off a bit in recent years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **deteriorate** formal, **go downhill**

12 go off

AmE informal to show your anger at someone or about something by saying what you really think using strong words: *Randy just totally went off when I told him I didn't want to see him anymore.*

+ on Melissa really went off on Rich as soon as he got home.

go off with

1 go off with sb

to leave your husband, wife, boyfriend etc in order to have a relationship with someone

else and live with them: *Apparently Lizzy was still a child when her mother went off with another man. | Michael went off with a woman half his age.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run off with**

2 go off with sth

informal to take something away from somewhere without asking, or to steal something: *I think someone went off with my coat by mistake. | He went off with thousands of pounds worth of jewellery.*

* SIMILAR TO: **run off with, walk off with**

go on

1 go on

to continue to happen or exist, especially for a long time or for a particular period of time: *The party went on until four in the morning.*

+ **for** *The negotiations are expected to go on for several weeks. | How long has this been going on for?*

go on and on (=continue for a very long time) *The meeting went on and on, until Pauline and I were practically falling asleep.*

ongoing ADJ

used to emphasize that something continues to happen and does not stop: *Learning is an ongoing process – it doesn't stop when you leave school.*

2 go on

to continue doing something without stopping or changing

go on doing sth *Philip completely ignored what I said and went on eating. | It could go on raining like this all day. | I was beginning to feel that I couldn't go on with my work any more. | You just have to try and forget what happened and go on with your life.*

go on *If you go on like this, you'll end up in hospital.*

* SIMILAR TO: **carry on**

3 go on USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if something is going on, it is happening, especially something strange, unusual, or confusing: *It was obvious that something very suspicious was going on.*

what's going on *There seems to be a lot of noise – what's going on in there? | Nobody in the office seemed to know what was going on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **happen**

goings-on N [PLURAL]

events or activities that seem strange or that you disapprove of: *There've been some strange goings-on in the house next door.*

4 go on

to do or achieve something, after you have finished doing something else

+ **to do sth** *He went on to win an Olympic Gold medal in the 400 metres. | Martin Landau and Dianne Wiest have both gone on to win Oscars.*

+ **to** *In 1980 fewer than 30% of girls went on to higher education.*

5 go on

to continue talking about something, especially after stopping for a short time or being interrupted by someone: *"There's only one other possibility," Jed went on. | Sorry to interrupt you, please go on.*

+ **with** *After a short pause, Maria went on with her story.*

* SIMILAR TO: **continue**

6 go on

informal to talk too much in a boring way

sb/sth does go on *Pam's a really nice person but she does go on a bit!*

go on and on *The speaker went on and on until we were all practically falling asleep.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang on** BrE informal

7 go on USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE informal to keep complaining about something, or asking someone to do something: *I wish you'd stop going on, Mum!*

+ **about** *He's always going on about how much work he's got to do.*

go on at sb (to do sth) BrE *I've been going on at Rick to tidy his room for weeks now.*

8 go on

to continue travelling or moving towards a particular place or in a particular direction, especially after stopping for a short time: *They stopped at a small hotel and had a meal before going on again.*

+ **to** *The original plan was to drive down to Spain, but in the end we went on to Morocco.*

9 go on

BrE to go somewhere before the other people you are with: *Bill and the girls went on in the car and the rest of us followed on foot.*

go on ahead *Why don't you go on ahead – we'll catch up with you later.*

10 go on

if a type of land, a road etc goes on for a particular distance or in a particular direction, it continues for that distance or in that direction: *In front of us, the desert went on as far as the eye could see. | This road goes on to Utah, and we don't want to end up there.*

11 go on!

spoken used to encourage someone to do something: *Go on, have another drink.* | *Go on, James, tell us!*

* SIMILAR TO: **come on!** spoken

12 go on!

spoken informal used to tell someone that you are very surprised by what someone has just told you, or that you do not believe it: *Go on! She didn't really go out with him, did she?*

* SIMILAR TO: **get away!** BrE spoken informal, **come off it!** spoken informal

13 go on (then)

BrE spoken informal used to tell someone that you will agree to something that you had refused to agree to before: *"Don't you think I could borrow the car, just for once?" "Oh, go on then."*

14 go on sth

to base your opinion or judgment on the information that is available: *I can only go on the information that I've got in this report.*

not have much/anything to go on (=not have much or any information on which to base an opinion or judgment) *The police didn't have much to go on as there were no witnesses.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go by**

G

15 go on sth

BrE if an amount of something, especially money, goes on a particular thing, it is spent on or used for that thing: *A large proportion of my salary goes on our mortgage.*

go on doing sth *The money we raised went on rebuilding the church tower.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go towards/toward**

16 go on

if a light, machine, or piece of equipment goes on, it starts working: *The inside light goes on automatically when you open the door.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come on**

● OPPOSITE: **go off**

17 as time/the day/the years etc go on

used to describe what happens while time passes: *As time went on, we no longer seemed to have much in common.* | *I feel fine in the morning, but I tend to get worse as the day goes on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wear on**

18 be going on for 18/60 etc BrE

be going on 18/60 etc AmE

informal to be almost a particular age: *"How old's Michael?" "He must be going on for 50 by now."*

17 going on 18/35 going on 40 etc *She must be about seventeen, going on eighteen.*

19 go on sth

to start taking a type of medical drug: *I don't want to go on sleeping pills, if I can possibly avoid it.*

go on the pill (=start taking the pill that prevents you from having a baby) *During the 1960s, a lot of women started to go on the pill.*

go on with**have enough to go on with**

BrE informal to have enough of something, so that you do not need any more at the moment: *Have you got enough money to be going on with?* | *I think I've got enough work to go on with for now, thank you.*

go out**1 go out**

to leave a building, room etc in order to go somewhere else: *Maria got up and went out, closing the door behind her.* | *Do you want to go out into the garden?*

2 go out

to leave your house in order to meet people, enjoy yourself etc: *I'm going out to the cinema this evening.* | *Let's go out and celebrate!*

+ **for** *Do you want to go out for a pizza tonight?*

+ **to do sth** *Will's just gone out to play football with the other boys.*

● OPPOSITE: **stay in, stop in** BrE informal

3 go out

to travel to another country, especially one that is far away: *My sister lives in Toronto and we're all going out there in the summer.*

+ **to** *Louise has gone out to Australia to try and find a job for the summer.*

4 goes out

if a light goes out, it stops shining: *We were having dinner when suddenly the lights went out.* | *I sat and watched all the lights in the houses go out one by one.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go off, go on**

● OPPOSITE: **come on**

5 go out

to stop burning: *In the end there was no more wood and the fire went out.* | *By now, the barbecue had gone out and it was starting to rain.*

6 go out

if news or an official message goes out, it is announced or sent to people: *The news went out that Mandela was about to be released.*

+ to *Invitations to the conference went out to twenty-five countries.*

word went out that (=people were saying that something had happened or was about to happen) *Word went out that the President was dead.*

7 go out

to stop being fashionable, or stop being the normal thing that is used: *People used to wear white leather boots – but they went out years ago.*

go out of fashion *Computer games cost a fortune and then they go out of fashion in a couple of months.*

8 go out and do sth

to do something difficult in a determined way, even though it is difficult and needs a lot of effort: *"We're going to go out and win the game on Thursday," said catcher Charles Johnson.* | *If a single mother has to go out and find a job that will provide for her family, it's very hard.* | *"I want you go out and find him," Vincent said.*

9 go out

if money goes out, it is spent, especially on bills, rent, food, and other things that you have to pay for regularly: *Everything's so expensive – my money goes out almost as soon as I get it.* | *I sat down to make a list of what comes in and what goes out each month.*

● OPPOSITE: **come in**

outgoings N [PLURAL]

BrE the money which you have to spend regularly each month or year, for example on bills or rent: *If your outgoings are high, it's difficult to save money as well.*

10 go out

to be broadcast on television or radio: *The interview will go out live at 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be broadcast**

11 the tide/sea goes out

if the tide goes out, the sea moves away from the land and the water level goes down. The tide is the regular movement of the sea caused by the moon: *It can be dangerous to swim here when the tide's going out.*

● OPPOSITE: **come in**

12 go out

to lose a game against another player or team, so that you cannot continue in a sports competition: *Becker went out in the quarter finals at Wimbledon.*

+ of *Tiger Woods went out of the championships, after a disastrous second round.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go down**

go out of

go out of sth/sb

if the excitement, energy etc goes out of something or someone, they no longer have it: *As soon as my father retired, all the life seemed to go out of him.* | *He didn't feel like playing in the band anymore. All the fun and excitement had gone out of it.*

go out to

your sympathy/heart/thoughts etc go out to sb

used to say that you feel a lot of sympathy for someone because they are in a very sad or difficult situation: *Our sympathy goes out to all the families affected by this tragedy.* | *When I heard that she'd lost her baby my heart went out to her.*

go out together/with

go out together

go out with sb

to meet someone regularly and go to different places with them because you are having a romantic or sexual relationship with someone: *They'd been going out together for three years before they decided to get married.* | *I only went out with Pete a couple of times – he wasn't really my type!*

* SIMILAR TO: **date**

go over

1 go over

to visit someone who lives near you for a short time: *Debbie's out of hospital – I think I might go over and see her this evening.*

+ to *I'm going over to Steve's for dinner.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go round** BrE

2 go over

to visit a place that is across the sea

+ to *We're going over to Ireland to see Jenny's family.*

3 go over sth

to examine or discuss something carefully and in detail: *The President was in his study, going over his speech for the following day.* | *The jury spent 14 hours going over all the evidence, before coming to their final decision.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go through**

4 go over sth

to explain something to someone to make sure that they have understood it, often when you have already explained it before: *I'll go over the main points again in next week's class.* | *Our boss went over what we had to do when the visitors arrived.*

5 **go over** sth

to keep thinking about something that has happened or something that someone has said to you, especially something unpleasant or annoying: *Neil kept going over what had happened, trying to work out how it had all gone so terribly wrong.*

go over sth in your mind *She went over it again and again in her mind. Why had Robert been so unfriendly? Had she offended him?*

6 **go over well** ALSO **go over big** AmE informal

if something new goes over well or big, people like it
+ **with** *Mexico's new coach made some changes to the team that did not go over well with the fans.* | *Limonia, the new Greek restaurant, has gone over big with the residents of Sun City Vistoso.*

how sth will go over (=whether people will like something or not) *The play was a great success in Britain, but we don't know how it will go over in America.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go down**

7 **go over** sth

to clean something thoroughly: *Simon went over the carpet with the vacuum cleaner.*

* SIMILAR TO:

give sth a going-over

BrE informal to clean something: *I need to give the house a good going-over before Mum comes to stay.*

8 **go over** sth

to search a place very carefully: *I've gone over every inch of the house, but I can't find my ring anywhere.*

go over sth with a fine-tooth comb (=search a place extremely carefully) *The police thought that Leigh had drugs in her apartment and they went over it with a fine-tooth comb.*

go overboard**go overboard**

to do something too much, or react in an extreme way, for example by praising or criticizing someone or something too much: *"It's one of the best films I've ever seen." "There's no need to go overboard – it wasn't that good."*

+ **on/with** *People seem to be going overboard on health and fitness these days.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go over the top**

go over to1 **go over to** sth

to change to a different system or a different

way of doing things: *We used to have gas heaters, but now we've gone over to solar power.* | *Britain went over to the decimal system in 1971. Before that everything was in pounds, shillings, and pence.* | *Most colleges have gone over to the modular system, which means you can do your degree in parts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **change over to sth, switch over to sth**

2 **go over to** sth

to leave a group or organization and join the one that is opposing them: *If the army went over to the rebels, the government would collapse.* | *Emma Nicholson, the MP who left the Conservative Party and went over to the Liberal Democrats* | *Anakin Skywalker went over to the dark side and became Darth Vader.*

go round BrESEE **go around****go round together/with** BrESEE **go around with****go through**1 **go through** sth

to experience something, especially a difficult or unpleasant situation, or a period of time when a lot of changes happen: *We've been through a tough time lately, but hopefully things will start to improve soon.* | *The company is going through a period of great change, and no one knows if their job is safe.*

sb went through a lot (=a lot of bad things happened to them) *She went through a lot when she was young – her father died when she was only 6 months old.*

2 **go through** sth

to carefully examine all of a group of things in order to try to find something: *Dave went through his pockets again, but he still couldn't find the address.* | *After his mother died, he had to go through all the old family photographs and papers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **look through**

3 **go through** sth

to carefully read or discuss something, to check that it is correct and acceptable: *Could you just go through this file and mark anything that seems wrong?* | *I sat down at my desk and went through the police reports again, to check that I hadn't missed anything.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go over**

4 **go through** sth

to talk about all of the details of something to someone, in order to make sure that they understand it: *Can you ask her to go through the last part again? I didn't quite catch what*

she meant. | Do you want to go through the main points again?

* SIMILAR TO: explain

5 go through sth

to practise something such as a song or dance: *Let's go through the song again from the beginning.*

* SIMILAR TO: practise

6 go through sth

if something or someone goes through a test, check, or an official process, they are tested or checked in order to make sure that they are suitable for something: *Every car goes through a series of safety checks before it leaves the factory.* | *You have to go through a lengthy process before being allowed to adopt a child.*

7 go through

if a law, an agreement, or an official request to do something goes through, it is officially accepted or approved: *If the bill goes through, university students will have to pay part of their tuition fees.* | *Your application for a loan has gone through.* | *Donna plans to remarry as soon as her divorce has gone through.*

8 go through sth

to use all of something in a short time, especially when it seems a lot: *Austria is very expensive – we went through all our money in the first week.* | *We go through about ten pints of milk a day.*

* SIMILAR TO: get through

9 go through sb/sth

to ask a particular person, department etc to deal with your problems or needs because they are officially responsible for that type of thing: *The school principal controls the budget, and all requests for new books must go through her.*

go through the proper channels (=follow the official way of asking permission for something, making a complaint etc) *You can't just get a visa from the post office – you have to go through the proper channels.*

10 go through

to take part in the next part of a competition, because you have won the part before it

† to Agassi and Sampras will go through to the Wimbledon final.

11 go through sth

to make a hole in something by accident, for example in a piece of clothing that you have worn a lot: *My toe has gone through my sock.*

* SIMILAR TO: wear through

12 go through sb's mind/head

if something goes through your mind or head, you think about it: *The same questions kept going through my mind again and again.* | *I looked at Doyle and wondered what was going through his head.*

go through with

go through with sth

to do something you had promised or planned to do, even though it seems difficult or unpleasant, or you are no longer sure you want to do it: *Giving evidence in court was terrifying, but I'm glad that I went through with it.*

can't/couldn't go through with it. *Jenny was going to have an abortion, but decided that she couldn't go through with it.*

go to

1 go to sb

if money or a prize goes to someone, they are given it: *All the money raised will go to local charities.* | *And the award for best film goes to... 'Shakespeare in Love'.*

2 go to a lot of effort/trouble/expense etc

to try very hard or spend a lot of money in order to do something: *The meal was absolutely amazing. They'd obviously gone to a lot of trouble to get it just right.* | *Parents often go to a great deal of expense in order to make sure that their children get a good education.*

3 go to it

AmE spoken informal used to tell or encourage someone to do something: *"The kitchen really needs to be cleaned." "Yeah, go to it."*

* SIMILAR TO: get to it

go together

1 go together NOT PROGRESSIVE

if two things go together, they look, taste, or sound good together: *Do these trousers and this jacket go together?* | *Tina's voice and Rhys's songwriting style go together perfectly.*

go well together *Pork and apple go well together.*

2 go together NOT PROGRESSIVE

if two things go together, they often exist together or are often connected with each other: *The problems of poor housing and bad health often go together.* | *Traditionally, Christmas and snow have always gone together.* | *Horse racing and Ireland go together – it is said that there are as many horses as people.*

* SIMILAR TO: go hand in hand

3 be going together

informal if two people are going together, they are having a romantic or sexual relationship: *I didn't know Sharon and Les were going together.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go out together**

go towards/toward

● British people usually use **go towards**. American people usually use **go toward**.

go towards/toward sth NOT PASSIVE

if an amount of money goes towards something, it is used to help pay for something or for a particular purpose: *My parents gave me \$300 to go toward a new computer. | All the money raised will go towards local charities.*

go under**1 go under**

if a company or business goes under, it has to close because it does not make enough money to continue: *Many restaurants go under in their first year. | The business went under, and then his wife left him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go bankrupt**

2 go under go under sth

to become unconscious, because you have been given an anaesthetic (=a drug used by doctors to stop you from feeling pain) *The nurse injected something into my arm, and I immediately felt myself going under.*

3 go under

to sink below the surface of the water: *We watched from the lifeboat as the great ship finally went under.*

go up**1 go up**

if a price or the level of something goes up, it increases: *The rate of violent crime among young people in the US is still going up. | House prices in this area are going up and up. | Because of fierce competition, the price of computers keeps going down, while their quality keeps going up. | Cigarettes have gone up. (=have become more expensive)*

* SIMILAR TO: **rise, increase**

● OPPOSITE: **go down**

2 go up

to travel north

+ to *We stayed in San Francisco and then went up to Seattle for a few days.*

● OPPOSITE: **go down**

3 go up

BrE to go to a town or city from a smaller

place: *I'd like to go up to London to do some Christmas shopping.*

4 go up

to walk until you are next to someone or something, in order to talk to them or do something: *The boys went up and asked her for her autograph.*

+ to *Dylan went up to the microphone and started singing.*

5 go up

if new buildings go up, they are built: *New high-rise apartment buildings are going up all around the town.*

6 go up

to explode or start burning: *A lit cigarette fell on the sofa, and within minutes the whole room had gone up.*

go up in flames *The car rolled down the bank and went up in flames.*

7 go up

if a shout, cry etc goes up, the people in a place make a noise that expresses how they feel: *A groan went up as Miss Hirsch reminded the class about their vocabulary test. | A wild cheer went up from the people standing on the street, as a fireman emerged from the house carrying a child.*

8 go up

BrE to move to a higher group of sports teams and players who play together: *United will go up to the first division next season.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be promoted**

● OPPOSITE: **go down** BrE, **be relegated**

9 the lights go up

if the lights go up in a cinema or theatre, they are turned on because the film or show has ended: *The lights went up, and people started to leave the cinema.*

● OPPOSITE: **the lights go down** BrE *old-fashioned*

10 go up

BrE *old-fashioned* to begin studying at university

+ to *She went up to Oxford in 1975.*

● OPPOSITE: **go down**

go up against**go up against sb**

especially AmE to compete against someone, especially in sport, business, or in a court of law: *The LA Raiders go up against the Green Bay Packers on August 7. | It's almost impossible for an ordinary person to go up against a big company that can afford to hire top lawyers.*

go up to**go up to** sb/sth

to reach as far as a particular place or continue until a particular time: *Our garden goes up to these bushes – the rest belongs to the neighbours.* | *The financial year only goes up to April.*

go with**1 go with sth**

if one thing goes with another, they look, taste, or sound good together: *Do you think these shoes go with this dress?* | *That shade of blue goes with your eyes.*

go well with sth *This wine should go well with meat and strong-tasting cheeses*

2 go with sth

if something such as a problem or an advantage goes with a particular situation, it is often a part of it: *the pressure that goes with being famous* | *They were used to having pension, and sick pay, and everything that goes with having a secure job.*

sth goes with the territory (=used to say that a problem is a usual part of a job or situation, and people should expect it)
Young lawyers have to work extremely long hours, but that just goes with the territory.

3 go with sth

if one thing goes with another, it is provided with it so that you get both together: *The house goes with the job.* | *a blue silk evening dress that has a matching bag to go with it*

4 go with sth

especially spoken to accept an idea, suggestion, plan etc and decide to use it: *"What do you think of Jo's idea?" "I think we should go with it, I can't think of anything better."*

5 go with sb

spoken to have someone as your boyfriend or girlfriend: *Is Martin still going with Jane?*

* SIMILAR TO: **go out with**

6 go with sb

BrE old-fashioned spoken to have sex with someone – used when you want to avoid saying this directly: *I never went with him, you know.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sleep with**

go without**go without** **go without sth** ✕

to not have something that you usually have: *We can't afford a holiday this year, so we'll just have to go without.* | *I can't party all night and go without sleep like I used to when I was younger.*

GOAD

goaded, goading, goading

goad into**goad sb into sth** ✕

to make someone do something that they do not want to do, by annoying them or encouraging them until they do it: *Denton had deliberately goaded Polly into saying more than she intended.* | *Alexei refused to be goaded into an argument.*

goad on**goad sb on** USUALLY PASSIVE

to encourage someone to do something, especially something that is bad or not sensible, by making them angry or telling them that they are not clever enough or brave enough to do it: *The boy had dived from the bridge, goaded on by a crowd of his friends.* | *Daly, goaded on by the manager's impatience, somehow succeeded in getting the business working.*

* SIMILAR TO: **egg on, lead on**

GOBBLE

gobbled, gobbling, gobbling

gobble down**gobble down sth** **gobble sth down** **G**

informal to eat something very quickly and eagerly: *Today's kids gobble down bagfuls of cookies, potato chips and other junk foods.* | *Joseph joined us for lunch, gobbled it down and rushed back to work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gobble up informal, wolf down informal**

gobble up**1 gobble up sth** **gobble sth up**

informal to use or take a lot of something such as land or money, especially in a way that seems unreasonable: *Developers were gobbling up hundreds of acres of land to build houses.* | *It's a very poor country – just paying its debts gobbles up 30% of its budget each year.*

2 gobble up sth **gobble sth up**

if one company gobbles up a smaller company, it buys it and takes control of it: *Uniford moved to gobble up its rival, Clifton Foods, in a £48 million offer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take over**

3 gobble up sth **gobble sth up**

informal to eat all of something very quickly and eagerly: *I thought I'd made plenty of sandwiches for the picnic, but everyone just gobbled them up.*

GOOF

goofed, goofed, goofing

goof around

goof around goof around sth

AmE *informal* to spend time doing something in a silly or not very serious way, especially for fun: *We weren't really playing basketball. We were mostly just goofing around. | I was goofing around on my bike and I broke my arm. | We just goofed around London all day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess around/about** *informal*, **muck about/around** BrE *informal*

goof off

goof off

AmE *informal* to spend time doing silly things and having fun, when you should be working: *In high school I just goofed off most of the time, but when I went to college I started to study a lot more.*

* SIMILAR TO: **skive off** BrE *informal*, **screw around** AmE *informal*

goof-off N [C]

AmE *informal* someone who wastes time being silly and having fun instead of working: *He eventually made the transformation from high school goof-off to successful scholar.*

goof up

goof up goof sth up goof up sth

AmE *informal* to make a silly mistake or do something badly: *Oops, I goofed up and told Chloe the party was at your house. | If I try to say it in Spanish, I'll goof it up.*

+ *On* *The good news was that she didn't goof up on the test.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **screw up** *informal*

GORGE

gorged, gorged, gorging

gorge on

1 gorge yourself on sth

to eat large amounts of something that you enjoy eating, especially more than is good for you: *We all stood around gorging ourselves on raspberries and cream. | As a boy, he used to gorge himself on chocolate and candy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pig out on sth** *informal*

2 gorge yourself on sth

to have or do something that you enjoy so much that it has a bad effect on you, or you feel bored with it: *When I first left home I gorged myself on an endless round of late-night parties.*

GOUGE

gouged, gouged, gouging

gouge out

gouge out sth gouge sth out

to remove something or dig it out, especially in a very violent way using something sharp: *McClaren had struck Robert with a bottle and attempted to gouge out his eyes. | 30,000 tonnes of rock a week are gouged out of the mountains.*

GRAB

grabbed, grabbed, grabbing

grab at

1 grab at sb/sth

to quickly try to catch or hold someone or something: *We both grabbed at the bird, but it flew up into the trees. | He stumbled forward and grabbed at the door handle to steady himself.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grasp at**

2 grab at sth

to take an opportunity very eagerly: *Seline grabbed at every chance to go out in the evening. | I grabbed at every invitation I received.*

* SIMILAR TO: **seize on/upon**

GRAFT

grafted, grafted, grafting

graft on/onto

graft sth on/onto sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to add a new idea, method, system etc to one that already exists, and try to combine the two: *New elements of democracy are being grafted on to the traditional system of government. | Some ancient practices were grafted onto the new religion.*

GRAPPLE

grappled, grappled, grappling

grapple with

grapple with sth

to try to deal with or understand a difficult problem, subject etc: *In the north, the people have been grappling with the problem of unemployment for years. | Some of the students are having difficulty in grappling with the mysteries of electronics.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wrestle with**

GRASP

grasped, grasped, grasping

grasp at**1** grasp at sth

to quickly try to catch or hold someone or something: *His foot slipped and he grasped at a piece of jutting wood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grab at, clutch at**

2 grasp at sth

to try to use any opportunity or idea that might help you in a difficult situation, although it is not very likely to be successful: *The President was grasping at some way to stay in power. | Leonore grasped at the chance to prove herself as a member of the team.*

3 be grasping at straws

if you say that someone is grasping at straws, you mean that they are unlikely to succeed because they are in a hopeless situation, and there is no method that will work: *"We may be able to appeal," the lawyer said. He was grasping at straws.*

GRASS

grassed, grassed, grassing

grass on

grass on sb

BrE *informal* to tell people in authority about something illegal or bad that a person has done: *Scarlet promised that she wouldn't grass on Charlie if the police came looking for him. | Some of the men had been beaten up for grassing on other prisoners.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inform on, grass up** BrE *informal*

grass over

grass sth over grass over sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

to plant grass over an area of land: *Eventually the flower beds were flattened and grassed over.*

grass up

grass sb up grass up sb

BrE *informal* if someone grasses up a person that they know, they tell people in authority about something illegal or bad that the person has done: *When my mum found out about the drugs, she went to the police. She grassed me up. | The officer publicly accused his colleagues of racism and was himself accused of grassing up his mates.*

* SIMILAR TO: **inform on, grass on** BrE *informal*

GRATE

grated, grated, grating

grate on

grate on sb/sth

if someone's voice or behaviour grates on you, you find it annoying: *Her voice was already starting to grate on him, and he didn't think he could put up with her for a whole evening.*

grate on sb's nerves *The sound of Anna crunching her toast was grating on his nerves.*

GRAVITATE

gravitated, gravitated, gravitating

gravitate to/towardsALSO **gravitate toward** AmE

gravitate to sth/sb

gravitate towards/toward sth/sb

to be attracted to something or someone and therefore move towards them or become interested in them: *Tourists naturally gravitate to the city's older section. | As students in the early 1960s, we gravitated towards politics.*

GRIND

ground, ground, grinding

grind away

grind away USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal to work very hard for a long period of time, especially when the work is boring or you do not seem to be making much progress: *I've been grinding away for eight hours now, and I'm getting nowhere.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slave away, boil away, slog away** BrE *informal*

grind away at

grind away at sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to gradually make something less strong or successful than it was before: *The scandal is grinding away at the President's popularity.*

grind down**1** grind down sb/sth grind sb/sth down

to gradually make someone lose their confidence, hope, or energy: *A lot of the women have been ground down by illness and poverty. | It was a poor country, ground down by war and economic blockade. | Don't let the bastards grind you down!*

* SIMILAR TO: **wear down**

2 grind down sth grind sth down

to make something solid into a powder, by crushing it: *Chop the nuts and then grind them down before adding them to the sauce.*

* SIMILAR TO: grind up

grind on

grind on

to continue for a long time in a slow and boring way: *The trial ground on all through the long hot summer.* | *The conversation ground on as the meal was consumed.*

* SIMILAR TO: drag on

grind out

1 grind out sth grind sth out

to keep producing the same type of thing, without ever producing anything different or interesting: *In nine months she managed to grind out five new romantic novels.*

* SIMILAR TO: churn out

2 grind out sth grind sth out

AmE informal to manage to do something with a lot of effort: *The home team were only able to grind out one touchdown against the Lions.*

grind up

grind up sth grind sth up

to make something solid into a powder, by crushing it: *Local people grind up the leaves and use them to make tea.* | *Mad cow disease started when parts of infected sheep were ground up and mixed with cattle feed.*

* SIMILAR TO: grind down

GROAN

groaned, groaned, groaning

groan with

be groaning with sth

BrE to be covered or filled with a very large amount of something: *We sat down at a table groaning with food and glasses of wine.* | *The room was dark and lined with shelves groaning with ancient books.*

GROPE

groped, groped, groping

grope for

grope for sth

to try hard to find a way of saying or doing something, often without success: *"It was incredible," Martin said, groping for words to describe the scene.* | *Politicians have been groping for a solution to the problem for years.*

GROSS

grossed, grossed, grossing

gross out

gross sb out gross out sb

AmE informal if someone or something grosses you out, they are so unpleasant that they almost make you feel sick: *Ben used to gross me out. He always had his tongue sticking out of his mouth.* | *It reminded me of the flesh-eaters that grossed out movie-goers in 'Night of the Living Dead.'*

* SIMILAR TO: disgust

gross-out ADJ

extremely rude or unpleasant: *I can't take his gross-out jokes.*

gross up

gross sth up gross up sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

especially BrE to increase a sum of money by adding the amount of tax that will be paid on it: *This £75, when grossed up, will be worth £93.75 to the taxpayer.*

GROUND

grounded, grounded, grounding

be grounded in

be grounded in sth

to have a thorough basic knowledge of something you have been taught

be well grounded In those days, he said, students were well grounded in spelling.

be grounded in/on

be grounded in/on sth

to be based on something: *All these beliefs and attitudes are grounded in experience.* | *The education reforms were grounded on a concern with the quality of teaching.*

ground out

ground out

AmE to be out of a baseball game because you hit the ball on the ground and a player from the other team throws it to the base before you get there: *Erikson eventually grounded out, and the Braves didn't score any more runs that inning.*

GROW

grew, grown, growing

grow apart

grow apart

if two people grow apart, they gradually stop

sharing the same interests and ideas and stop having a close relationship with each other: *Sadly, after eight years of being married to each other, they just grew apart.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drift apart**

grow away from

grow away from sb

especially BrE to gradually feel less close to someone and less fond of them, because you have changed as you have become older: *All children must grow away from their parents as they get older.*

grow into

1 grow into sth

if children grow into clothes, they become big enough for the clothes to fit them: *The coat looks a bit big on him now; but he'll soon grow into it.*

2 grow into sth

to gradually learn how to deal with a new job or situation confidently: *Slowly Anne grew into the role of senior manager. | I was very nervous when I first started acting, but I soon grew into it.*

grow on

grow on sb

informal if someone or something grows on you, you gradually like them more although you did not like them much at first: *We really didn't like our neighbours when we came here, but they've grown on us now. | Some movies grow on you after repeated viewings.*

grow out of

1 grow out of sth ✗

if children grow out of something, they stop doing it or are no longer interested in it as they get older: *At eighteen months my son was very shy, but he soon grew out of it.*

2 grow out of sth ✗

if children grow out of clothes, they become too big to wear them: *Kids grow out of shoes within three to six months.*

3 grow out of sth ✓

to develop as the result of something: *The book grew out of our work with dozens of businesses and professional organizations. | The Labour Party grew out of the Trade Union movement.*

grow up

1 grow up

to change from being a child into an adult: *The kids have all grown up now and we want*

to move into a smaller house. | Pat has grown up to be a hunky muscular six foot two.

grown-up N [C]

informal an adult, used especially by children, or by adults talking to children: *Edna is babysitting for you tonight. She's a grown-up now.*

grown-up ADJ

if someone's children are grown-up, they have become adults: *"How many kids have you got?" "Two, but they're both grown-up now."*

2 grow up

if you grow up in a place, you live there during the time when you are a child: *Phillips grew up in Southern California.*

3 grow up doing sth

to spend a lot of time doing something when you are a child: *I grew up listening to this kind of music.*

4 grow up

to start to behave in a more sensible, adult way, used about both children and adults: *Gabrielle's grown up a lot since she started her new school. | I wish you'd stop fooling around and grow up!*

grown-up ADJ

if you say that a child is grown-up, you mean that they behave in a sensible, adult way: *My daughter's thirteen but she's very grown-up for her age.*

5 grow up

if something grows up, it begins to exist and then gradually becomes bigger or more important: *The town grew up around the magnificent 13th century castle. | New industries generally grow up in order to meet a demand.*

grow up on

grow up on sth

to experience or do something a lot during the time when you are a child, so that it has a strong influence in your life: *This generation has grown up on TV. They can't imagine life without it. | I grew up on the Beatles.*

GRUB

grubbed, grubbed, grubbing

grub about/around

1 grub about/around

BrE informal to search for something by digging or moving things with your hands: *Jasper had got down on the floor and was grubbing about under the carpet.*

2 grub about/around

BrE informal to try to find something that is difficult to find

+ for *We were desperately grubbing around for an answer to the problem.*

grub up/out

grub sth up/out grub up/out sth

BrE to dig something out of the ground roughly: *Between 1946 and 1963, 85,000 miles of hedges were grubbed out.* | *The pigs live on roots which they grub up from the ground.*

GUARD

guarded, guarded, guarding

guard against

1 guard against sth ✕

to help to prevent something from happening, by providing protection against it: *Fibre in the diet is thought to guard against heart disease.* | *These gates act as a safety measure to guard against flooding.*

2 guard against sth

to be careful to avoid doing, feeling etc something, because it could have a bad result or effect: *It's vital to guard against getting overtired when you're driving long distances.* | *In any relationship you should try to guard against misunderstandings.*

G

GUESS

guessed, guessed, guessing

guess at

guess at sth

to give an answer or opinion about something which you realize may not be correct, because you do not have all the information you need: *The police can only guess at the scale of the problem.* | *We were able to guess at the true identity of the characters in the book.*

GULP

gulped, gulped, gulping

gulp back

gulp back sth

literary to try not to cry or show what you are feeling, especially by swallowing quickly: *"That's fine," I said, gulping back my disappointment.*

gulp back your tears *Jenna gulped back her tears and turned away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold back**

gulp down

gulp down sth gulp sth down ✕

to swallow large amounts of drink or food very quickly: *She ordered a glass of wine, gulped it down and rushed off.* | *Mattie had a quick break for lunch, gulping down a couple of sandwiches and a coffee.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wolf down** informal

GUM

gummed, gummed, gumming

gum up

1 gum up sth gum sth up

to prevent something from happening or working properly: *If someone is gumming up the system by being too slow, we can't afford to keep them.*

gum up the works (=prevent a machine or system from working properly) *Dust gets in between the keys and gums up the works.*

2 be gummed up

if your eyes are gummed up, it is difficult to open them because they feel sticky: *When I woke up my eyes were totally gummed up – yuk!*

GUN

gunned, gunned, gunning

gun down

gun sb down gun down sb

to shoot someone and kill or injure them, especially when they cannot escape or defend themselves: *The journalist had been gunned down in the driveway of his San Francisco home.* | *The men dragged Oliveros out of his car and gunned him down in the street.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shoot, shoot down**

be gunning for

1 be gunning for sth

to be trying to get or win something, by competing against other people: *Manchester United were gunning for their third straight win.* | *He is now said to be gunning for the top job at the Daily Mail.*

2 be gunning for sb

informal to be trying to make trouble for someone or to harm them, especially because you are angry with them about something: *I didn't know that by then the terrorists were gunning for me, too.* | *She now has half the Labour Party gunning for her.*

GUSSY*gussied, gussied, gussying***gussy up****gussy yourself up/get gussied up**

AmE *old fashioned* to dress yourself in your best clothes so that you look attractive: *Get yourself gussied up and meet at the Club Congress on Wednesday evening.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dress up**

gussied-up ADJ

dressed in your best clothes: *The orchestra performed for a gussied-up audience.*

H

HACK

hacked, hacked, hacking

hack about

hack sth about

BrE informal to make a lot of small changes to a book, play, film etc – often used when you disapprove of the way this has been done: *I wish they'd left the play as it was in the original version, instead of hacking it about and trying to make it sound modern.*

hack away

1 hack away

to cut something with repeated movements of a knife or something sharp, without being very careful about what you are doing: *The hairdresser grabbed a piece of my hair and started hacking away before I could say anything.*

+ at *Jim went first, hacking away at the branches to clear a path.*

2 hack away

to gradually reduce something, for example by using or removing part of it

+ at *The accountants have been hacking away at the budget for months.* | *Tiger Woods began hacking away at his opponent's lead.*

hack down

hack down sth hack sth down

to roughly cut down something such as trees or plants: *We started to clear the garden, by hacking down trees and weeds.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cut down**

hack into

hack into sth

to use a computer to secretly and often illegally get into someone else's computer system without their permission, so that you can look at information: *An Edinburgh University student used a simple desktop machine to hack into computers around the world.* | *Morris, 25, is charged under the 1986 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act with hacking into a federal computer network.*

hack off

1 be hacked off

BrE informal to feel very annoyed or angry: *I'm*

feeling really hacked off at work at the moment. They're expecting me to do loads of overtime for free.

+ with/about *Fans are hacked off by the team's poor performance in recent games.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be pissed off** informal, **be fed up** informal

2 hack off sth hack sth off

to remove something by cutting it with a knife or something sharp, in a rough and careless way: *They started to hack off the dead branches.* | *One of his arms had been hacked off with a machete.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chop off**

hack up

1 hack up sth hack sth up

to get something out of your throat or lungs by coughing violently: *It was a shock when I saw him sit up in bed and hack up some blood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cough up**, **bring up**, **spew up** BrE informal

2 hack up sth hack sth up

to cut something into pieces using a knife or something sharp, without being very careful about what you are doing: *John used the axe to hack up some of the larger pieces of wood, and we carefully built a small campfire.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chop up**

HAIL

hailed, hailed, hailing

hail as

hail sb/sth as sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to publicly describe someone or something as being very good or special in a particular way, especially on television, radio, or in the newspapers: *Haydn was hailed as a genius only at the end of his life.* | *A new wonder-drug has been hailed as a breakthrough in the fight against cancer.* | *Auto safety advocates hailed the new seatbelt law as a victory.* | *Politicians in Bonn honored former French president Francois Mitterrand, hailing him as a loyal friend of Germany.*

hail from

hail from sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

to come from a particular place or type of family – used especially in newspaper or television reports about people: *Joan hails from Newcastle, and her hobbies are reading and listening to music.* | *Both his parents hailed from prominent tobacco-growing families.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come from**

HAM

hammered, hammed, hamming

ham up

ham it up *informal*

to behave or perform in a silly or funny way or with a lot of false emotion, in order to get people's attention or entertain them: *Karpow was in a good mood at a news conference last Tuesday, hamming it up and chatting easily with reporters.*

† for *On Christmas Eve night, he'll put on a Santa suit and ham it up for the kids.*

HAMMER

hammered, hammered, hammering

hammer at

hammer at *sth*

especially AmE to keep talking about a particular subject, especially publicly, because you think it is important and want to attract people's attention to it: *Dole hammered at the latest statistics, showing that teenage drug use has more than doubled in the last four years.* | *Throughout the election campaign, Weld continued to hammer at the issues of crime, welfare and taxes.*

hammer away**1 hammer away**

to hit something hard continuously, especially making a loud noise: *I could hear the workmen hammering away downstairs.* | *Fleisher has finally learned to play the piano properly, rather than hammering away with his fingers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang away**

2 hammer away

to work hard at something for a long time in a determined way: *It was incredibly boring work, but we hammered away on our ancient typewriters until it was done.*

† at *Bill's got to finish the article by tomorrow, even if it means hammering away at it all night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bash away** *informal*, especially BrE, **slave away**, **slog away** BrE *informal*

3 hammer away

to keep talking about something a lot in order to persuade people to agree with you, understand how important it is etc: *"Keep hammering away," David said. "They'll see what we mean in the end."*

† at *Clinton hammered away at the same issues throughout the election campaign.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bang on** BrE *informal*, **go on** *informal*

hammer down

hammer down *sth* **hammer** *sth* **down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to sell something at an auction. An auction is a public sale, where land and property are sold to the person who offers the most money for them

† for *A painting by Van Gogh was hammered down for a record \$53.9 million.*

hammer in/into

hammer *sth* **in** **hammer** *sth* **into** *sb*

to repeat something again and again so that people completely understand it or accept that it is true or right: *Principles of right and wrong have been hammered into us since childhood.* | *Just telling them once won't work. You've got to hammer it in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **drum into**, **drill into**

hammer out

hammer out *sth* **hammer** *sth* **out**

to get an agreement with another person, country, organization etc after a lot of discussion and argument: *The two sides met to try to hammer out a peace agreement.* | *A deal is being hammered out with the banks, to give Honduras more time to pay off its loans.* | *Recent talks are aimed at hammering out a treaty to be signed next June in Rio de Janeiro.*

* SIMILAR TO: **thrash out**

HAND**hand around**

ALSO **hand round** BrE

hand around/round *sth*

hand *sth* **around/round**

to give something, for example a drink, some food, or a piece of paper, to each person in a group: *I'm handing round a summary of last week's lecture.*

† to *Sally put the chicken soup into bowls and handed them around to us.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass around**, **hand out**

hand back

1 hand back *sth* **hand** *sth* **back**

to give something that you are holding back to someone after they have given it to you: *She handed back the money and told him she didn't want it.*

† to *The customs officer looked at his passport and handed it back to him.*

hand sb back sth (=hand it back to them)
He asked Wainright to hand him back his piece of paper.

* SIMILAR TO: **give back, return** formal

2 hand back sth hand sth back

to give something back to the person, organization, country etc that owns it, or that used to own it: *Japan wants Russia to hand back the islands, which were occupied at the end of World War II.*

+ to *Britain handed Hong Kong back to China in 1997.*

hand sb back sth (=hand it back to them)
Jewish families are trying to persuade Swiss banks to hand them back some of the money that was taken from them during the War.

3 hand back sb hand sb back

to give someone such as a prisoner or a child back, for example to the country or family that they come from: *Chile wants Britain to hand back Pinochet, so that he can be tried in his own country.*

+ to *Thousands of Cossacks were handed back to the Communists, only to be shot or put in prison as soon as they arrived home.*

4 hand you back to sb

especially BrE spoken used by television reporters at the end of their report, to say that the programme is going back to the person who was speaking before: *This is Jon Snow in Washington, handing you back to Trevor McDonald.*

hand down

1 hand down sth hand sth down

USUALLY PASSIVE

to give or teach something to someone, especially a younger member of your family, so that they will have it or know about it after you have died

+ from *ancient stories handed down from father to son* | *Traditional shipbuilding skills have been handed down from generation to generation.*

+ to *The ring had been handed down to her from her grandmother.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass down, pass on, hand on**

2 hand down a decision/judgment/sentence etc

to announce an official decision, especially about the punishment that someone should receive: *The court is expected to hand down its judgment tomorrow morning.* | *Sentences of up to 16 years in prison were handed down to the people responsible for the attack.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give**

hand in

1 hand in sth hand sth in

to give something to someone in authority so that they can have it or deal with it: *I left my bag on the train, but luckily someone handed it in at the lost property office.* | *All foreign residents have been ordered to hand in their passports.* | *A group representing families of the British victims of the disaster handed in a petition to the Prime Minister calling for a public inquiry.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give in**

2 hand in sth hand sth in

to give written work to a teacher so that he or she can check it: *All assignments must be handed in by Friday.* | *"Have you finished your essay?" "I handed it in yesterday."*

* SIMILAR TO: **give in**

3 hand in your resignation/notice

to officially tell your employer that are leaving your job: *She's threatening to hand in her notice if they don't give her a rise.* | *Mr Chevenement handed in his resignation after a bitter clash with President Mitterand.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give in your resignation, resign, quit** informal

hand on

1 hand on sth hand sth on

BrE to give or teach something to someone, especially a younger member of your family, so that they will have it or know about it after you have died

+ from *The house, built in the fifteenth century, was handed on from one generation of the family to the next.*

+ to *Most of the young people have left the island now, so we cannot hand the old traditions on to them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass down, hand down, pass on**

2 hand on sth hand sth on

BrE to give something to someone else so that they can deal with it, look at it, or use it: *He handed the letter on to his lawyers.* | *Most people's income is taxed directly by their employers, who then hand on the money to the tax office.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pass on**

hand out

1 hand out sth hand sth out

to give something such as a book, piece of paper etc to each of the people in a group or to people who are passing: *Doug came into the office and handed out invitations to his 40th birthday party.* | *Students were standing outside the station handing out anti-war leaflets.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give out, hand around**

handout N [C]

a piece of paper given to people who are attending a lesson, meeting etc, with information on it about the subject being taught or discussed: *As usual, Mr Collier started the lesson by passing round several handouts.*

2 hand out sth hand sth out

to give something, especially money or food, to people who need it or for a particular purpose: *The organization hands out around \$50,000 a year to young people with special educational needs.* | *This year the city is planning to hand out less than \$1 billion in social and medical services.*

handout N [C]

money, food etc that is given to someone who needs it or for a particular purpose: *Darlington is planning three major improvement schemes, thanks to a \$700,000 government handout.*

3 hand out sth hand sth out

to give advice, information, criticism etc to someone: *Doctors are used to handing out advice to patients about family planning.* | *This time, Claudine was handing out heavy hints that I had kept her waiting too long.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give out**

4 hand out sth hand sth out

to officially give someone a punishment: *Harsher punishments are being handed out to drunk drivers.* | *Watson showed no emotion when the judge handed out the sentence.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hand down**

hand over**1 hand over sth hand sth over**

to give something to someone, especially after they have asked for it: *The robbers ordered him to hand over all his money.* | *Lucy handed over the car keys to Virginia and sat down in the passenger-seat.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give**

2 hand over sth hand sth over

to give control or responsibility for something to another person, country, organization etc

+ to *Loncar gave in his resignation and handed over his duties to his deputy, Milivoje Maksic.* | *On 7 October 1949 the Russian occupation authorities formally handed over power to the new East German government.*

handover N [SINGULAR]

when control or responsibility for something is given to another person, country, organization etc: *the handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese in 1997*

3 hand sb over hand over sb

to give control or responsibility for someone, especially a prisoner or a child, to another person or authority: *Knight was due to be handed over to the Spanish authorities the next day.* | *The rebels made it clear that they would not hand over the hostages unless their demands were met.*

handover N [SINGULAR]

when a prisoner or child is given to someone else who will be responsible for looking after them: *Arrangements for a handover of prisoners have been made.*

hand over to**hand over to sb**

to let another person speak in a discussion, news report etc after you have finished talking: *Now I'd like to hand over to Dave to tell his side of the story.*

hand round

SEE **hand around**

HANG

hung, hung, hanging

hang about**1 hang about hang about sth**

BrE to spend time somewhere not doing anything, for example because you have nothing to do, or because you are waiting for something or someone: *Daisy hung about until Drew and the team came back to the Land-Rover.* | *Normally he hung about the house during the day, and went out just before his father got back home.*

keep sb hanging about (=make someone have to wait somewhere for a long time, especially in a way that is annoying) *They kept us hanging about at the airport for nearly 5 hours.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang around**

2 hang about USUALLY NEGATIVE

BrE spoken to be slow to start doing something, or to move slowly: *The boss wants it done by this afternoon, so you'd better not hang about.* | *He wasn't hanging about. He must have been doing well over 100 miles an hour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang around**

3 hang about!

a BrE spoken informal used when you suddenly think of something that you want to say or ask and you want the person you are with to listen to you: *Hang about! Where did she get all the money from?*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on!** spoken informal

b BrE spoken informal used to tell someone to stop and wait for you: *Hang about! Can I come too?*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on** spoken informal

hang about together/with

hang about together

hang about with sb

BrE informal to spend a lot of time with someone and be friendly with them: *We used to hang about together when we were young. | Jim tends to hang about with older people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang around together/with**

hang around

ALSO **hang round** BrE

hang around/round USUALLY NEGATIVE

to be slow to start doing something or to move slowly: *The doctor didn't hang around. He picked up the phone and ordered an ambulance straightaway. | There are only a few more tickets left, so you'd better not hang around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang about** BrE

hang around

ALSO **hang round** BrE

1 hang around/round

hang around/round sth

to spend time somewhere not doing anything, for example because you have nothing to do, or because you are waiting for something or someone: *A crowd of photographers had begun hanging around outside the courtroom. | There's no point hanging round this town any longer. Let's get out of here.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang about** BrE

2 hang around/round

hang around/round sb

to spend a lot of time with someone, especially when they do not want you to be with them: *When you're famous you get all kinds of people hanging round you trying to get your money. | Diane was fed up with him hanging around all the time, and told him to go and get a life.*

3 hang around/round

hang around/round sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if something is hanging around, it is not being used or has not been dealt with: *I'm sure I've got an old pair of walking boots hanging around somewhere at home. | There are still one or two problems hanging around unresolved.*

hang around together/with

ALSO **hang round together/with** BrE

hang around/round together

hang around/round with sb

informal to spend a lot of time with someone and be friendly with them: *They used to hang around together a lot when they were at college. | I joined the Scouts because it was fun to hang around with my friends and go on camping trips.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang about together/with** BrE informal

hang back

1 hang back

to not move forward, especially because you are nervous, shy, or worried about what will happen: *When the children reached the school entrance, they stopped and hung back. | Ruth hung back and peered through the open front door, for fear of being seen.*

2 hang back

to not do something or to wait before doing something, especially because you do not want to do it or you are worried about what will happen

+ from doing sth *People are hanging back from demanding full independence, because they feel uncertain about the future.*

there was no hanging back (=someone did something immediately without hesitating) *On their first date he was very shy and unsure of himself, but this time there was no hanging back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold back**

hang in

hang in there

AmE informal to keep trying even when you seem unlikely to succeed at something or the situation is difficult: *Running has taught me to hang in there until the whistle is blown – I don't give up. | Just hang in there, Mr. Mieuli, things will get better.*

hang on

1 hang on USUALLY IN COMMANDS

spoken informal to wait for something or someone for a short time: *Hang on while I turn down the radio, I can't hear what you're saying. | I suppose I could hang on here till she comes back.*

hang on a minute/second *Hang on a minute! We're just coming!*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold on** spoken informal, wait

2 hang on!

spoken informal used when you suddenly think of something that you want to say or ask, or when you are surprised by something that someone has just said: *Hang on! Why don't we go tomorrow instead? The roads will be much less busy.*

hang on a minute/second Now *hang on a minute!* I thought you said that you didn't need any more money!

* SIMILAR TO: **hold on!** *spoken informal*

3 hang on sth

to depend on the result of something in order to be successful: *Everything hangs on the next game. If England lose, they're out of the World Cup.* | *With \$30 billion of trade hanging on the agreement, both countries are hoping that a compromise can be reached.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on, hinge on**

4 hang on

to hold something tightly, for example so that you do not fall or you do not lose what you are holding: *The bus went around a sharp bend, and we all had to hang on tight.* | *The boy tried to get away, but she hung on and refused to let go.*

hang on for dear life (=hang on very tightly, especially because you are very worried that you will fall) *The boat was going up and down, and we were all hanging on for dear life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold on, cling on**

5 hang on sb's every word

to listen carefully to what someone is saying because you are very interested or excited: *I could see that the children were hanging on his every word and waiting to find out what happened at the end of the story.*

6 hang on

to continue doing what you have been doing until now – used especially to say that is difficult to do this: *Everyone is wondering if the President can hang on for another year.* | *The economy's in a bad way, and some firms are barely hanging on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **survive**

7 hang on

if someone hangs on, they continue to live, even though they are very ill and are expected to die soon: *He hung on throughout the night, with his family at his bedside.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold on**

8 hang sth on sb

AmE to blame something on someone, often in an unfair way: *The 49ers' first field-goal was blocked; but you can't hang that on kicker Mike Cofer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **blame**

hang on to/onto**1 hang on to/onto sth**

to succeed in keeping something, even though there is a danger that you will lose what you are holding: *The Republicans managed to hang on to their majority in the Senate.* | *Billy was struggling to hang on to his dignity. He felt he had made a complete fool of himself.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep, hold onto**

2 hang on to/onto sth

to hold something tightly, for example so that you do not fall or you do not lose it: *The little girl hung on to her mother's arm.* | *The driver hung onto the steering wheel and somehow managed to bring the truck to halt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold onto, cling to/cling onto**

3 hang on to/onto sth

to keep something and not sell it, give it to someone, or get rid of it: *It's a beautiful painting. You should hang on to it – it might be worth a lot of money.* | *She showed me a photo from their honeymoon, which she had hung onto for all these years.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep, hold onto**

hang out**1 hang out** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if something is hanging out, part of it is not inside the place where it should be or is where it usually is, and this makes you notice it: *Your shirt's hanging out!* (=it is not in your trousers) | *Tigger was now running round in circles with his tongue hanging out.*

2 hang out sth **hang sth out**

to hang clothes somewhere outside in order to dry them: *Mrs Drake was hanging out the washing in the backyard.*

3 hang out

informal, especially AmE to spend a lot of time somewhere or with someone, relaxing and enjoying yourself: *The cafe was a place where students and musicians hung out.* | *On the weekend he plays golf and hangs out at the club.*

+ **with** *I was just hanging out with some friends and having a good time.*

+ **together** *Tom and Nicole spent a lot of time hanging out together on the set.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax, chill out** *spoken informal*

hangout N [C]

a place where someone goes often in order to relax and meet other people, especially one used by a particular type of person: *The bar was a well-known hangout for hippies and junkies.*

4 **let it all hang out**

old-fashioned *informal* to relax and do whatever you want, without worrying about what other people think: *The 1960s was the time of Peace and Love, when people were letting it all hang out.*

hang over1 **hang over** **sb/sth** 

if something unpleasant hangs over you, it seems likely to happen or is going to happen soon and it makes you feel worried about what will happen: *In 1962 the threat of nuclear war hung over the whole world.* | *Gascoigne wasn't playing very well, and he still had the divorce hanging over him.*

2 **hang over** **sth** 

if doubts hang over something, people do not feel sure that it will happen or be successful: *A big question mark still hangs over Japan's economic recovery.*

hang round *BrE*SEE **hang around****hang together**1 **hang together**

if something such as a book, film, plan etc hangs together, it is good because it is well-organized and all its parts are successful together: *Somehow, I didn't think that the book really hung together.* | *It wasn't until 'Sergeant Pepper' that the band finally produced an album which hung together.*

2 **hang together**

if people hang together, they stay together and help each other to achieve something: *We hung together and came back to win the game.*

hang up1 **hang up** **hang up** **sth**

to end a telephone conversation by putting the part of the telephone that you speak into back in its usual place: *She said "I'll be there in a minute," and hung up.*

† **on** Listen. I'm really sorry. Don't hang up on me!

hang up the phone *He hung up the phone feeling angry and upset.*

2 **hang up** **sth** **hang** **sth** **up**

to hang things such as clothes on a hook or other object: *Marlow hung up his coat and went through into his office.* | *His wife had always ironed his shirts, polished his shoes, and hung up his clothes for him. How would he survive without her?*

3 **hang up** **sth** **hang** **sth** **up**

if someone hangs up the equipment they use to do a job, sport etc, they stop doing the job or sport after doing it for a long time: *After 25 years in the police force he finally decided to hang up his badge and take early retirement.* | *Lee Trevino says he has no plans to hang up his spikes (=shoes he uses for playing golf).*

4 **be hung up on/about** **sth**

informal to be very worried about or interested in something and spend a lot of time thinking about it, especially when this seems unreasonable: *Like most teenagers I was hung up about my weight and was permanently on a diet.*

get hung up on/about sth *Why do men get so hung up on the size of their car's engine?*

hang-up *N* [C]

if you have a hang-up about something, you feel unreasonably worried or embarrassed about it: *He has a hang-up about his nose. He thinks it's abnormally big.* | *All parents want their children to grow up happy, balanced and free from hang-ups.*

5 **hang** **sb/sth** **up** **hang** **up** **sb/sth**

USUALLY PASSIVE

AmE to delay someone or something: *Sorry we're late. We got a late start and then traffic on 84 hung us up a little.*

* SIMILAR TO: **delay**

6 **hang it up**

AmE to stop doing a particular activity or type of work: *One day in 1986, Fred went into the boss's office and announced: "I'm hanging it up."*

* SIMILAR TO: **quit**

7 **be hung up on** **sb**

AmE informal to be very attracted to someone and not be able to change your feelings about them: *"Shannon still seems to be hung up on Jeff."* "Yeah, I guess it's only been five weeks since they broke up."

* SIMILAR TO: **be stuck on sb** *AmE informal*

hang with

hang with **sb**

AmE informal to spend a lot of time somewhere or with someone, relaxing and enjoying yourself: *Royce usually had to hang with his brother's friends because no-one his age lived in the neighbourhood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang out, hang about/around with**

HANKER

hankered, hankered, hankering

hanker after/for**hanker after/for** sth

to want something very much, especially something that it is difficult for you to get: *Now and then I really hanker for big home-cooked meals.* | *It's always better to have money than to hanker after it.*

* SIMILAR TO: long for, crave

HAPPEN

happened, happened, happening

happen along/by**1** happen along/by

to arrive or be passing somewhere by chance: *Fortunately a policeman on patrol happened by.* | *Miguel felt so angry that he was ready to quarrel with anyone who happened along.*

2 happen along/by

AmE to find a place or thing by chance: *Rather than checking every aircraft, many inspectors simply examine whatever plane they happen by while on duty.*

* SIMILAR TO: happen on/upon

happen on/upon**happen upon** sth/sb

formal to find something or meet someone when you do not expect it: *Once or twice I happened on her in the middle of the night.*

* SIMILAR TO: come across, happen on/upon

happen to**1** happen to sb/sth

if an event or action happens to someone or something, they are involved in it or affected by it: *You'll never believe what happened to me on the way home.* | *We lost our home in the war, and the same thing happened to thousands of families.* | *Something's happened to the washing machine – it's not working properly.*

2 what/whatever happened to sb

spoken used when you want to know where someone is and what they are doing, because it is a long time since you saw them: *Whatever happened to that nice girl you were going out with when I last saw you?*

* SIMILAR TO: what became of

3 what/whatever happened to sth

used when saying that something such as an idea, quality, or custom seems to have disappeared or been forgotten about: *Whatever*

happened to the lunch hour? No one seems to have time for lunch nowadays.

HARDEN**be hardened to****be hardened to** sth

to have become so familiar with something unpleasant that you do not feel upset by it any more: *The first time she saw an operation she nearly fainted, but now she was hardened to it.* | *He was a trained killer, who had become hardened to death on innumerable battlefields.*

* SIMILAR TO: be inured to sth formal

HARE

hared, hared, haring

hare off**hare off**

BrE informal to suddenly run away, or go somewhere very quickly, often without thinking about whether this is a sensible thing to do: *Then Jack scrambled to his feet and hared off between the trees.* | *We can't just go haring off into the city at this time of night.*

HARK

harked, harked, harking

hark at**hark at him/her/you etc**

BrE spoken used when you think someone has just said something silly, surprising, or unreasonable, especially because they have criticized someone for doing something that they do themselves: *Hark at her, telling me I shouldn't drink so much when she's in the pub most evenings!*

hark back to**1** hark back to sth

to remember or keep talking about a time or event in the past, especially in an annoying way: *The people are always harking back to the good old days before independence.* | *If it was such a rotten holiday, why hark back to it?*

2 hark back to sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

to be similar to something that existed or was fashionable in the past: *The newest shoe styles hark back to the seventies.*

H

HARP

harped, harped, harping

harp on**harp on about sth** BrE **harp on sth** AmE

to talk about something so much that it is boring or annoying: *He was one of those old guys who are constantly harping on about the war.* | *Chico's main interest was football and he couldn't stop harping on about the subject.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on about sth** informal, **bang on about sth** BrE informal

HARSH

harshed, harshed, harshing

harsh on**harsh on sb**

AmE informal to criticize or insult someone: *My girlfriend harshed on me for not calling soon enough.*

* SIMILAR TO: **criticize**

HASH

hashed, hashed, hashing

hash out**hash out sth** **hash sth out**

AmE informal to discuss the details of a plan, idea etc with someone and solve any problems it may have: *As we hashed out the deal, people on the trading floor began to grow curious.* | *Baker and Shevardnadze met in Houston to hash out the remaining issues in the arms agreement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work out**

hash over**hash sth over** **hash over sth**

especially AmE to talk about something in detail for a long time: *Officials met to hash over the future of public TV.* | *Music fans meet here to hash over lyrics and exchange concert stories.*

* SIMILAR TO: **discuss**

hash up**hash sth up** **hash up sth**

BrE informal to do something very badly, especially with the result that you are unsuccessful: *She was so nervous at the interview that she completely hashed it up.* | *Do your best – we can't afford to hash up this match.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** informal, **make a hash of sth** informal

HATCH

hatched, hatched, hatching

hatch out**hatch out**

if birds, insects etc hatch out, or an egg hatches out, the baby animal breaks its shell and comes out of the egg: *After a few days there were dozens of fluffy chicks hatching out.*

HAUL

hauled, hauled, hauling

haul before**be hauled before/in front of sb**

to be forced to appear in a court of law or to see someone in authority, so that they can decide whether you have broken a law or rules etc and punish you if necessary: *Stephens was the first airline pilot to be hauled before a criminal court and convicted of negligence.* | *He was hauled up in front of the headmaster and asked to explain his behaviour.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hauled up**

haul in**1 haul sb in**

if the police haul someone in, they take that person to the police station to answer questions about something illegal they have done: *The police can't just haul someone in if they haven't got any evidence against them.*

+ **for** Labourers were continually being hauled in for petty crime and drunkenness.

* SIMILAR TO: **arrest**

2 haul in sth **haul sth in**

to pull something heavy towards you using a rope, for example a fishing net or sails: *The fishermen were hauling in their nets and getting ready to go home.*

3 haul in sth

to earn or obtain a lot of something, especially money: *The company hauled in \$500 million in sales last year.*

haul off**haul sb off**

to take someone away somewhere, using force: *A big male nurse came up and hauled Tom off.*

+ **to** I was handcuffed and hauled off to the County jail.

* SIMILAR TO: **drag off**

haul up**be hauled up**

to be forced to appear in a court of law or to see someone in authority, so that they can decide whether you have broken a law or rule, and punish you if necessary

+ for *Her grandfather was hauled up for tax evasion.*

+ before/in front of *Bar staff who serve drunk drivers are liable to get hauled up in front of the local magistrate.*

HAVE

had, had, having

have against**have sth against sb/sth** NOT PROGRESSIVE

to dislike or disapprove of someone or something for a particular reason, for example because they have done something wrong in the past: *I can't see what you have against Alex's friends.*

have nothing against sb/sth (=used to say that there is nothing you dislike or disapprove of about someone or something) *Potter had nothing against the monarchy, in principle.*

have around

ALSO **have round** BrE

have sb around/round**have sb around/round sb/sth**

to have someone near you or available to help you if necessary: *It's a help to have your family around when you've got a new baby.* | *Just the thought of having her around the place made him irritable.*

have at**1 have at it**

AmE spoken informal used to encourage someone to do or try something: *"If that's what you want, have at it," said Marvin.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go for it**

2 have at it

AmE informal to fight or attack someone: *The brothers both looked ready to have at it, but something held them back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fight**

have away**have it away**

BrE informal to have sex with someone – often used humorously: *They were having it away in the back of her car.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have it off** BrE spoken informal

have back**1 have sth back**

to have something that you had before because someone has given it to you: *I don't need the book anymore – you can have it back if you like.*

2 have sb back

to agree to start to have a romantic relationship with someone again after you have separated from them: *Do you think he'd have her back after all she's done?*

have down as**have sb down as** NOT PROGRESSIVE

to think that someone or something has a particular character, especially when you later find out that you were wrong: *I didn't have her down as the motherly type.* | *Until then we all had him down as a bit of a wimp.*

* SIMILAR TO: **consider, put down as**

have in**1 have sb in**

to get builders, workers etc to come to your house to do some work on it for you: *We've already had an architect in to look at the plans.* | *The people next door to us have had the builders in all week. They've made a mess of our drive.*

2 have sb in

to invite someone to come to your house for a meal, drink, conversation etc

+ for *Last night we had Miles and Susan in for a meal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have over**

have off**1 have sth off**

if you have a light, the heating etc off, you do not use it: *The car in front had its lights off.* | *It's been so warm we've had the heating off.*

2 have it off

BrE informal to have sex with someone: *They were having it off in the bushes.* | *Didn't you know that Pete was having it off with Nicola?*

* SIMILAR TO: **have it away** BrE spoken informal

have on**1 have sth on have on sth**

NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

to be wearing something: *Everyone in the room had a dark suit on except me.* | *When we picked her up, she had on a red skirt and high heels.*

have nothing on/not have anything on
Don't come in! I don't have anything on!

* SIMILAR TO: **wear**

2 have sth on NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

if you have the radio, television, light etc on, you use it and it is working: *Are we allowed to have the TV on?* | *We're having the heating on at night at the moment.*

3 be having sb on

BrE *informal* to pretend to someone that something is true when it is not, as a joke: *When he told me he was a nuclear physicist, I thought he was having me on.* | *Tim's having you on, Mary. Don't take any notice of him.*

4 have sth on you NOT PROGRESSIVE

to have something in your pockets, bag etc: *Do you have any money on you? I've left mine in the car.* | *The police searched her and let her go. She had nothing on her.*

5 have sth on NOT PROGRESSIVE, NOT PASSIVE

BrE to have an arrangement to do something: *What about tomorrow lunchtime? I haven't anything on then.*

have a lot on (=be very busy) *Jo seems to have a lot on at the moment.*

6 have something on sb

to have information about someone that shows they have been involved with something bad or illegal: *I think the police must have something on him.*

have nothing on sb/not have anything on sb
"He's not on our records," the detective said. "We've got nothing on him."

have out

1 have sth out

if you have a tooth or a part of your body out, a dentist or doctor removes it. A dentist is a kind of doctor who looks after people's teeth: *I hate having my teeth out.* | *She was rushed to hospital to have her appendix out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **have sth removed**

2 have it out with sb

informal to try to end a disagreement or a difficult situation by talking to the person who you are angry with and telling them why you are angry: *Joe's really upset. He's going to see Mum and have it out with her right now.* | *We had to wait till the kids were asleep before we could have it out.*

have over

ALSO **have round** especially BrE

have sb over/round

to invite someone to come to your house for a meal, drink, conversation etc: *We had some*

people round at the weekend. | *Is it all right if I have a few friends over this evening?*

have round

SEE **have around**

SEE **have over**

be had up for

be had up for sth

BrE *informal* to be taken to court because you have committed a crime or are thought to have been involved in criminal activities: *Sarah was had up for theft when she was only 14.*

HAWK

hawked, hawked, *hawking*

hawk around/about

ALSO **hawk round** BrE

hawk sth around/about

hawk sth around sth

hawk sth round sth

BrE to try to sell something by taking it to different places and offering it to different people: *The fishermen used a horse and cart to hawk fish round the villages.* | *Apparently she's hawking her story around for a six-figure sum.*

HAZE

hazed, hazed, *hazing*

haze over

haze over

if the sky, a view etc hazes over, a slight mist forms and the sky or view becomes less clear: *The sun went down, the sky hazed over, and it was time to go home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cloud over**

HEAD

headed, headed, *heading*

head for

1 head for sth

to travel towards a place: *The ships were heading for Cuba.* | *We climbed on our horses, and headed for the hills.*

be headed for sth especially AmE (=be travelling towards a place) *The men said they were headed for the next town which was about 50 miles away.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make for**

2 be heading for ALSO **be headed for sth**

especially AmE

if someone or something is heading for a

particular situation, it seems likely that it will happen in the future: *Fashion designer Fern McGill is heading for a brilliant career. | The personal computer industry is heading for slower growth. | India was headed for a period of political uncertainty.*

head into

head into sth

to start a period of time or a situation that is completely new and often difficult: *As we head into the new millennium, we will see considerable changes in medical care.*

head off

1 head off

to leave in order to go somewhere or do something: *We all packed into the car and headed off to the library. | The film ends with Parker heading off to join the army in Germany.*

* SIMILAR TO: go off

2 head off sth head sth off

to prevent something unpleasant from happening: *Talks continued throughout the night in the hope of heading off the strike. | A last-minute attempt to head off a war*

* SIMILAR TO: prevent

3 head off sth head sth off

to try to make someone or something change their direction, by blocking their way: *A policeman held out his arms to head them off. | The man was running for the woods when the car left the roadway to head him off.*

head out

head out

especially AmE to leave in order to go somewhere or do something: *He found a taxi and headed out to Dean's house.*

head up

head up sth head sth up

to lead an organization, team, or project: *Norling is moving to France to head up Motorstart Europe. | Goldman praised his team of attorneys, headed up by Daniel Petrocelli.*

* SIMILAR TO: lead

HEAL

healed, healed, healing

heal up/over

heal up/over

if a wound or injury heals up, the damaged part of the body returns to a healthy normal

condition: *Apply a little antiseptic and the wound will probably heal up all by itself. | The bird's beak appeared to have been broken and then healed over.*

HEAP

heaped, heaped, heaping

heap on/upon

● **Heap upon** is more formal than **heap on** and is mostly used in writing.

heap sth on sb/sth

heap sth upon sb/sth

if you heap praise, blame etc on someone or something, you praise or blame them a lot: *The newspapers heaped praise on the police for their part in the investigation. | Their political opponents heaped scorn on their policies.*

* SIMILAR TO: lavish on

heap up

heap sth up heap up sth

to put a lot of things on top of each other in a pile: *Mr Locke looked at all the papers heaped up in his in-tray. | We heaped up the fruit and vegetables ready to take home.*

* SIMILAR TO: pile up

HEAR

heard, heard, hearing

hear about

hear about sth/sb

to get news or information about something or someone: *We were both in London when we heard about the accident. | After hearing about the boy's illness, the charity raised £5,000 to pay for his medical treatment.*

be sorry to hear about sb (=used to express sadness when someone is ill or has died etc) *I was so sorry to hear about your mother, Lisa.*

hear from

1 hear from sb NOT PROGRESSIVE

to get a letter or a telephone call from someone: *Please keep the letters coming, Mike. We so enjoy hearing from you. | I haven't heard from Maria in a while. Not even a phone call.*

I look forward to hearing from you (=used at the end of a letter)

2 hear from sb hear sth from sb

to receive information from someone about something that has happened, or be told what people's ideas or opinions are about something: *Their comments were similar to*

those I have heard from other art teachers. | The police would like to hear from anyone who was in the area when the robbery took place. | If you have any ideas or suggestions about a suitable name for the award, we'd love to hear from you.

hear of

1 have heard of sb/sth

to have heard the name of a person, place etc before, so that you recognize it when you hear it again: *Everybody's heard of Paul Gascoigne.* | "You know Piers Morrison?" "No, never heard of him." | *Terry said he'd never heard of Fresno, California.*

2 hear of sth

to get news or information about something, so that you know it exists or is possible: *You sometimes hear of people having very strange experiences when they are close to death.* | *I've never heard of a deal like this where the author gets 50% of the profits.* | *He had heard of a seaplane service from Naples to Capri.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hear about**

3 be heard of

if someone has been heard of in a particular place, they have been seen in that place and so people know that they are still alive

be last heard of *The former Hollywood star was last heard of somewhere in Florida.*

never be heard of again *He disappeared into the icy wastes, and was never heard of again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be seen**

4 won't/wouldn't hear of sth

to refuse to allow something, or refuse to accept someone's offer: *My mother had wanted to be a doctor but her father wouldn't hear of it.* | *Jack offered to walk her home, but she wouldn't hear of it.*

5 be unheard of

if something is unheard of, it has never happened before and is therefore very surprising or shocking: *A woman Prime Minister! Such a thing was unheard of until recently.*

6 be unheard of

not known about by people, or not famous: *Two years ago his name was almost unheard of in this country.*

hear out

hear sb out

to listen to what someone wants to say, without trying to interrupt them: *Corbett heard Frances out in silence.* "You poor thing," he said at last. | *Hear me out first, Jane, and then you can say what you think.*

HEAT

heated, heated, heating

heat through

heat through sth heat sth through

heat through

BrE if you heat food through or if it heats through, you make it hot: *The rice may be prepared in advance and heated through later.* | *Finally stir in the tomato paste and let the mixture heat through.*

heat up

1 heat up heat up sth heat sth up

to become hotter, or to make something become hotter: *The lake is shallow, so the water heats up very quickly in the summer.* | *We know that the effects of pollution may be heating up the Earth's climate.*

* SIMILAR TO: **warm up**

2 heat up sth heat sth up

to make cooked food hot again after it has become cold: *She heated up some more of the stew and took it out to him.* | *It's so easy to just pull something out of the freezer and heat it up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **warm up**

3 heat up

if a situation heats up, it becomes more serious or more exciting, because people start to argue, fight, or compete with each other a lot more: *Things are starting to heat up in central Europe, and people are worried that there could be another World War.* | *The company is experiencing some difficulty as competition heats up.* | *Although the election is still a year away, the political scene is already heating up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hot up** informal BrE

HEAVE

hove, hove, heaving
heaved, heaved, heaving

heave to

heave to

if a ship or boat heaves to, it stops, especially by using its sails: *About two miles from the coast, the ship hove to.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop**

heaved, heaved, heaving

heave up

heave up heave up sth

heave sth up

to bring food up from your stomach because you are ill: *The smell was so disgusting that I*

bent over and heaved up. | *The boy was lying in bed, heaving up blood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **vomit, puke up** *informal*, **throw up** *informal*.

HEDGE

hedged, hedged, hedging

hedge about

SEE **be hedged about/round**

hedge against

hedge against *sth*

to do something to protect yourself against possible problems or financial changes: *Analysts have suggested a number of ways to hedge against a major downturn in the US stock market.*

* SIMILAR TO: **guard against**

be hedged about/around

be hedged about/around

to be limited or controlled by a lot of complicated rules, laws, or conditions, which make it difficult for you to do something effectively

+ **by** *Nowadays employment is hedged about by legislation.*

+ **with** *The peacekeeping force was hedged around with restrictions.*

be hedged in

be hedged in *BrE*

a to be surrounded or enclosed by something, so that there is very little space: *The cathedral is in the centre of the town, closely hedged in by other buildings.* | *Ms Hurley's feet were hedged in by sacks of potatoes and baskets of fruit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hemmed in**

b to be prevented from having the freedom or opportunity to do what you want: *Why don't you look for another job if you feel hedged in where you are?*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hemmed in**

HEEL

heeled, heeled, heeling

heel over

heel over

if a boat or vehicle heels over, it swings over to one side as if it is going to fall: *The wind hit the sails and the boat heeled over.* | *There was a thump as the truck hit the bank, heeled over, then bounced back into the road.*

HELP

helped, helped, helping

help along

1 **help sb/sth along**

to make it easier for something to happen or for someone to succeed: *His career was helped along by his manager, who was a personal friend.* | *Computers can certainly help along the learning process.*

2 **help sb along**

to help someone to walk when they are injured or ill, by holding their arm: *Tess was pale and breathless. He took her arm and helped her along.*

help off with

help sb off with *sth*

to help someone to take off their coat, shoes etc: *Can I help you off with your coat?* | *She helped him off with his wet things.*

* SIMILAR TO: **help on with**

help on with

help sb on with *sth*

to help someone to put on their coat, shoes etc: *Do you want me to help you on with those boots?*

● OPPOSITE: **help off with**

help out

help out help sb out help out sb

to help someone, especially by doing some work for them or giving them money: *As a teenager he had helped out at his family's garage.* | *When I was unemployed, my mother helped me out.* | *Mr Shirati left the firm after agreeing to help out an old friend who was ill.*

+ **with** *The Ministry of Agriculture have offered to help out with the extra costs.*

* SIMILAR TO: **help**

help to

1 **help yourself to sth**

a to take and use something, especially food and drink, whenever you want it: *Help yourself to whatever's in the fridge.* | *He said I could help myself to his jackets and ties while he was away.*

b to put some food on your own plate or drink in your own glass: *Help yourselves to the vegetables.*

2 **help sb to sth**

to put some food on someone else's plate for them, or put drink in their glass: *Shall I help you to some rice?*

* SIMILAR TO: **serve**

H

help up**help sb up**

to help someone to stand up: *Furness put out his hand to help her up.* | *He lay on the ice for a few minutes before being helped up and skating off.*

HEM

hemmed, hemmed, hemming

hem in**be hemmed in**

a to be surrounded or enclosed by something, so that it is difficult for you to move, or there is very little space: *Frankie felt small and feeble, hemmed in by five broad-shouldered workmen.* | *The park was hemmed in by tall buildings.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hedged in**

b to be prevented from having the freedom or opportunity to do what you want: *If employees feel hemmed in, they become frustrated and angry.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hedged in****HERD**

herded, herded, herding

herd together**herd together sb/sth****herd sb/sth together** **herd together**

to gather people or animals together into a group, or to gather together in a group: *The prisoners were herded together into the courtyard.* | *The sheep were frightened and herded together in a corner of the field.*

herd up**herd up sb/sth** **herd sb/sth up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to gather people or animals together into a group, especially in order to check them or take them somewhere: *Once a year, all the horses and cattle are herded up and counted.* | *Only two of our group escaped; the rest were herded up and taken for questioning.*

* SIMILAR TO: **round up****HEW**

hewed, hewn, hewing

hew out**hew sth out** **hew out sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE *literary* to make something by cutting it out of something hard, like rock or wood:

The caves are man-made, hewn out of the rock by hand. | *The cross was roughly hewn out of wood.*

hew to**hew to sth**

AmE to strongly believe in or follow particular ideas, rules, or principles: *As a politician, he hewed to a moderate course that didn't upset the majority.* | *It wasn't the idea itself that impressed us, but the determination with which he hewed to it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick to, pursue****HIDE**

hid, hidden, hiding

hide away**1 hide sth/sb away** **hide away sth/sb**

to put something or someone in a place where other people will not find them or know about them: *I've hidden your presents away where you can't find them.* | *He knew his grandparents had plenty of money hidden away.* | *The baby girl was taken and hidden away in the country.*

2 hide yourself away/hide away

to go somewhere where you can be alone or where you cannot be seen or found: *Novelists often hide themselves away for months at a time.* | *Wild animals tend to hide away when they are ill or injured.*

+ **from** *She wanted to hide away from the rest of the world and be alone.*

hideaway N [C]

a secret place where you can go when you want to be alone: *Vernon has a secluded hideaway in a remote coastal area of Scotland.* | *an island hideaway*

3 be hidden away

to be built or placed in a very quiet peaceful area, where few people live or go: *Hidden away in the countryside is Britain's newest and most luxurious health resort.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be tucked away****hide behind****1 hide behind sth**

if someone hides behind a particular way of behaving, they behave like that so that people will not know what they are really like or what they really think: *Jeremy tends to hide behind a mask of extreme politeness.*

2 hide sth behind sth

to not show what you are really feeling or thinking, because your appearance or behaviour hides it: *Paula quickly hid her embarrassment behind a bright smile.*

hide out**hide out**

to go or stay somewhere secret, especially in order to escape from the police or your enemies: *The police are looking for an armed man, probably wounded, probably hiding out nearby.* | *The rest of the men hid out, waiting for the arrival of more troops.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hide**

hideout N [C]

a place where someone goes when they do not want to be found, especially by the police or their enemies: *The suspects were tracked down to a Bombay hideout.*

HIKE

hiked, hiked, hiking

hike up**1 hike sth up** **hike up sth**

to pull up a piece of clothing you are wearing so that it is higher up your body than before: *The women were crossing the river, their skirts hiked up over their knees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hitch up, pull up**

2 hike up sth

informal to increase a price or other sum of money suddenly and by a large amount: *The Central Bank hiked up interest rates in early December.* | *The government hiked up the price of petrol by over 5%.*

* SIMILAR TO: **raise**

HINGE

hinged, hinged, hinging

hinge on/upon

● **Hinge upon** is more formal than **hinge on** and is mostly used in writing

1 hinge on/upon sth ✕

if one thing hinges on another, its future or progress depends on it: *A student's job prospects can hinge on his performance in these exams.* | *The deal really hinges on these negotiations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on**

2 hinge on/upon sth ✕

if a story or situation hinges on an idea or fact, its success depends on understanding or accepting it: *The whole plot of the movie hinges on what happens in the first scene.* | *Our relationship hinged on my agreeing with whatever he said.*

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on, hang on**

HINT

hinted, hinted, hinting

hint at**hint at sth** ✕

to suggest that something is true or likely without saying it directly: *In his speech the President hinted at the possible use of force.* | *Sally looked worried. "What are you hinting at, Gus?"*

+ **what/where/why etc** *Sometimes my mother hinted at why she'd left my father, but that was all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **imply**

HIRE

hired, hired, hiring

hire out**1 hire out sth/sb** **hire sth/sb out**

BrE to allow someone to use a building, a piece of equipment, or someone's services in return for money: *Mr and Mrs Ledingham were partners in a business that hired out photocopyers.* | *Our agency hires out technical staff to companies.* | *Tony plans to hire the house out for weddings and film work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rent out**

2 hire out sth **hire sth out**

BrE if you hire out equipment, buildings etc, you pay someone to allow you to use them: *On the shores of this lake you can hire out boats or canoes, as well as take courses in watersports.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hire**

H

HIT

hit, hit, hitting

hit at**1 hits at sb/sth**

BrE to publicly criticize or attack someone or something – used especially in the titles of newspaper reports: *President hits at Serb aggression in Kosovo* | *Amnesty International hits at treatment of political prisoners in Iraq*

* SIMILAR TO: **criticize, attack**

2 hit at sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

to have a bad effect on something and damage it or show that it is wrong: *This hits at the established idea that there is no legal limit to Parliament's power.*

hit back**hit back**

to criticize or attack a person or group, especially publicly, because they have criticized

or attacked you: *The multi-millionaire has already hit back by threatening to take the newspaper to court.*

✦ **at** *Police last night hit back at the lawyer's claim that they had mishandled the arrest.*

* SIMILAR TO: **strike back**

hit off

hit it off

informal if two or more people hit it off, they like each other as soon as they meet each other and become friends very easily: *Frank took me out to dinner and we really hit it off straight away.*

✦ **with** *I didn't hit it off with the office manager.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get on well** especially BrE

hit on/upon

● **Hit upon** is more formal than **hit on** and is mostly used in writing

1 hit on/upon sth

to think of an idea or plan, especially one that is successful: *They tried various methods before hitting on the right one.* | *James Robertson, a Paisley grocer, hit on the idea of making marmalade from a barrel of bitter oranges he could not sell.*

* SIMILAR TO: **come up with**

2 hit on/upon sth

to discover the true facts about a situation, the real reason for something etc: *James felt sure that he had hit on the truth.* | *You've hit on precisely the thing that's worrying me most.*

hit on

hit on sb

AmE spoken *informal* to talk to someone in a way that shows you think they are sexually attractive: *This weird guy hit on every woman on our floor in the first week of college.* | *A sixteen-year-old chick was hitting on him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chat up**

hit out

hit out

especially BrE to criticize something or someone strongly because you disapprove of them – used especially in news reports: *An angry Hurst hit out: "It was the worst match since I took over. Our team got what they deserved."*

✦ **at** *The industry hit out yesterday at the increase in business taxes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lash out**

hit up

hit sb up

AmE *informal* to ask someone to give you something, especially money

✦ **for** *Why don't you hit Marty up for a loan and go shopping?*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask**

hit upon

SEE **hit on/upon**

HITCH

hitched, hitched, hitching

hitch up

hitch up sth

hitch sth up

to pull up a piece of clothing, so that it is higher up your body than before: *She quickly finished hitching up her tights.* | *He hitched up his jeans and waded out into the stream.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hike up**

HIVE

hived, hived, hiving

hive off

1 hive off sth

hive sth off

BrE to separate one part of a business from the rest, usually by selling it: *The move to hive off most of their retail shops has saved £6 million.* | *Many of our services will be hived off to agencies.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sell off**

2 hive sth off

hive off sth

BrE to separate one or more parts of a group from all the rest: *The Indians had been hived off into reservations.*

* SIMILAR TO: **separate off**

HOARD

hoarded, hoarded, hoarding

hoard away

hoard away sth

hoard sth away

to secretly keep large quantities of something hidden somewhere, especially money or food: *The old man had been hoarding his money away for years under the mattress.*

hoard up

hoard up sth

hoard sth up

to collect and save large amounts of food, money etc, so that you will have it later if you need it: *People are hoarding up supplies of food in case there's another bad winter.*

HOLD

held, held, holding

hold against**hold sth against sb**

to feel angry, upset etc with someone because of something they did in the past, or to have a bad opinion of them because of something about them

hold it against sb *"I know I've been a bit silly," said Claudia "but please don't hold it against me."*

hold sth against sb *Lack of experience won't be held against you – we offer a full training programme.*

hold back**1 hold back sth/sb hold sth/sb back**

to prevent something or someone from moving forward or coming near to something: *A great wall of rocks and earth was built to hold back the rising water. | Police did their best to hold back hundreds of screaming fans.*

* SIMILAR TO: **restrain, keep back**

2 hold sb/sth back hold back sb/sth

to prevent someone or something from developing or making progress: *Many students are held back at school by poor reading skills. | High interest rates have held back Ecuador's economic growth. | the male-dominated society which has held women back for so long*

3 hold back sth hold sth back**hold back**

to stop yourself from showing how you feel, especially with difficulty

hold back tears *Struggling to hold back her tears, Justine watched him get onto the plane.*

hold back laughter *In the end she couldn't hold back the laughter any longer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep back**

4 hold back hold sb back

if you hold back or something holds you back, you do not immediately do or say something that you have thought of doing or saying, especially because you are not sure if it is the right thing to do, or because you feel nervous: *The President's instinct was to send in the military, but he decided to hold back.*

hold back from doing sth *Although Sam was a good man, Martha had held back from agreeing to marry him – he was dull.*

something holds sb back *Just for a moment she was tempted to tell him, but something held her back.*

5 hold sth back hold back sth

to keep something secret: *You're sure you're telling me everything – you're not holding anything back?*

+ **from** *Campaigners claim that information has been held back from them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep back**

6 hold back sth hold sth back

if you hold money back, you do not give it to someone for a period of time, although they were expecting to have it: *Congress had threatened to hold back \$5 million in aid until a peace agreement is signed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep back**

hold down**1 hold sb/sth down hold down sb/sth**

to make someone or something stay in the same place and stop them from moving: *It took four policemen to hold him down. | The roof consisted of sheets of corrugated iron, held down with stones.*

2 hold down sth hold sth down

to prevent the level of something from increasing – especially prices, wages etc: *Colleges must hold down tuition fees to attract more students. | an agreement that holds wage increases down*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep down**

3 hold down a job

to succeed in keeping or doing a job for a fairly long period of time: *He's never held down a job for longer than a few weeks. | Linda was completely exhausted from trying to hold down a full-time job as well as looking after the home.*

4 hold down sb hold sb down

to keep people under strict control or limit their freedom in a way that is not fair or reasonable: *a race of people held down for centuries by invaders and conquerors*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep down, oppress** *formal*

5 hold sth down hold down sth

to stop food coming up from your stomach and out of your mouth when you are feeling sick: *I gave him some water, but he couldn't even hold that down. | Patients might find it difficult to hold down solid food for a few days after the treatment.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep down**

● OPPOSITE: **bring up**

6 hold down the noise/hold it down

AmE spoken informal used to tell someone to be quieter or stop talking: *Hey, could you hold it down in there please? I can't even hear myself talk!*

hold forth**hold forth**

to talk or give your opinion about something for a long time, especially in a way that is boring for other people: *Edward, now on his fifth pint, was holding forth in the corner of the bar.*

+ on/about *Politicians are always holding forth on standards in education, but they know nothing about teaching!*

hold off**1 hold off** **hold off sth**

to delay doing something: *If you need a computer but have been holding off because of the expense, now is a good time to buy.*

hold off (on) doing sth *We've decided to hold off making an announcement until next week. | The Federal Reserve may hold off on raising interest rates.*

* SIMILAR TO: **postpone, put off, delay**

2 hold off sb **hold sb off**

to prevent someone from being successful when they are trying to attack you, defeat you, or cause you problems: *They managed to hold off their attackers until the police arrived. | United held off a strong attack in the second half to record a 3-2 victory in the opening game. | The company is in deep trouble - they need to raise \$15 million to hold off their creditors.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fend off**

H 3 hold off

if rain or snow holds off, it does not start falling, although it looks like it will soon: *It looks like snow's on the way - I hope it holds off until we get home.*

hold on**1 hold on**

to hold something tightly, especially to stop yourself from falling or losing what you are holding: *No matter how hard Josie pulled, the dog wouldn't let go of the stick - it just held on and snarled.*

hold on tight *Nancy got onto the back of the bike and held on tight, terrified she would fall off.*

hold on for dear life (=hold something very tightly because you are afraid) *Jake clung to the branch, holding on for dear life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on, cling on**

2 hold on

spoken informal to wait for a short time - used especially when telling someone to wait

hold on a minute/moment etc *Can you hold on a moment - she's just coming.*

hold on! (=used to tell someone to wait for a short time) *The key must be here somewhere. Hold on, I'll find it.*

sb can't hold on much longer *I'm afraid I can't hold on much longer - I've got a taxi waiting.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on, wait**

3 hold on

spoken informal used on the telephone to tell someone to wait while you find the person they want to talk to: *"Can I speak to Chris?" "Yeah, hold on."*

do you want to hold on? *Cathy's extension is busy; do you want to hold on?*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on!** *spoken informal*

4 hold on!

spoken informal used when you want someone to stop what they are saying and listen to you, especially when you are surprised or confused about something: *Hold on, what are you talking about?*

hold on a minute/second *Now hold on a minute - that's my money, not yours.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on!** *spoken informal, hang about* *BrE spoken informal*

5 hold on

to succeed in preventing a team, player, or army from defeating you, even though they are very strong or powerful: *Despite a difficult first period, New York Islanders held on for a 4-3 win over the Toronto Tigers. | The defenders were able to hold on for several weeks.*

6 hold on

to succeed in continuing to exist or do something, even though the situation is very difficult: *The company managed to hold on, in spite of the recession.*

7 hold on

if someone who is very ill holds on, they succeed in staying alive with great difficulty: *Ed looked dreadful lying in that hospital bed - you could see he was just barely holding on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang on**

hold onto/hold on to**1 hold onto/on to sth**

to hold something tightly, especially to stop yourself from falling or losing what you are holding: *She held on to the counter to steady herself. | The youths tried to grab the cash from him, but he held onto it and they ran off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang onto, grip**

2 hold onto/on to sth

to keep something, and not give it to someone else, throw it away etc: *It's a beautiful picture, you should hold onto it.* | *Hold onto the receipt in case you need to take the dress back to the shop.*

hold onto sth for sb (=keep something that belongs to someone else and look after it for them) *I've got nowhere to put this table. Could you hold on to it for me for a while?*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang onto, keep**

3 hold onto/on to sth

to succeed in keeping something, when there is a danger that you will lose it: *workers struggling to hold onto full-time jobs* | *Although rebel forces have managed to capture the city, they won't be able to hold on to it for long.* | *Holyfield held onto his World Heavyweight title, after a controversial fight with Britain's Lennox Lewis.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hang onto, keep**

4 hold onto/on to sth

to continue to have a hope or belief, even though it is difficult or you feel less sure about it: *We're taught to hold onto the American dream – the belief that everyone can be successful if they work hard.* | *I hold on to the philosophy that people are basically good, in spite of all that's happened.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cling to/cling on to**

5 hold onto/on to sb

to put your arms around someone and hold them tightly when you want to comfort them, when they are upset etc: *"I'm so worried," she whispered, holding onto him.*

hold out**1 hold out sth hold sth out**

to stretch forward your arm in order to give or show what you are holding to someone: *"Have you seen this?" Casey said, holding out a piece of paper.* | *The woman took the cup, drank the water, and held it out for more.*

hold out your hand/hold your hand out (=stretch forward your arm, especially to shake hands with someone or to take something from them) *She moved forward, holding out her hand.* *"Welcome to New York!"*

2 hold out

if a supply of something holds out, there is enough for you to use, but only for a limited period of time: *I'll stay as long as the money holds out.* | *It hasn't rained for weeks – do you reckon the water will hold out?*

* SIMILAR TO: **last**

3 hold out

to try to prevent change or prevent yourself from being forced to do something: *The Council wants to buy the land, but the owners are holding out and refusing to sell.*

hold out against sth/sb *Republicans are determined to hold out against proposals to increase welfare spending.*

holdout N [C]

AmE a person, country etc that refuses to accept change or does not agree with something, even when most others do: *France is one of the few holdouts against worldwide information technology.*

4 hold out

to continue to defend yourself against an enemy attack without being defeated: *The rebels held out for as long as they could.*

hold out against sth/sb *Serbian forces held out against a massive bombardment by NATO warplanes.*

5 hold out the possibility/prospect/ promise of sth

to suggest that something good might happen in the future or to make it seem likely to happen: *The Central Bank held out the possibility late Monday of another cut in interest rates.* | *Bateson's research holds out the promise of a much wider project.*

* SIMILAR TO: **offer**

6 not hold out much hope

to not think that something good is likely to happen or to have a good result: *I'm going to try and give up smoking again, but I don't hold out much hope.* | *"How's Ellen?" "The doctors say they don't hold out much hope, I'm afraid."*

hold out for**hold out for sth**

to refuse to accept anything less than what you have asked for: *Personally, I'm holding out for \$30 an hour.* | *It's clear that the company was trying to hold out for a higher price.*

* SIMILAR TO: **insist on/upon**

hold out on**hold out on sb**

informal to refuse to give someone information that they need, or something that you have promised to give them: *I'm sure they know what happened, but they're holding out on me.*

hold over**1 hold sth over sb**

to use information about someone or your power over them to make them do what you

want, especially by threatening them in some way: *My brother held that secret over me for thirty years.* | *The captain is holding this threat over Johnson: if he doesn't turn up to training, he loses his place in the team.*

2 hold sth over **hold over sth**

to arrange to do something or for something to happen at a later time

+ for *If you're too busy, we can hold this over for another day.* | *The race has been held over until next week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **postpone, put off**

3 be held over

AmE if a film, concert etc is held over, it is shown for longer than planned because it is very popular: *Come see 'Pulp Fiction', held over for another week.*

holdover N [C]

AmE something or someone that existed or was used in the past and still exists or is used in the present: *The idea of a permanent job is a holdover from yesterday's world.* | *The only holdover in the new production is Kathleen Hegierski as Olga.*

hold to

1 hold sb to sth

to make someone do what they have promised or agreed to do: *"Next time, I'll buy you a drink." "I'll hold you to that!"* | *The US says it will hold the EU to their side of the agreement.*

2 hold sb to a draw/2-2/1-1 etc

to prevent the opposing team or player from getting more points or goals than you, so that the final score is 2-2, 1-1 etc: *Manchester United were held to a 2-2 draw by Norwich.*

3 hold to sth

to refuse to change your beliefs, ideas, principles etc or a decision you have made: *We must hold to principles of fairness and treat everyone equally.* | *The Minister is expected to hold to his original decision.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick to**

hold together

1 hold sb/sth together

hold together sb/sth

to make people, countries etc stay together and not separate, especially when there are difficulties that threaten to separate them: *Marshal Tito managed to hold the country together for almost 40 years.* | *The only thing that held them together was the kids.*

* SIMILAR TO: **unite**

2 hold together

if people, countries etc hold together, they stay together and do not separate, especially when there are difficulties that threaten to separate them: *The novel tells the story of a family struggling to hold together after the death of a child.* | *The big question is can the Alliance hold together till the end of the war?*

3 hold sth together **hold together sth**

to prevent something from breaking into separate parts: *The shed was held together by a few old rusty nails.* | *She tied string round the package to hold it together.*

4 hold together

to stay in one piece instead of breaking into separate parts: *Press the mixture with your fingers; if it doesn't hold together, add some water.* | *Don't cut the bottom off the onion – that way it will hold together when you cook it.*

5 hold together

if a story, plan, explanation etc holds together, it is good and you find it easy to understand or believe: *I don't think his argument holds together.* | *The plot doesn't hold together; the characters just wouldn't behave like that in real life.*

6 hold together

if a machine or piece of equipment holds together, it continues to work, although it is not in good condition: *The washing machine will just have to hold together for a bit longer – we can't afford a new one.*

hold up

1 hold up sth **hold sth up**

to raise your hand or arm, or something that you have in your hand: *One child at the back of the class held up her hand.* | *The crowd held up posters demanding his release from prison.*

2 hold sth/sb up **hold up sth/sb**

to delay something or someone, so that something takes longer or happens later than planned: *Protesters held up work on the new road for weeks.* | *The concert should have started at 8, but a series of problems held things up.* | *I hope I haven't held you up – it took longer than I thought to get here.*

get held up *Sorry we're late – we got held up in the traffic.*

* SIMILAR TO: **delay, set back**

hold-up N [C]

a delay that is unexpected but not very serious: *There's been a hold-up with the builders, so the new office won't be ready until next month.* | *A crash this morning is causing big hold-ups on the M25.*

3 hold up sth hold sth up USUALLY PASSIVE

to support something and stop it from falling down: *This mirror's only being held up by one tiny hook.* | *Several of the plants are held up by suckers but others need wire.*

* SIMILAR TO: **support**

4 hold up sth/sb

to stop a vehicle or go into a bank, shop etc with a gun or other weapon and demand money from people: *A gang held up a bus near Chimboté and robbed some 50 passengers.* | *Stealing money by computer is far easier than holding up a bank.*

hold sb up at gunpoint/knifepoint *Fraser was charged with another robbery, this time for holding up a cab driver at gunpoint.*

hold-up ^N [C]

when someone stops a vehicle or goes into a bank, shop etc with a gun and demands money: *A man was shot dead in a hold-up at a downtown bank yesterday.*

5 hold up

to continue to be healthy, successful, or at a high level, especially in a difficult situation: *Is she holding up under all the pressure?* | *Sales held up well in the fourth quarter.*

6 hold up

if a machine, piece of equipment, or system holds up, it continues to work and does not break, even in difficult conditions: *It will be interesting to see how well the new computer system holds up.* | *The Range Rover's suspension is designed to hold up even under the most difficult driving conditions.*

7 hold up

if an idea, explanation, or evidence holds up, it still seems good and right after it has been checked or tested: *Holmes did not believe the man's evidence would hold up in court.* | *If these findings hold up, scientists will have to develop a completely new theory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand up**

hold up as

hold sb/sth up as sth

hold up sb/sth as sth

to use someone or something as an example, especially an example that other people should copy: *He's only a footballer – he shouldn't be held up as a role model for our kids.* | *The book is a good guide to investment, but I'm not holding it up as an example for all to follow.*

hold with

sb does not hold with sth

if someone does not hold with something,

they do not approve of it: *Henry didn't hold with mobile phones – he thought they were the curse of modern life.*

hold with doing sth *She didn't hold with going to bed with other people's husbands.*

* SIMILAR TO: **agree (with)**

HOLE

holed, holed, holing

hole out

hole out

to hit the ball into the hole when you are playing golf: *Mason holed out for a four.* | *Sherborne made a dream start when he holed out from 45 yards with a sand wedge.*

hole up

hole up/be holed up

informal to go and stay somewhere quiet and away from people who you are hiding from or want to avoid: *The gunmen had holed up with their hostages in a nearby village.* | *She was holed up at the Sherry Netherland hotel on Fifth Avenue.* | *The kids hole up in their rooms with their computer games and you never get to talk to them.*

HOLLOW

hollowed, hollowed, hollowing

hollow out

hollow sth out hollow out sth

to make a hole or empty space in something by removing the inside part: *Cut the top off of a large pineapple and carefully hollow out the fruit.* | *Hollow the mushrooms out with a spoon to make space for the stuffing.*

hollowed-out ^{ADJ}

having a hole or space in the middle, made by removing the inside part: *a hollowed-out log*

HOME

homed, homed, homing

home in on

1 home in on sth

to move directly towards something in order to attack and destroy it – use this especially about missiles: *Cruise missiles can home in on their targets with incredible accuracy.*

* SIMILAR TO: **target**

2 home in on sth

to direct your attention or efforts towards a particular subject or problem: *He immediately homed in on the weak point in her argument.* |

The commission's final report will home in on the possible causes of the crash.

* SIMILAR TO: **focus on/upon**

HOOK

hooked, hooked, hooking

hook into

1 hook into sth

to become connected to a system such as the Internet or a telephone system: *Schools will be able to hook into the Information Superhighway.* | *New telecom companies will be allowed to hook into the national phone system.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hook up to**

2 hook sb into sth

informal, especially AmE to persuade someone to do what you want in a skilful way, even though they may not want to do it: *The TV companies persuade you to watch a steady stream of programs, one hooking you into the next.*

hook sb into doing sth *The whole idea is to hook people into giving money to the aid program.*

hook up

1 hook up sth/sb hook sth/sb up

especially AmE to connect something or someone to a piece of equipment, an electronic system, or an electricity supply: *The air conditioning is still not hooked up yet, and it's incredibly hot in here!*

+ to *A nurse hooks Melanie up to an oxygen tank so she can breathe more easily.* | *a device for hooking up users to the Internet*

* SIMILAR TO: **connect**

hook-up N [C]

especially AmE a temporary connection between two pieces of equipment such as computers, or between a piece of equipment and an electricity supply: *Walford was speaking to a reporter via a satellite hookup.*

2 hook up

AmE informal to start a romantic or sexual relationship with someone, often one that is short and not serious: *So, did you and Dan finally hook up?*

+ with *Guess what – Jessie hooked up with Paul last night!*

3 hook up

informal to meet someone in order to do something together socially, for example have a drink, go to a party etc: *We hooked up for lunch at Toscana in Brentwood.*

+ with *Matt and I went out for a drink and hooked up with Janet later on.*

4 hook up

informal, especially AmE to agree to work with another person or organization for a particular purpose

+ with *David Bowie hooked up with the band for a tour of the US.*

HOP

hopped, hopped, hopping

hop off

hop off!

old-fashioned spoken informal used to tell someone to go away, especially because they are annoying you: *Hop off, you two! It's time you were in bed.*

* SIMILAR TO: **buzz off!** spoken informal, especially BrE

HORN

horned, horned, horning

horn in

horn in

AmE spoken to interrupt or try to take part in an activity when you are not wanted: *Pardon my rudeness for horning in where I have no business.*

+ on the guy who horned in on my date

* SIMILAR TO: **butt in, muscle in**

HORSE

horsed, horsed, horsing

horse around

ALSO **horse about** BrE

horse around/about

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

spoken to play in a silly, rather violent and noisy way: *Stop horsing around – you're going to break something.* | *I was sort of in the mood for horsing around. I felt like jumping off the washbowl and wrestling with Dean.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fool around/about**

HOSE

hosed, hosed, hosing

hose down

hose down sth/sb hose sth/sb down

to wash something or someone using a hose (=a long plastic tube that can bend): *Take Louis's car out on the forecourt and hose it down.* | *The prisoners were brutally beaten, stripped naked and hosed down with freezing cold water.*

HOT

hotted, hotted, hotting

hot up**1 hot up** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE *informal* to become more exciting or dangerous, with a lot more activity: *The election campaign is already hotting up.* | *In 1969 things were hotting up along the Sino-Soviet border.*

2 hot up

to become hotter: *As the climate hots up, the polar ice caps will start to melt.*

* SIMILAR TO: **warm up**

● OPPOSITE: **cool down**

HOUND

hounded, hounded, hounding

hound out**hound out** sb **hound** sb **out**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to force someone to leave a place or job by making the situation very unpleasant for them: *She didn't resign; she was hounded out by her colleagues.*

+ of a man who was cruelly persecuted and hounded out of one country after another

* SIMILAR TO: **drive out**

HOWL

howled, howled, howling

howl down**howl down** sb **howl** sb **down**

BrE to prevent a speaker from being heard by shouting loudly and angrily: *At a public meeting union officials were howled down by the strikers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shout down**

HUDDLE

huddled, huddled, huddling

huddle up**be huddled up**

to sit or lie with your arms and legs folded close to your body because you are cold or frightened: *She sat huddled up in a corner, pale and shivering.*

huddle up/together**huddle up/together**

if a group of people huddle up or huddle together, they stand or sit very close together,

especially because they are cold or frightened: *They sheltered in a doorway and huddled up close for warmth.*

be huddled up/together *More than thirty people spent Christmas huddled together in a church hall after fire broke out in their apartment block.*

HUM

hummed, hummed, humming

hum with**hum with** sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a place is humming with activity, it is very busy and there is a lot of activity there: *The town was humming with preparations for the annual carnival.* | *By 8 o'clock the streets are usually humming with life.*

HUNGER

hungered, hungered, hungering

hunger after/for**hunger after/for** sth

literary to want something very much: *a nation hungering for change* | *Joseph would lie awake at night hungering after the warmth of her embrace.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for, yearn for**

HUNKER

hunkered, hunkered, hunkering

hunker down**1 hunker down**

AmE to bend your knees so that you are sitting on your heels very close to the ground: *"I just hunkered down by the cash register as soon as he pulled out a gun," said one witness.*

* SIMILAR TO: **squat, crouch down**

2 hunker down

AmE to make yourself comfortable in a safe place, especially for a long time: *If you feel like just hunkering down in your room you can order dinner from our 24-hour room service.*

be hunkered down *You were hunkered down so cozy I didn't like to disturb you.*

3 hunker down

AmE *informal* to prepare yourself for a difficult situation: *Negotiators hunkered down for a weekend of non-stop talks in the hope of averting a Monday morning strike.*

* SIMILAR TO: **prepare**

H

HUNT

hunted, hunted, hunting

hunt down

hunt down sb hunt sb down

to search for a person or animal by chasing them until you catch them, especially in order to punish or kill them: *When slaves escaped from their master, they were hunted down like wild beasts.* | *The sole purpose of his voyage was to hunt down the Great White Whale.*

hunt out

1 hunt out sb/sth hunt sb/sth out

to search for and find someone or something in order to kill or destroy them: *Immediately Karo's warriors hunted out every member of the tribe and butchered them.* | *A squadron of aircraft was assigned to sweep the channel and hunt out enemy submarines.*

2 hunt out sth hunt sth out

to search for and find something that you need or want, especially something you have not seen or used for a long time: *I must try and hunt out my old riding boots.*

* SIMILAR TO: look out BrE spoken, dig out

hunt up

hunt up sth/sb

to search for a piece of information or a person until you find them, especially when they are difficult to find: *I spent the next ten days hunting up the missing documents.* | *Let's go and hunt up Miss Burn and ask her what she thinks.*

* SIMILAR TO: chase up BrE

HURRY

hurried, hurried, hurrying

hurry along

1 hurry sb/sth along

to make something happen more quickly, or to make someone do something more quickly: *Everyone was getting impatient, so I thought I'd try and hurry things along.* | *Can you hurry the kids along a bit - they're going to be late for school.* | *The four-day official visit had to be hurried along as the rain pelted down.*

* SIMILAR TO: speed up

2 hurry along

to go somewhere quickly: *I'd like to stay, but I must be hurrying along.* | *People hurried along, their heads bent against the wind.*

3 hurry along!

spoken, old-fashioned used to tell someone, especially a child, to go somewhere quickly: *Hurry along now, or you'll get left behind.*

* SIMILAR TO: hurry up!

hurry on

1 hurry on

to continue walking or going somewhere more quickly than before: *Patrick called after her, but she hurried on, quickening her pace almost to a run.*

hurry on ahead (=go somewhere quickly without waiting for other people) *Ellis hurried on ahead to get the tickets.*

2 hurry on

to quickly continue talking, often about a different subject: *Lisa hurried on before he could interrupt her.*

+ to *The chairman dealt briefly with the first item and then hurried on to Item Two, which was 'Financial Planning'.*

hurry up

1 hurry up

spoken do something more quickly: *You'd better hurry up and get dressed if you want to come with me.* | *I wish they'd hurry up and fix the plumbing.*

hurry up! spoken (=used to tell someone to come somewhere quickly) *Hurry up, or you'll get no dinner.*

2 hurry sth/sb up hurry up sth/sb

to make something happen more quickly, or make someone do something more quickly: *I'm sorry the work's taking so long - I'll try to hurry things up a bit.* | *I'm still waiting for Fielding's lawyers to answer my letter. Can't we do something to hurry them up?*

* SIMILAR TO: hurry along, speed up

HUSH

hushed, hushed, hushing

hush up

hush sth up hush up sth

to prevent other people from knowing about something immoral or shocking: *It was a major scandal and the White House had tried unsuccessfully to hush things up.* | *Gran wanted it all hushed up, but everyone knew it was suicide.*

* SIMILAR TO: cover up, keep sth quiet

HYPE

hyped, hyped, hyping

hype up**1** **hype up** sth/sb **hype** sth/sb **up** ✕

informal to make something or someone seem more important or better than they really are, by talking or writing about them a lot, especially in newspapers, on the television etc: *The media had really hyped up this UCLA team and so when they lost, it was a big disappointment.* | *a show that was hyped up as the big sensation of the television season*

* SIMILAR TO: **hype****hyped-up** ADJ

informal a hyped-up event, film, team etc has been made to seem more important or better than it really is, especially by being advertised a lot: *another hyped-up dinosaur movie*

2 **be hyped up** ✕

informal to be very excited or anxious about something: *Now she's all hyped up and dying to see him.*

get hyped up *Before a big game the players get hyped up, restless and agitated.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be psyched up** *informal*

ICE

iced, iced, icing

ice down

ice sth down ice down sth

AmE to cover an injury with ice in order to stop it from swelling: *Make sure you ice that ankle down as soon as you get inside.*

ice over

ice over

if the surface of something ices over, it becomes covered with ice: *The lake had iced over by the next morning.*

be iced over (=be covered with ice) *In some places the road was iced over and cars had skidded.*

* SIMILAR TO: **freeze over**

ice up

ice up

if something such as a window or a machine ices up, it becomes covered or blocked with ice so that it cannot be used or cannot work properly: *My windshield was icing up and I could hardly see the car in front. | The aircraft plunged to earth after its engines iced up at 35,000 feet.*

* SIMILAR TO: **freeze up**

IDENTIFY

identified, identified, identifying

identify with

1 identify with sb/sth

to feel able to understand someone's character and feelings, especially because they seem similar to yours in some way: *Young readers can easily identify with Helen, the main character in the story – she's a very ordinary teenager. | Most of us will find it difficult to identify with the sufferings of a heroin addict.*

2 be identified with sth

to be considered by many people to have a close connection with someone or something: *Fats Waller's name came to be identified with a unique style of jazz. | Religion has often been closely identified with politics.*

3 identify (yourself) with sb/sth

to consider yourself to be part of a group that

has a particular set of beliefs: *Not all trade unionists were ready to identify with the Socialist Movement. | politicians who wanted to identify themselves with reform*

IDLE

idled, idled, idling

idle away

idle away sth idle sth away

to spend time in a relaxed way, doing nothing: *Natasha would sit idling away the long summer days by the river. | youths idling their time away on street corners*

* SIMILAR TO: **while away**

IMBUE

imbued, imbued, imbuing

imbue with

imbue sth/sb with sth USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to fill something or someone with a particular quality or feeling: *All Yeats' poetry is imbued with a sense of mystery. | They are a people deeply imbued with national pride.*

IMMERSE

immersed, immersed, immersing

immerse in

1 be immersed in sth

to be completely involved in an activity or in thinking about something, so that you do not pay attention to what is happening around you: *We were so immersed in our business that we almost forgot about our families. | On the drive back home Victor sat immersed in his thoughts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be wrapped up in**

2 immerse yourself in sth

to take part in something so that you become completely involved in it: *Jane was happy to immerse herself in the African way of life. | After his wife's death Brosnan immersed himself in work on television movies.*

IMPACT

impacted, impacted, impacting

impact on

impact on sth/sb

to have an important and noticeable effect on something or someone: *How have long working hours impacted on the health and morale of junior doctors? | This is one of the ways in which advancing technology has impacted on aircraft design.*

* SIMILAR TO: **affect, impact** AmE, **have an effect on** sb/sth

IMPINGE

impinged, impinged, impinging

impinge on/upon

● **Impinge upon** is more formal than **impinge on** and is mostly used in writing.

impinge on/upon sth/sb

formal to have an effect on someone or something, especially in a way that limits someone's freedom or forces them to change their behaviour: *There is concern about new police powers that may impinge on the rights of protesters.* | *The change of government scarcely impinged on ordinary people's lives.*

* SIMILAR TO: **affect**

IMPOSE

imposed, imposed, imposing

impose on/upon

● **Impose upon** is more formal than **impose on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 impose a tax/fine/sentence/ban etc on sth/sb

to officially order that something must be taxed, that someone should be punished etc: *There were rumours that the government was considering imposing a tax on books.* | *The Soviet Parliament imposed a ban on all strikes that would affect the economy.* | *A £32,000 fine was imposed on Nigel Mansell, following his failure to stop at the Portuguese Grand Prix.*

2 impose sth on/upon sb

to make someone have the same ideas or beliefs as you, by influencing them strongly: *Spanish missionaries imposed the Catholic faith on a people who had their own religious tradition.* | *parents who impose their own moral values on their children*

* SIMILAR TO: **force on/upon**

3 impose on sb

to unreasonably expect or ask someone to do something for you when this is inconvenient for them: *We could ask them to let us stay the night, but I don't want to impose on them.*

IMPRESS

impressed, impressed, impressing

impress on/upon

● **Impress upon** is more formal than **impress on** and is mostly used in writing.

impress sth on/upon sb

to make someone understand clearly that

something is very important, especially that it is important to do something: *Eisenhower was careful to impress upon his officers the need for absolute secrecy.*

+ that *It had always been impressed on Alice that she must tell the truth.*

IMPROVE

improved, improved, improving

improve on/upon

● **Improve upon** is more formal than **improve on** and is mostly used in writing.

improve on/upon sth

to do something better than before or to make it better than before: *Bertorelli has scored 165 points, and I don't think anyone will improve on that.* | *New advances in radiotherapy will enable us to improve on existing treatments for cancer.*

IMPUTE

imputed, imputed, imputing

impute to**1 impute sth to sb/sth**

formal to say or believe, often wrongly, that someone or something has a particular quality, feeling, or meaning: *Some literary scholars have imputed a different meaning to Blake's famous poem.*

2 impute sth to sb/sth

formal to say, often unfairly, that someone is responsible for something bad that has happened or to say that something has caused it: *The police were not guilty of the violence imputed to them.* | *In their official report on the accident they presented evidence without imputing blame to anyone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

INDULGE

indulged, indulged, indulging

indulge in**indulge in sth**

to let yourself do or have something that you enjoy, often something you feel you should not do: *300,000 people nationwide indulge in a heavy drinking session every week, according to figures released yesterday.* | *I heard about a new diet that claims you can indulge in chocolate and all your other favourite foods and still lose weight easily.* | *They stopped off in Fort William to indulge in some leisurely shopping.*

INFLICT

inflicted, inflicted, inflicting

inflict on/upon

● **Inflict upon** is more formal than **inflict on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 inflict sth on/upon sb

to talk about your beliefs or opinions to other people in a way that seems boring or annoying, especially because you expect them to accept that what you say is right: *He shouldn't try to inflict his beliefs on everyone else.*

* SIMILAR TO: **force on/upon**

2 inflict sb on/upon sb

to make you have to spend time with someone who seems very boring – often used humorously: *I wish she wouldn't insist on inflicting all her family on us at Christmas!*

3 inflict yourself on sb

to visit or spend time with someone when they do not want you to be with them: *"Sorry to inflict myself on you again." "Don't be silly, Stephen. Come in and have a drink."*

INFORM

informed, informed, informing

inform onALSO **inform against** BrE**inform on/against sb**

to tell people in authority about something dishonest or illegal that someone you know has done – use this especially about a criminal or prisoner telling the police about the activities of other criminals or prisoners: *Carlson and Garay were arrested in September 1996 when a member of their gang informed on them. | Robbins must cooperate with police by informing on his former business partners.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grass on** BrE informal

INFRINGE

infringed, infringed, infringing

infringe on/upon

● **Infringe upon** is more formal than **infringe on** and is mostly used in writing.

infringe on/upon sth

to limit someone's freedom or take their rights away from them: *Some students believe the new law infringes upon their freedom of expression. | Stevens said his plan would keep guns out of criminals' hands, without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens.*

* SIMILAR TO: **restrict, limit, encroach on** formal

INFUSE

infused, infused, infusing

infuse with**infuse sth with sth**

formal to fill something with a particular feeling or quality, especially a good one: *Rousseau infuses his writings with a spirit of revolutionary romanticism.*

be infused with sth (=contain a lot of a particular feeling or quality) *Pollock's work is infused with raw energy and talent.*

INHERE

inherited, inherited, inhering

inhere in**inhere in sth**

formal to be a natural part of something that cannot be separated from it: *Foucault maintained that the culture of a society inheres in its language. | Death inheres in the world, and is a trait of all living things.*

INJECT

injected, injected, injecting

inject into**inject sth into sth**

to add a good quality such as excitement or enthusiasm to something in a way that improves it: *Better communication between management and staff has injected new enthusiasm into the workforce. | It is hoped that a big leisure centre will inject new life into the town.*

* SIMILAR TO: **add to**

INK

inked, inked, inking

ink in**ink in sth ink sth in**

to complete something done in pencil by drawing over it in ink: *I've just got to ink in the bottom part of the picture, and then it'll all be finished.*

INQUIRE

inquired, inquired, inquiring

inquire afterALSO **enquire after** BrE**inquire after sb/sth**

formal, especially BrE to ask how someone is or what they have been doing: *Mr. Collins leaned over and inquired after Joe, who he hadn't seen in months.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask after**

inquire intoALSO **enquire into** BrE**1 inquire into sth**

formal if a committee or a person inquires into something, they look for more information in order to decide if, why, or how it happened: *The FAA is inquiring into last week's plane crash off the coast of Long Island.* | *The Football League appointed a commission to inquire into alleged illegal payments by the club.*

* SIMILAR TO: **investigate****2 inquire into sth**

formal if you inquire into something, you ask if it is possible and get more information about it: *I am writing to inquire into the possibility of working in your Houston office this summer.*

inquire ofALSO **enquire of** BrE**inquire of sb**

BrE to ask someone a question about something: *"Have you any family?" she inquired of Mr Oaks.* | *"Are you sure it's all right to smile?" he inquired of Rose anxiously.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask****INSINUATE**

insinuated, insinuated, insinuating

insinuate**insinuate yourself into sth**

especially literary to gradually gain someone's trust, by pretending to be friendly and sincere: *Dara delights in insinuating herself into other people's lives, then turning those lives upside down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **worm your way into sth****INSIST**

insisted, insisted, insisting

insist on/upon

● **Insist upon** is more formal than **insist on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 insist on/upon sth

to demand something or demand to do something because you think it is important, and refuse to accept or do anything else

insist on doing sth *Guy insisted on paying for the meal, so I offered to cook him dinner some time.*

insist on sth *The big Hollywood stars often insist on having their own personal bodyguards with them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **demand****2 insist on/upon sth**

to behave in a particular way and refuse to behave in a different way, especially when other people think that your behaviour is surprising, annoying, or may cause something bad to happen

insist on doing sth *He insisted on bringing his dog everywhere with him.* | *If you insist on carrying cash, beware of pickpockets.* | *I wish she wouldn't insist on calling me Chrissy-poo.*

INSURE

insured, insured, insuring

insure againstALSO **ensure against****insure against sth**

to do something to reduce the risk of something bad happening to you: *One way of insuring against big losses is to invest your money in several different companies.* | *Police powers should be increased, to insure against further violence in the streets.*

* SIMILAR TO: **guard against****INTEREST**

interested, interested

interest in**1 interest sb in sth**

to try to persuade someone to do something, often to buy something: *The salesman was trying to interest him in one of the more expensive models.* | *The child's mother tried to interest him in playing with a toy car, but he just carried on crying.*

2 Can/Could I interest you in sth?

a used when trying to persuade someone to buy something: *Can I interest you in one of our new discount phone cards?*

b used when politely offering something to someone, or when asking them if they want to do something with you: *Can I interest you in some dinner? We could go to Gino's for a pizza.*

INTERFERE

interfered, interfered, interfering

interfere with**1 interfere with sth**

to prevent someone from doing something, for example their work or their studies, or to prevent something from making progress: *Students should not work so many hours that the job interferes with school work.* | *He refused to let his illness interfere with his duties as President.* | *Even quite low levels of*

lead can interfere with a child's mental development. | worries that the bombing campaign could interfere with the peace process

2 **interfere with** sb

BrE *formal* to have sex with children or touch them in a sexual way: *He was put in prison for interfering with his daughter.*

* SIMILAR TO: **molest**

3 **interfere with** sb

BrE to threaten to harm someone who is going to give evidence or decide if someone is guilty in a court of law, in order to influence them: *The trial ended suddenly, and many people thought the witnesses had been interfered with.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get at**

4 **interfere with** sth

to deliberately damage something so that it does not work properly: *Accident investigators believe that the car's brakes may have been interfered with. | Police say the thieves managed to interfere with the bank's alarm system.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tamper with**

INTERSPERSE

interspersed, interspersed, interspersing

be interspersed with

be interspersed with sth

to include something in various places or at various times: *The magazine's editorial features are interspersed with pages and pages of advertisements. | Tomorrow there will be sunny periods in the south, interspersed with occasional showers.*

INURE

inured, inured, inuring

be inured to

ALSO **enure to**

be inured/enured to sth

to have become so used to something unpleasant that you are no longer upset by it: *Have we become so inured to suffering that we don't think to help people in need? | Being a lawyer inured him to the injustices of the criminal code.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be hardened to sth**

INVALID

be invalidated out

be invalidated out

to be officially allowed to leave a job, especially in the army, navy etc, because of injury

or illness: *Her father joined the Irish Guards, but was wounded and invalidated out in 1917.*

+ of *After four years in the Royal Artillery, Dignam was invalidated out of the army and went straight to the Arts Theatre.*

INVEIGH

inveighed, inveighed, inveighing

inveigh against

inveigh against sb/sth

formal to criticize someone or something strongly: *Lady Somers inveighed against the "disgusting language and intolerable manners" of some of the younger members.*

INVEST

invested, invested, investing

invest in

1 **invest in** sth

to buy something that you think will become more valuable over time so you can sell it for a profit: *If you invest in stocks and shares, you need to realize that their value can go down as well as up. | Jones had made a small fortune by investing in Internet companies in the early 1990s. | Many companies are starting to invest in China, where there are potentially huge new markets.*

2 **invest in** sth

to buy something because it is very useful and it will be worth the money you spend: *It's wise to invest in a good pair of running shoes before beginning long distance training.*

3 **invest sth in sth/sb** **invest in sth/sb**

to spend a lot of time, effort, money etc trying to make something or someone successful: *Robin's father had invested so much in her athletic career that she didn't want to disappoint him. | We need to help parents invest in their children.*

4 **invest sth in sb** USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to give someone official power or authority to do something: *the constitutional power invested in Congress to declare war*

* SIMILAR TO: **be vested in**

invest with

1 **invest sb with sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to give someone official power or authority to do something: *The Court is invested with the authority to decide constitutional cases.*

2 **invest sb/sth with sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to make someone or something seem to have a particular quality or character: *The painting is invested with an air of mystery.*

INVITE

invited, invited, inviting

invite along**invite sb along** **invite along sb**

to ask someone to come with you when you are going somewhere: *Simon and Dave invited me along to the football match since they had an extra ticket.*

✦ *with My boyfriend's parents are renting a villa in Spain, and they've invited us along with them.*

invite aroundSEE **invite round/around****invite back****invite sb back**

to ask someone to come to your home after you have been out somewhere together: *Annie invited Sheila back for coffee after the meeting.* | *Christine suggested that I invite Peter back to the apartment for dinner.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask back**

invite in**invite sb in**

to ask someone to come into your home, room, office etc: *Ken invited her in to see his new house.* | *Granny would invite him in every afternoon for a short chat about the day's events.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask in**

invite out**invite sb out**

to ask someone to go to a film, restaurant, concert etc with you

invite sb out to dinner/lunch/the cinema
I've been invited out to dinner, but I don't feel like going.

✦ *for Ben met Joan at a party, and invited her out for a drink.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask out**

invite over**invite sb over**

to ask someone to come to where you live, for example to eat dinner, to have coffee, to talk etc: *John and Susan have invited me over for Sunday lunch.* | *You should invite her over some time.* | *I'd really like to meet her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ask over, invite round/around**

invite round/around**invite sb round/around**

BrE to ask someone to come to where you live, for example to eat dinner, to have coffee, to talk etc: *I often invite people round for Friday evening drinks.* | *On a warm sunny evening, it's always a pleasure to invite friends round and sit out in the garden.*

* SIMILAR TO: **invite over, ask over, ask round/around**

IRON

ironed, ironed, ironing

iron out**iron out sth** **iron sth out**

if you iron out small problems, you deal with them: *The managers meet once a month to iron out any problems.* | *Carmen and Jack were having a few difficulties in their marriage but managed to iron them out before things got too bad.*

ISSUE

issued, issued, issuing

issue forth**1 issue forth**

literary to come out of a place: *I looked in horror as blood issued forth from the man's chest.*

2 issue from sth

literary to come out of a place: *Black smoke issued from the factory chimneys.* | *Pop music was issuing from behind Sheila's door.*

ITCH

itched, itched, itching

itch for**itch for sth**

informal to want something very much and be very impatient to do it: *She could tell he was itching for a fight.* | *Irvine says he is itching for a chance to get back into Grand Prix racing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **long for, yearn for**

J

JABBER

jabbered, jabbered, jabbering

jabber away

jabber away USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal if someone is jabbering away, they are talking quickly and continuously in a way that is difficult for you to understand or annoying: *I could hear Mike in the kitchen, jabbering away to the cook in Greek.*

* SIMILAR TO: **gabble on/away** BrE informal, **rattle on** informal

JACK

jacked, jacked, jacking

jack around

jack sb around

AmE informal to deliberately make things difficult for someone and waste their time: *The realtors kept jacking us around so we found another agency to sell the house.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dick around** AmE informal, **mess around** BrE informal

jack in

jack sth in jack in sth

BrE informal to stop doing a job or other regular activity, especially because you are bored or do not enjoy it: *I'll stay for two more weeks, and if I still don't like the job I'm jacking it in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pack in** informal, **give up, quite** informal

jack off

jack off

AmE informal if a boy or man jacks off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs

* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, toss off** BrE informal, **jerk off**

jack up

1 jack up sth jack sth up

informal to increase prices, rates etc by a large amount, especially suddenly and in a way that seems unreasonable: *All the hotels in town jack up their prices for the festival week. | The standard manager's fee then was 10 percent, but Parker jacked it up to 50 percent.*

* SIMILAR TO: **increase**

2 jack sth up jack up sth

to lift a vehicle or other heavy object off the ground using a special piece of equipment that you put under the vehicle to support it: *If you had a flat tyre, would you know how to jack the car up and take the wheel off?*

3 jack up

BrE informal to take an illegal drug by putting it into your body using a needle: *If kids are jacking up and sharing needles, there's the added risk of them catching HIV or hepatitis.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shoot up** informal

JAM

jammed, jammed, jamming

jam on

jam on the brakes

to suddenly put your foot hard on the brake in order to stop your car: *Panicking, she jammed on the brakes and the car turned in a half circle.*

jam up

1a jam sth up jam up sth

if a lot of people or vehicles jam up a place, they block it so that it is difficult to move: *You can't get down that street – there's loads of parked cars jamming it up. | So many people were rushing to get out at once, they jammed up the exits. | There's no point going through the centre of town – it'll be jammed up at this time of day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clog up**

1b jam up

if a place jams up, there are so many people or vehicles there that it becomes blocked and no one can move: *Researchers are testing how quickly after an accident a stretch of highway will jam up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clog up**

2a jam up sth jam sth up

if something jams up a machine, it prevents part of it from moving properly and the machine will not work: *The paper keeps getting trapped and jamming up the printer. | The video recorder is jammed up again.*

2b jam up

if a part of a machine jams up, it no longer works properly because something is preventing it from moving: *If the gun jammed up, the soldiers just had to take it apart and put it back together again.*

3 be jammed up against sth

to be too close to something or in an uncomfortable position against it, and be unable to move away: *His head was jammed up against*

the back of the sofa, with Doyle's hand clamped over his mouth. | a tiny room with a single bed jammed up against the fireplace

JAR

jarred, jarred, jarring

jar on

jar on sb/sth

to make someone feel annoyed or uncomfortable – used especially of an unpleasant sound: *She had a hard unpleasant laugh, which really jarred on me.*

jar on the nerves/ears *The same old music blared out, jarring on everyone's nerves.*

* SIMILAR TO: **grate (on)**

JAZZ

jazzed, jazzed, jazzing

jazz up

jazz up sth | jazz sth up

informal to improve something that is old or dull by adding new or interesting things to it: *plain rice jazzed up with mushrooms and sundried tomatoes* | *If your website looks a bit boring, you could jazz it up by adding a few graphics.*

* SIMILAR TO: **liven up, vamp up, spice up**

jazzed-up ADJ

made more exciting and interesting: *jazzed-up cuisine*

JERK

jerked, jerked, jerking

jerk around

jerk sb around

jerk around with sth/sb

AmE informal to treat someone badly, especially by deliberately making things difficult for them: *I got tired of being jerked around by everyone in the department, so I quit.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mess sb around** BrE informal, **dick sb around** AmE informal

jerk off

jerk off

AmE informal if a boy or man jerks off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs

* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, toss off** BrE informal, **jack off** AmE informal

jerk out

jerk out sth

literary to say something suddenly, especially because you feel very angry, surprised, or

nervous: *"Don't lie," she jerked out. "I know where you were last night."*

JET

jetted, jetted, jetting

jet off

jet off

to travel somewhere by plane for a holiday, for your work etc: *After the wedding the couple are jetting off for a couple of weeks in the Seychelles.* | *She has a very glamorous lifestyle – she's always jetting off to somewhere or other.*

JIB

jibbed, jibbed, jibbing

jib at

jib at sth

BrE informal old-fashioned to be unwilling to do something when you are asked or have the chance to do it: *I suppose if he jibbed at five hundred pounds he'd hardly pay four thousand.*

jib at doing sth *Even Mike jibbed at doing the parachute jump.*

JIBE

jibed, jibed, jibing

jibe with

jibe with sth

AmE if one statement, opinion, report etc jibes with another, the information in them is similar: *The survey's results jibe with what bankers and economists are saying.* | *The words and actions of our elected representatives don't jibe with those of the common citizen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **match**

JOCKEY

jockeyed, jockeyed, jockeying

jockey for

jockey for position/advantage/power

to compete with other people to try to get into the best position or situation so that you have an advantage: *Photographers jockeyed for position outside the courtroom.* | *As the President's health declined, potential rivals began jockeying for power.*

* SIMILAR TO: **compete**

jockey into

jockey sth into sth

AmE to move something large, especially a vehicle, into a particular place or position: *In*

January 1999, controllers at APL jockeyed the spacecraft into a 62-mile-high orbit.

* SIMILAR TO: manoeuvre BrE, maneuver AmE

JOG

jogged, jogged, jogging

jog along

jog along

BrE informal to continue steadily in the same way as usual, without anything exciting or unusual happening: *United have been jogging along in the middle of the league tables all season.* | *There's no point complaining – just jog on and do the best you can.*

JOIN

joined, joined, joining

join in

join in join in sth NOT PASSIVE

to start doing or becoming involved in something with other people, especially when they are already doing it: *When we get to the chorus, I want everybody to join in.* | *Politely, he joined in the laughter.* | *With the vast majority of employees joining in the strike, work soon came to a halt.*

* SIMILAR TO: participate, take part

join up

1 join up

to become a member of the army, navy, or airforce: *Young men and women were urged to join up and serve their country.*

* SIMILAR TO: enlist

2 join up sth join sth up

BrE to connect or fasten things together: *The reason the lights aren't working is because the wires aren't joined up properly.* | *It's a puzzle – you have to join up the dots to make a picture.*

* SIMILAR TO: connect

3 join up

especially BrE if two things join up they come together and connect with each other: *There are two paths around the lake and they join up by the bridge.*

* SIMILAR TO: meet

4 join up

to work with other people or go somewhere with them in order to do something: *We joined up to make a quiz team.*

+ with *The SS Brilliant will join up with the other ships and head west.*

* SIMILAR TO: get together

join with

join with sb

formal to do or say something with a group of other people or with another person: *She was invited to join with young musicians from 46 countries at the Interlochen Music Camp.*

join with sb in doing sth *Does the Senator plan to join with Republicans in supporting the bill?*

join with sb to do sth *He returned to Connecticut and joined with an aunt to purchase a 150-acre farm.*

JOLLY

jollied, jollied, jollying

jolly along

jolly sb/sth along

BrE to make someone feel more cheerful, by talking to them in a friendly and encouraging way, especially so that they enjoy themselves or do something that you want them to do: *She tried to jolly him along a bit and get him to join in with the others.*

jolly things along *Just go back and jolly things along and tell everyone what a great trip they're going to have.*

jolly up

1 jolly up sth jolly sth up

BrE old-fashioned to make a place or event more attractive, exciting, and enjoyable: *A couple of bands were hired to jolly up the celebrations.*

* SIMILAR TO: brighten up, liven up

2 jolly sb up jolly up sb

BrE old-fashioned to make someone feel more cheerful: *Nina visits the hospital every week to chat to the patients, just to jolly them up a bit.* | *"You and Jim look as if you need jollying up," Albert said. "Let's go out for a drink."*

* SIMILAR TO: cheer up

JOT

jotted, jotted, jotting

jot down

jot sth down jot down sth

to quickly write something on a piece of paper, so that you can remember it or use it later: *If anyone has any suggestions, jot them down on a piece of paper and give them to me.* | *At the breakfast table, Kathy jotted down a grocery list.*

* SIMILAR TO: scribble down

JUGGLE

juggled, juggled, juggling

juggle with

juggle sth with sth juggle with sth

if you juggle one job, responsibility etc with another or others, you try to organize them so that you have enough time to do all of them, especially with difficulty: *Grace was juggling a full-time job with looking after three young children.* | *The teenager was trying to juggle her tennis career with her college education.* | *Parents have to juggle with their job commitments in order to spend enough time with the kids.*

juggle with/juggle about with/juggle around with

juggle with sth juggle about with sth

juggle around with sth

to arrange numbers, information etc in various ways, changing them if necessary in order to get the result you want: *My accountant juggles with the figures, and then tells me how much tax I have to pay.* | *She juggled about with the text for a few minutes, trying to get it to look right.*

JUICE

juiced, juiced, juicing

juice up

juice up sth juice sth up ✕

AmE informal to make something more interesting or exciting: *Moby became known for his skill at juicing up hit tunes for the dance floor.* | *In an effort to juice up their event, the organizers of the Los Angeles Marathon have changed the route completely.*

* SIMILAR TO: **liven up, jazz up, spice up****JUMBLE**

jumbled, jumbled, jumbling

jumble up

jumble sth up jumble up sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

to mix things together so that they are not arranged neatly or in order any more: *All the papers on my desk were jumbled up and I couldn't find a thing.* | *Here are three words with the letters jumbled up – can you guess what the words are?* | *He only remembered certain bits of the accident – it was all jumbled up in his mind.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mix up****JUMP**

jumped, jumped, jumping

jump at

jump at sth

to eagerly accept the opportunity to do something: *If I was offered the job, of course I'd jump at it.*

jump at the chance/opportunity When the resort was put up for sale in 1985, the Millers jumped at the chance to buy it.

* SIMILAR TO: **leap at****jump in****1 jump in**

to interrupt someone or suddenly start talking when other people are having a conversation: *He was going to say more, but she jumped in. "You can't be serious!"* | *Dalzell interrupted. "I am going to jump in here. I have to disagree with you."*

* SIMILAR TO: **interrupt, butt in****2 jump in**

to start doing something quickly in order to take an opportunity or get an advantage: *Buyers have to be ready to jump in – these discounts are only available for a short period.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leap in, dive in****jump on**

jump on sb/sth

informal to criticize or punish someone as soon as they do anything slightly wrong, in a way that seems unfair: *Mum's being so mean to me – every time I say something she jumps on me.* | *When the show started everybody jumped on it and criticized the things that weren't working.*

jump out at

jump out at sb

if something jumps out at you, you notice it quickly because it is unusual or you like it very much: *As soon as I read it through again, several mistakes jumped out at me.* | *Did you see the photograph of the eagles in the gallery? That really jumped out at me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leap out at****jump up**

jump up

to suddenly stand up after you have been sitting or lying down: *Sethe jumped up and went to the phone.* | *When she heard Clarissa scream, she jumped up and ran outside.*

JUT*jutted, jutted, jutting***jut out****jut out**

to come out further than the rest of something, or beyond the edge of something

+ **into/from/of** *Cape Finisterre juts out into the Atlantic.* | *A sharp piece of metal jutting out from the heavily loaded vehicle caught him on the forehead.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick out**, **protrude** *formal*

jut up**jut up**

to come up above the surface of something, or to point up – used especially of something sharp or pointed: *The sidewalk was wrecked, with pieces of stone jutting up at odd angles.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick up**

K

KEEL

keeled, keeled, keeling

keel over

keel over

to fall over sideways, especially because you feel weak or unsteady: *He looked as if he was ready to keel over from exhaustion.* | *May was laughing so much that she keeled over onto the sofa.*

KEEP

kept, kept, keeping

keep after

keep after sb

to ask someone again and again to do something until they do it: *Tony's children and relatives kept after him to stop drinking.*

* SIMILAR TO: **keep on at**

keep at

1 keep at sth

spoken to continue to do something, although it is difficult or hard work: *How long do you think you'll keep at this job?*

keep at it *I know the training is hard, but keep at it. Don't give up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick at it**

2 keep sb at it

to make someone continue to work hard and not let them stop: *Trevor will never pass his piano exam if he doesn't practise – you have to keep him at it.* | *The director called yet another rehearsal; he was determined to keep them at it as long as possible.*

keep away

1 keep away

to not go near a person, place, or animal: *You'd better keep away, I don't want you to get my cold.*

+ from *Keep away from that dog, it might bite you!* | *If I were you I'd keep away from that area at night.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stay away**

2 keep sb/sth away keep away sb/sth

to prevent someone or something from going near a person or place: *Rub the liquid on your skin to keep mosquitoes away.*

+ from *Mom kept us away from school for a week.* | *To avoid danger of suffocation, keep plastic bags away from babies and children.*

3 keep away sth keep sth away

to prevent an illness from infecting someone: *Vitamin C is supposed to keep away colds.*

keep back

1 keep back

to not stand near something or not move towards it: *Keep well back, please. This could be dangerous.*

+ from *Police were telling people to keep back from the side of the road.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stand back**

2 keep back sb/sth keep sb/sth back

to prevent someone or something from moving forward or going past a particular place: *The organizers have put up barriers to keep back crowds.* | *He had a white rag, which he tied around his head to keep his hair back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold back**

3 keep sth back keep back sth

to keep part of something instead of using it all immediately, or giving it all to someone else, so that you have it to use later: *I managed to keep back a couple of cases of beer, just for our own use.* | *While the women spent everything on their families, men typically kept money back for themselves.*

4 keep sth back

to deliberately not tell someone all that you know about something: *I've honestly no idea what happened – do you think I'd keep anything back if I knew?*

+ from *Ellie was sure he was keeping something back from her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold back, withhold** *formal*

5 keep back sth keep sth back

if you keep back your tears or your feelings, you do not cry or show your feelings, even though you want to very much: *I tried to explain, working hard to keep back the tears.* | *He was unable to keep back his anger any longer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold back, suppress** *formal*

6 keep sb back

to make someone stay after class, especially in order to talk to them: *After the first class the teacher kept me back and said, "Are you really sure you want to be a dancer?"*

7 keep sb back

to make someone stay at the same level, and not let them progress to a higher level, for example because you do not think that their work is good enough: *Mick was kept back for a year at college after he failed all his exams.*

K

keep down

- 1 **keep sth down** **keep down sth**

to prevent the size, cost, or quantity of something from increasing, or to keep it at a low level: *No sugar, thanks – I'm trying to keep my weight down.*

keep prices/costs down *The store keeps prices down by asking customers to bag their own groceries.*

- 2 **keep sth down** **keep down sth**

used to ask someone to make less noise

keep your voice down *Keep your voice down – she'll hear you!*

keep it down *Can you ask the kids to keep it down a bit – I'm trying to work.*

- 3 **keep down/keep your head down**

to stay close to the ground when you are hiding or in danger of being hit by something: *My mother told me to keep down and stay quiet so the guard wouldn't spot us.*

- 4 **keep sth down** **keep down sth**

to succeed in keeping food in your stomach after eating it, instead of bringing it up again out of your mouth, especially with difficulty because you are ill: *He drank some of the medicine, but he couldn't keep it down.* | *Anna was feeling much better – she'd managed to keep down the bread she'd eaten.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold down**

● OPPOSITE: **bring up**

- 5 **keep down sb** **keep sb down**

to keep people under strict control or limit their freedom in an unfair way: *Women have been kept down for far too long.* | *an oppressive society in which people from ethnic minorities were kept down*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold down**, **oppress** *formal*

keep from

- 1 **keep sb/sth from sth**

to prevent someone from doing something or to prevent something from happening

keep sb from doing sth *At the stadium police kept fans from coming onto the field.* | *Bains complained that he had been kept from seeing his children by his ex-wife.*

keep sb from sth *I hope I haven't kept you from your work.*

keep sth from doing sth *Stand the plant in a bowl of water to keep the soil from getting dry.*

- 2 **keep (yourself) from doing sth**

to prevent yourself from doing something, with difficulty: *I looked quickly away to keep from laughing.* | *It was all Dinah could do to*

keep from shouting. | *He tried to keep himself from getting too tired.*

- 3 **keep sth from sb**

to prevent someone from knowing something, by deliberately not telling them about it: *The government had wanted to keep this information from the public.* | *I felt that he was keeping something from me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **withhold** *formal*

keep in

- 1 **keep sb in**

especially BrE to make someone stay in a place, especially as a punishment: *The children had behaved so badly that the teacher kept them in at lunchtime.*

- 2 **keep sb in**

to make someone stay in a hospital because they are too ill to go home: *They kept me in overnight just for observation.*

- 3 **keep in**

BrE used to warn someone to walk or travel near the side of the road instead of in the middle: *Keep in! There's a car coming.*

keep in with

- keep in with sb**

BrE to try to remain friendly with someone and make them continue to like you: *Young people often do silly things because they want to keep in with their friends.* | *It's always a good idea to keep in with the boss.*

keep off

- 1 **keep off sth**

to not go onto an area of land: *The children had been told to keep off the beach.* | *There was a sign saying, 'Keep off the grass.'*

- 2 **keep sb/sth off sth**

to prevent someone or something from going onto an area of land, a road etc: *Please could you keep the children off the flower beds.* | *Rain kept both teams off the pitch for long periods.* | *The government hopes that improving public transport will keep more cars off the roads.*

- 3 **keep sth off sth/sb** **keep sth off**

- keep off sth**

to prevent something from touching or harming something or someone: *Jimmy was wearing a hood to keep off the rain.* | *How are we going to keep these flies off the food?*

- 4 **keep your hands off sb/sth**

to not touch or go too close to someone or something: *"Keep your hands off me!" Linda shouted at Don.*

5 **keep off sth**

to not eat, drink, or take something that is bad for you: *If you want to lose weight, you should keep off fatty foods.* | *To the surprise and admiration of his friends, Patrick was still keeping off alcohol.*

6 **keep sb off sth**

to stop someone from eating, drinking, or taking something that is bad for them: *The programme is aimed at keeping teenagers off drugs.*

7 **keep off sth**

especially BrE to avoid talking about a particular subject, especially because it might upset someone: *I think we ought to keep off the subject of personal relationships.* | *Maud tried to keep off political subjects to avoid any arguments.*

* SIMILAR TO: **avoid, stay off**

8 **keep sth off keep off sth**

if you keep weight off, you do not get heavier again after you have lost weight: *It's usually easier to lose weight than to keep it off.* | *Sussman has now kept off twenty-five pounds for five years.*

● OPPOSITE: **put on**

9 **keep off**

BrE if bad weather keeps off, it does not begin, although it looks as if it might begin soon: *The rain kept off until we boarded our coach at 6.15.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold off**

keep on1 **keep on doing sth keep on**

to continue to do something or go somewhere

keep on doing sth *No car appeared so she kept on walking with new determination.* | *The album has made almost three million dollars in sales around the world, and people keep on buying it.*

keep on *When I started to smoke the cigarette I felt really ill, but I kept on because everyone else was doing it.*

keep on with sth *If it continues to rain, the players won't be able to keep on with the game.*

* SIMILAR TO: **continue, carry on**

2 **keep on doing sth**

to do something many times: *I don't like to keep on borrowing money from the bank.* | *Kilkenny's a brilliant player – he just keeps on scoring goals.*

3 **keep on**

to continue to talk about something in an annoying or boring way

+ **about** *I wish my parents wouldn't keep on about my exams all the time.*

keep on and on *I know what you think, so there's no need to keep on and on about it.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on, harp on** BrE informal

4 **keep sb on keep on sb**

to continue to employ someone, especially for longer than you had planned, or for longer than other people are employed: *After Craig's retirement, he was kept on temporarily as a special assistant.* | *The company have kept on a staff of thirty, out of the original 900.*

keep on at

keep on at sb NOT PROGRESSIVE

to tell someone something or ask them something many times, especially in a way that is annoying or unreasonable: *If I didn't keep on at the children, they'd never get their homework done.* | *Please don't keep on at me. I'd tell you if I knew.* | *He had a bad leg but they still kept on at him to hurry up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go on at, nag**

keep out1 **keep out**

to not go into a place or building: *Danger: Keep out!* | *They boarded up the windows and put up 'Keep Out' notices.*

+ **of** *Please keep out of my office when I'm not there.*

2 **keep sb/sth out keep out sb/sth**

to prevent someone or something from coming into a place or building: *Barricades were put up to keep out the protestors.* | *We closed the curtains to keep out the light.* | *You will need a strong fence to keep foxes out.*

+ **of** *I try to keep the children out of the kitchen when I'm cooking.*

keep out of1 **keep sb/sth out of sth**

to prevent someone or something from getting involved in a situation: *Anna had tried hard to keep John out of her life.* | *They managed very cleverly to keep their country out of the war.*

2 **keep out of sth**

to not get involved in a situation: *Phil was one of those children who can't manage to keep out of trouble.* | *"What's the matter?" I asked. "You keep out of this," Charlie replied sharply.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stay out of**

keep to1 **keep to sth**

to stay in one particular area or place: *"Keep to the centre of the track," said Bailey.* | *The*

weather was so bad we had to keep to the house for the first two days.

2 **keep to sth**

to do what has been decided in an agreement or plan, or what is demanded by law: *It is vital that they keep to the peace agreement.* | *We are still keeping to our aims of achieving greater equality.* | *There would be fewer accidents if people kept to the speed limits.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick to, keep to, abide by** *formal*

3 **keep sth to sth**

usually passive to limit something to a particular number or amount: *Your stories should be kept to no more than 500 words.*

keep sth to a minimum *Hospital waiting times must be kept to a minimum.*

4 **keep sth to yourself**

to not tell anyone about something: *What I'm going to tell you now is a secret. Can you keep it to yourself?* | *Maria guessed that Larry was in trouble, but she kept her suspicions to herself.*

5 **keep yourself to yourself** *BrE*

keep to yourself *AmE*

to prefer to be alone rather than with other people: *Tom didn't like meetings and village events and he kept himself to himself.*

6 **keep to sth**

to continue to talk about one particular subject, instead of starting to talk about others: *"Please try and keep to the subject under discussion," the chairman said.*

keep to the point *He's a hopeless teacher. He can't keep to the point.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stick to**

keep up

1 **keep up sth** **keep sth up**

to continue doing something: *The doctor advised me to keep up the treatment for two weeks.* | *All the way home the kids kept up a non-stop flow of questions.* | *Any exercise is good for you, but ideally you should keep it up regularly.*

keep up the good work (=continue to work hard and well) *Our manager's always coming round telling each of us to keep up the good work.*

keep it up (=continue to work hard and well) *He had been revising for nearly five weeks and felt he couldn't keep it up for much longer.*

2 **keep up**

if something keeps up, it continues without stopping or changing: *It had been raining for days, and everyone was wondering how long*

it could keep up. | *If things keep up like this, we'll all be millionaires soon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **continue**

3 **keep up**

to go as quickly as someone else: *Maggie had a stone in her shoe, and was finding it hard to keep up.*

+ **with** *Sometimes Emmie followed Nick. She had to walk fast to keep up with him.*

4 **keep up**

to manage to do as much or as well as other people: *Teachers should offer advice to children in hospital on how to keep up at school.*

+ **with** *Older employees often find it difficult to keep up with their younger colleagues.* | *"He had enormous energy," Deborah said. "I felt I could never keep up with him."*

keep up with the Joneses (=try to have the same possessions and way of life as other people, so that they will think you are as good, rich etc as them) *Until she was forty, Gemma's life consisted of microwaves and mobile phones and keeping up with the Joneses.*

● OPPOSITE: **fall behind**

5 **keep up**

to keep changing the way in which you do something because the situation you are in keeps changing

+ **with** *In the car industry, many of the smaller firms have been unable to keep up with the pace of change.*

keep up with demand (=supply as much of something as is wanted, especially when the amount is increasing quickly) *It's difficult to produce these computer games fast enough to keep up with demand.*

keep up *Young people's fashions change so quickly nowadays that you need a lot of money to keep up.*

6 **keep up**

to know about and understand all the most recent facts in a situation

+ **with** *We encourage all our employees to keep up with new technical developments.*

keep up *Technology changes all the time. It's almost impossible to keep up.*

7 **keep up sth** **keep sth up**

to make something continue at its present level or amount, instead of letting it decrease: *Nato kept up the pressure on the Serbs to get out of Kosovo.* | *You need to have a good meal now to keep your strength up.*

8 keep up

if one process keeps up with another, it increases at the same speed so that they stay at the same level

+ with *In most African countries, food production is not keeping up with population growth. | Salaries have not kept up with inflation in the last few years.*

9 keep up sth keep sth up

to continue to practise a skill or subject that you learned in the past so that you do not forget it: *I was keen to keep up the French that I had learned when I worked at the resort. | George used to play the piano, but I'm afraid he hasn't kept it up.*

10 keep sth up keep up sth

to look after a building and pay for any work that needs to be done, so that it stays in good condition: *In the end the family had to sell the house. They didn't have enough money to keep it up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **maintain** formal

upkeep N [SINGULAR]
the process and cost of looking after a building: *On a house this size, the upkeep is enormous.*

11 keep sb up keep up sb

to prevent someone from going to bed at the usual time: *One of the students kept Mike up for hours talking about her problems. | The noise from the party kept us all up.*

keep up with**keep up with sb**

to write to, telephone, or meet a friend regularly, so that you do not forget each other: *I've kept up with several of my schoolfriends, especially the ones that live near me.*

KEY

keyed, keyed, keying

key in**1 key sth in key in sth**

to type information into a computer: *If you key your message in first, I'll show you how to send it. | Most people key in their work themselves now.*

* SIMILAR TO: **type in, enter**

2 be keyed up

to be very nervous or excited about something: *Travis arrived, keyed up at the thought of seeing Rosemary again. | We were all keyed up and ready to go.*

KICK

kicked, kicked, kicking

kick aboutSEE **kick around****kick against**ALSO **kick out against****kick (out) against sth**

to show that you feel angry with something because it controls your life in a way that you do not like: *It's the story of a young girl growing up and kicking against society. | Getting married too young can place demands on people, which they will eventually kick out against.*

Kick aroundALSO **kick about** BrE**1 kick around/about sth****kick sth around/about**

informal to discuss an idea with a group of people in an informal way: *We've been kicking around the idea of asking Gretsky to join our team. | The idea of a business merger has been kicked around for more than a year now.*

2 be kicking around/about (sth)

informal if something is kicking around a place, it is somewhere in that place but it has been forgotten about, or not used for a long time: *I found a photograph of his last girlfriend kicking about among the clothes on the floor. | That book's been kicking around the house for ages, but now that I want it, it's disappeared!*

* SIMILAR TO: **be knocking around** informal, **be lying around** informal

3 kick around/about sth**kick around/about**

informal to spend time in a place or travelling around a place, doing whatever you want to do or doing very little: *After university, I decided to kick around Europe for the summer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **bum around** informal

4 kick sb around/about USUALLY PASSIVE

informal to treat someone badly or unfairly, especially by expecting them to do whatever you tell them to do: *She's always being kicked around by him - I don't know why she stays.*

get kicked around/about *Some of the staff definitely feel that they get kicked around too much.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shove around, push around**

kick back**1 kick back**

AmE *informal* to relax: *Stewart decided to kick back and enjoy himself Wednesday afternoon.* | *The players have been kicking back a little between Tuesday's game and their next game tonight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax**

2 kick back sth kick sth back

AmE to pay someone part of the money you earned from a deal because they helped you to make the deal. This is usually done in a secret or illegal way: *The travel agencies kicked back part of their commission to corporations who signed contracts with them.*

kickback N [C,U]

AmE money that you pay to someone because they have helped get a larger amount of money, usually from a secret or illegal deal, plan etc: *Roth has been charged with collecting more than \$224,000 in kickbacks from companies that sold supplies to his employer.*

kick down**kick sth down kick down sth**

to break a door or other structure by kicking it violently: *He threatened to kick down the door if she didn't open it.*

kick in**1 kick in sth kick sth in**

to break open a door, window etc by kicking it very hard, especially in order to enter a building: *Firemen kicked in a window and managed to get the children out of the house.* | *When we got home, we found that the door had been kicked in and several things were missing.*

2 kick in

informal to start to have an effect or start to work: *For some people it can take several hours before the effects of the drug kick in.* | *Sales of between 10,000 and 30,000 copies are needed before profits kick in.* | *The heating will kick in if the temperature falls below a certain level.*

K

3 kick in sth kick in

AmE to join with others in giving money or help: *If you and your neighbors will donate \$100, I'll kick in \$300.* | *He doesn't really kick in and do his share of the housework.*

* SIMILAR TO: **contribute, chip in** *informal*

kick off**1 kick off kick off sth kick sth off**

if an event kicks off or you kick it off, it

starts: *The conference is scheduled to kick off at noon.*

+ **with** *Phelps kicked off the night's music with a beautiful Mozart symphony.*

* SIMILAR TO: **begin, start**

2a kick off

if a game of football kicks off, the game starts: *The game kicked off an hour late after heavy rain.*

* SIMILAR TO: **begin, start**

kick-off N [C]

the time when a game of football starts, or the first kick: *Leeds were the better team right from kick-off.*

2b kick off

if a team or its players kick off, they start to play a game: *We'll have to hurry if we want to watch the match – they're kicking off at seven o'clock.*

+ **against** *England will kick off against France at 2 o'clock this afternoon.*

3 kick off

BrE *informal* to become angry and start complaining or criticizing someone or something

+ **about** *Don't tell Daniel – he's bound to kick off about it.*

kick out**kick sb/sth out kick out sb/sth**

to force someone or something to leave a place, organization, or position of power: *The landlord kicked me out of my apartment as soon as I couldn't pay the rent.* | *I'm sure this government will be kicked out at the next general election.*

+ **of** *Amy was kicked out of university for failing her exams.*

* SIMILAR TO: **chuck out** *informal*, **throw out** *informal*, **boot out** *informal*

kick out against

SEE **kick against**

kick over**kick over**

AmE if an engine kicks over, it starts working: *It won't kick over, so I guess we'll have to tow the car to the garage.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

kick up**1 kick up a fuss/kick up a stink**

BrE to complain a lot about something so that people will know that you are very annoyed about it: *People in the neighbourhood are kicking up a fuss about the noise from the*

airport. | Many businesses have been kicking up a stink about the high interest rates.

2 kick up a storm/controversy

to cause a lot of trouble or discussion about something: *If the government goes ahead with the new tax, it will kick up a political storm.*

3 kick up sth kick sth up

AmE informal to increase something, usually a price: *When the landlord kicked up his rent, Mallory packed his bags and left without notice.*

* SIMILAR TO: **raise, increase, hike up** informal

KID

kidded, kidded, kidding

kid around

kid around USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

informal, especially AmE to make jokes and behave in a silly way: *Don't pay any attention to him. He's just kidding around.* | *Stop kidding around and get on with your work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fool around, mess about/around** informal

KILL

killed, killed, killing

kill off

1 kill off sth/sb kill sth/sb off

to kill things or people in large numbers or so that there are none left: *There is a danger that agricultural chemicals will pollute the water and kill off the wildlife.* | *A lot of the children died in those days – poverty and disease killed them off.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wipe out**

2 kill off sth kill sth off

to destroy or get rid of something completely and finally: *The show was so unpopular that the producers decided to kill it off.* | *The new figures are likely to kill off any hope of an early economic recovery.*

3 kill off sb kill sb off

if a writer kills off a character in a story, television series etc, the writer makes that character die: *Of course, we all know that James Bond will never be killed off – but the scene was still very exciting.*

KIP

kip down

kip down

BrE informal to sleep on something that is not

a bed, for example on the floor or a chair, or to sleep at someone else's house: *The party didn't finish till three in the morning, so I kipped down at Jane's house.*

+ on *You have the bed, I'll kip down on the sofa.*

* SIMILAR TO: **doss down** BrE informal, **bed down**

KISS

kiss away

kiss away sth kiss sth away

informal to kiss someone to try to take away their pain or unhappiness and make them feel better: *Harry held her tightly, kissing away her tears.*

kiss off

1 kiss off

AmE spoken informal used when you want to tell someone to go away or stop saying rude things: *Kiss off, Joe! If you can't say anything nice, then just shut up!*

2 kiss off sth kiss sth off

AmE informal to decide that something is not worth the time, effort, money etc or that it cannot work, and therefore you will not be a part of it: *Perhaps you can talk about your differences with your wife instead of just kissing off the relationship.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up**

kiss up to

kiss up to sb

AmE informal to try to please someone, especially in order to get them to do something for you: *Dan is perfectly capable of getting a promotion without kissing up to the boss.*

* SIMILAR TO: **suck up** informal, **creep (up) to** BrE

KIT

kitted, kitted, kitting

kit out

kit sb/sth out kit out sb/sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to provide someone or something with the clothes or equipment they need for a particular activity

+ with *First you will be kitted out with a safety helmet and a lamp.* | *The London studio is lavishly kitted out with six cameras.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fit out** especially BrE

be kitted out/up in**be kitted out/up in sth**

BrE to be dressed in clothes of a particular type, especially ones that are suitable for a particular activity: *The children were kitted out in matching silver ski suits.* | *He was kitted up in a white T-shirt and blue shorts.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wear**

KNEEL

kneelt or kneeled, knelt or kneeled, kneeling

kneel down**kneel down**

to move into a position in which your knees are on the ground and your body is resting on your knees: *She knelt down and put her arms around the child.*

be kneeling down (=be in a position in which your knees are on the ground and your body is resting on your knees) *The people in the church were kneeling down, waiting for the final prayers.*

KNIT

knitted or knit, knitted or knit, knitting

knit together**1 knit together sth/sb**

knit sth/sb together USUALLY PASSIVE

if two or more people are knit together by something, they are united by it: *Communities are knit together by laws, religion and custom.* | *The two families were knitted together by blood and marriage.*

2 knit together

if people or things knit together, they fit together or work together well: *In an essay you must make sure that the sentences in each paragraph knit together logically.* | *The lads in the team have knitted together extremely well.*

3 knit together

BrE if broken bones knit together, they join and grow together again: *I had to rest my leg for a month, to give the bones a chance to knit together.*

K**KNOCK**

knocked, knocked, knocking

knock around/about**1 knock sb around/about**

informal to hit or kick someone several times: *Her husband was a big man with a bad temper. He used to knock her around.*

get knocked about *There was one boy who was always covered in bruises - he got knocked about at home.*

2 knock around/about sth**knock around/about**

informal to spend time somewhere, without doing anything very serious or important: *I didn't want to leave the city now. I'd spent enough time knocking about in the country.* | *After three years knocking around at university, Sammy still had no idea about a future career.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick around** informal

3 be knocking around/about

informal if something is knocking around, it is in a particular place, but it has been forgotten about, or not used for a long time: *I used to play a little violin that I found knocking around in the attic.* | *There seem to be a lot of BMWs knocking around these days.* | *It's surprising how few good acting parts there are knocking around.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick around, be kicking around/about** informal

4 knock sth around/about

BrE to kick or hit a ball around, especially in a not very serious way: *They didn't look like a team who wanted to win. They were just knocking the ball about.*

5 knock around/about sth

to spend time in a place or travelling around a place, doing whatever you want to do or doing very little: *Like Jules, Sarah had knocked around the world a bit and seen a lot of places.*

* SIMILAR TO: **kick around** informal, **bum around** informal

knock around/about with**knock around/about with sb**

BrE to spend your free time with someone, because they are your friend or because you are having a relationship with them: *On Saturdays I knock around with my friends from school.* | *Moore used to knock around with a very strange-looking woman.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go around with, hand out with** informal, especially AmE

knock back**1 knock back sth knock sth back**

informal to drink something, especially alcohol, quickly or in large amounts: *I watched him knock back a whole bottle of wine in fifteen minutes.* | *She poured herself a glass of whisky and knocked it back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put away** informal especially spoken

PHRASAL VERB ACTIVATOR

This special section contains 16 different topic areas, in which groups of phrasal verbs that are similar in meaning are shown together. For example, around the topic area CLOTHES, you will find various phrasal verbs meaning to **put on** clothes, and also various phrasal verbs meaning to **take off** clothes. Once you have found the group of phrasal verbs you are interested in, you can then check in the main part of the dictionary to find out exactly what each phrasal verb means.

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to put clothes on your body

- ▶ put on
- ▶ try on
- ▶ pull on
- ▶ slip on
- ▶ slip into
- ▶ have on
- ▶ throw on
- ▶ sling on

to put on formal or special clothes, for example, for a party

- ▶ dress up
- ▶ tart yourself up
- ▶ doll yourself up

to fasten your shoes, buttons etc

- ▶ do up
- ▶ tie up
- ▶ lace up

to put on special clothes for warmth, protection etc

- ▶ wrap up
- ▶ muffle up
- ▶ be kitted out/up in BrE

to take off your clothes

- ▶ take off
- ▶ strip off
- ▶ peel off
- ▶ slip out of
- ▶ slip off
- ▶ strip down to
- ▶ tear off
- ▶ rip off

to be able to fit into your clothes

- ▶ get into
- ▶ grow into
- ▶ grow out of

to wear informal clothes

- ▶ dress down

CLOTHES

to start using a computer

- ▶ log on/in/into
- ▶ sign on
- ▶ boot up
- ▶ power up

to stop using a computer

- ▶ log off/out/out of
- ▶ shut down

when a computer stops working

- ▶ go down
- ▶ shut down

to put information into a computer

- ▶ key in
- ▶ put in
- ▶ type in
- ▶ scan in
- ▶ punch in
- ▶ tap in

COMPUTERS**to use a computer and get information from it**

- ▶ call up
- ▶ click on
- ▶ page up/down
- ▶ scroll up/down
- ▶ come up

to use someone else's computer system secretly

- ▶ hack into
- ▶ break into
- ▶ tap into

to print things from a computer

- ▶ print out
- ▶ print off
- ▶ run off

CONTINUE

to continue to do something

- ▶ carry on
- ▶ keep on
- ▶ go on
- ▶ go ahead
- ▶ keep up

to continue until something is finished

- ▶ see sth through

to continue with your work

- ▶ get on with
- ▶ press on
- ▶ plough on *BrE*
plow on *AmE*
- ▶ bash on *BrE*
- ▶ crack on *BrE*
- ▶ keep at it

to continue to do something although it is difficult

- ▶ struggle on
- ▶ soldier on
- ▶ stick at sth
- ▶ stick it out
- ▶ tough it out

to continue a journey

- ▶ push on
- ▶ press on
- ▶ drive on

when something continues in the normal way

- ▶ tick over
- ▶ jog along
- ▶ plod on/along

to stop something from being able to continue

- ▶ hold up

to drink something very quickly

- ▶ gulp down
- ▶ knock back
- ▶ toss back/down
- ▶ drink down
- ▶ swill down

to drink all of something

- ▶ drink up
- ▶ finish up
- ▶ polish off
- ▶ lap up

to put drinks into people's glasses or cups

- ▶ pour out
- ▶ fill up
- ▶ top up *BrE*

to drink a little or drink slowly

- ▶ sip at/on

to drink something with difficulty

- ▶ choke down
- ▶ force down

DRINKING**to stop drinking alcohol**

- ▶ dry out

to drink a lot of alcohol

- ▶ tank up *AmE*
- ▶ get tanked up
- ▶ be bevied up *BrE*
- ▶ lager up *BrE*
- ▶ liquor up *AmE*
- ▶ knock back

to mix a drink with something else

- ▶ water down
- ▶ lace with

when you have drunk too much alcohol

- ▶ be hung over
- ▶ sleep off

DRIVING

to start driving

- ▶ start up the engine
- ▶ drive away
- ▶ drive off
- ▶ pull out
- ▶ pull away

to drive more quickly

- ▶ speed up
- ▶ step on it
- ▶ step on the gas *AmE*
- ▶ pull ahead

to leave the road you are driving on

- ▶ turn off
- ▶ pull off
- ▶ pull over

to drive more slowly or stop

- ▶ slow down
- ▶ slow up
- ▶ pull in/into
- ▶ pull up
- ▶ draw up
- ▶ slam on the brakes
- ▶ jam on the brakes *BrE*

when a car stops working

- ▶ break down
- ▶ run out of petrol/gas
- ▶ conk out

to put fuel in a car

- ▶ fill up
- ▶ gas up *AmE*

to have an accident

- ▶ crash into
- ▶ smash into
- ▶ plough *BrE*
plow into *AmE*
- ▶ smash up *BrE*
- ▶ write off *BrE*

to drive in front of someone in a dangerous way

- ▶ cut up *BrE*
- ▶ cut off *AmE*

when someone is hit by a car

- ▶ run over
- ▶ run down
- ▶ knock over
- ▶ knock down

to eat a lot

- ▶ pig out
- ▶ feast on/upon
- ▶ gorge on
- ▶ fill yourself up
- ▶ put away
- ▶ pack away

to eat a little or eat slowly

- ▶ pick at
- ▶ peck at
- ▶ nibble on/at
- ▶ toy with
- ▶ snack on
- ▶ dip into

to eat something very quickly

- ▶ wolf down
- ▶ gobble up/down
- ▶ polish off
- ▶ bolt down *BrE*
- ▶ scarf down *AmE*

to eat all of something

- ▶ eat up
- ▶ finish up
- ▶ finish off
- ▶ polish off
- ▶ lick up

to start eating

- ▶ dig in
- ▶ dive into
- ▶ tuck in/into *BrE*

EATING**to eat something with difficulty**

- ▶ force down
- ▶ choke down

to eat a particular type of food

- ▶ feed on/off
- ▶ live on/off

to eat at home or take food home to eat

- ▶ eat in
- ▶ take out *AmE*
- ▶ take away *BrE*

to eat in a restaurant

- ▶ eat out
- ▶ dine out

to serve food for people to eat

- ▶ serve up
- ▶ dish up
- ▶ lay on

LEAVE

to leave the place where you are

- ▶ go away
- ▶ go off
- ▶ rush off
- ▶ dash off
- ▶ take off
- ▶ run away/off
- ▶ be called away

to leave at the start of a journey

- ▶ set off
- ▶ head off
- ▶ drive off
- ▶ take off

to leave because you are angry

- ▶ walk out
- ▶ storm out

to leave quietly

- ▶ sneak off/away
- ▶ slope off
- ▶ slip out/away
- ▶ slink away/off

to leave for a short time

- ▶ nip out *BrE*
- ▶ pop out *BrE*
- ▶ step out *AmE*

to leave your home

- ▶ move out

to make someone leave

- ▶ kick sb out
- ▶ throw sb out
- ▶ chase sb away
- ▶ frighten sb away

to leave your job or school

- ▶ pack it in
- ▶ jack it in
- ▶ drop out
- ▶ hand in your resignation/notice

ways of telling someone to leave because they are annoying you

- ▶ go away
- ▶ get out
- ▶ clear off
- ▶ piss off

to like someone or something

- ▶ take to
- ▶ fall for
- ▶ go for
- ▶ go in for *BrE*
- ▶ see sth in sb

to start to like someone or something

- ▶ warm to
- ▶ warm up *AmE*
- ▶ grow on
- ▶ come round/around to

to like someone or something very much

- ▶ rave about/rave over
- ▶ revel in
- ▶ be sold on
- ▶ go down well
- ▶ go over well

LIKE/DISLIKE**to not like someone or something**

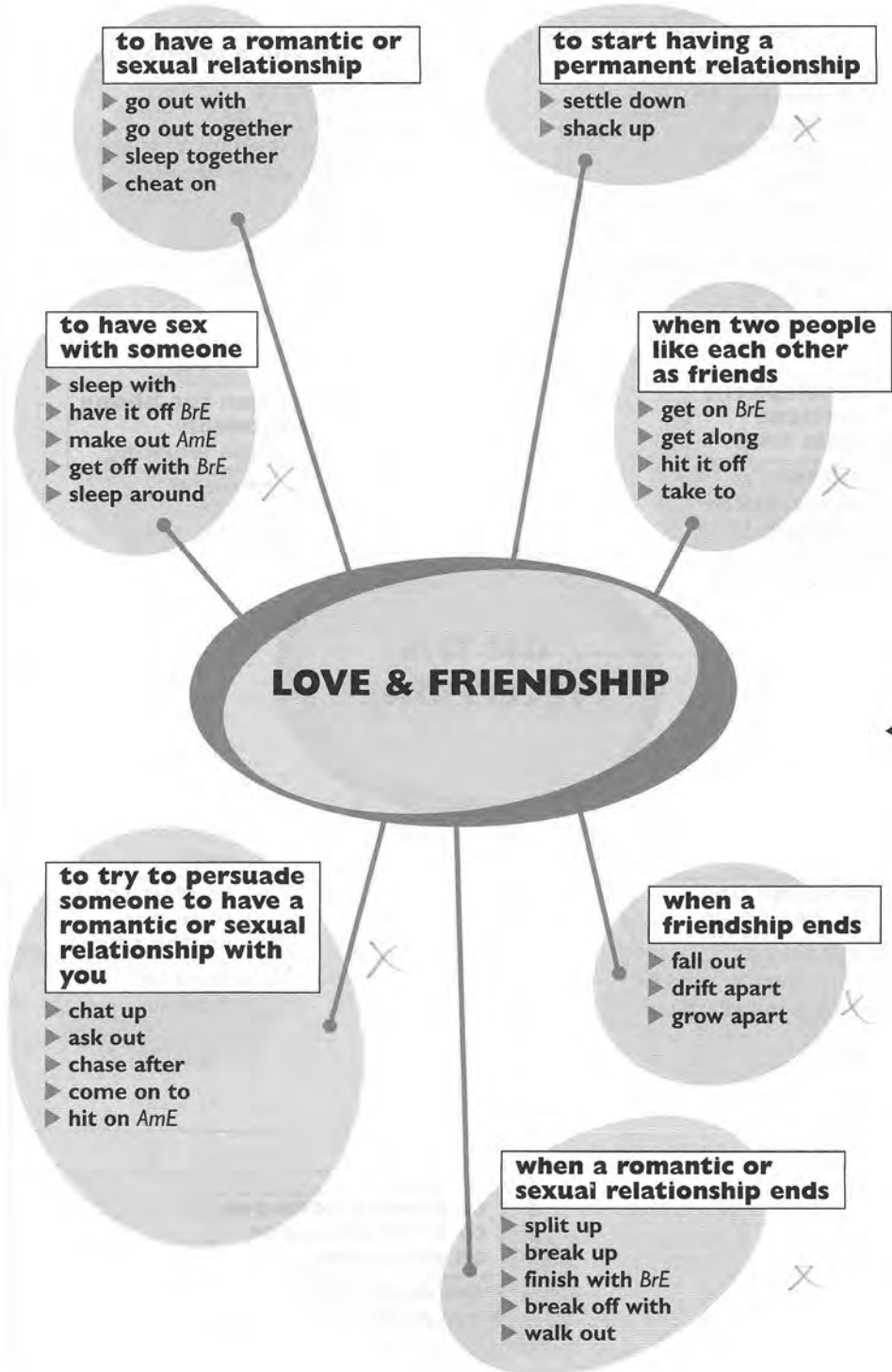
- ▶ not care for
- ▶ have sth against
- ▶ react against
- ▶ take against
- ▶ not be struck on *BrE*
- ▶ go down badly

to make someone like you

- ▶ win over/round
- ▶ endear to
- ▶ get in with
- ▶ cozy up to
- ▶ creep up to *BrE*
- ▶ suck up to
- ▶ kiss up *AmE*

to stop liking someone or something

- ▶ go off *BrE*
- ▶ turn against
- ▶ tire of



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to telephone someone

- ▶ call up *esp AmE*
- ▶ phone up *BrE*
- ▶ ring up *BrE*
- ▶ get through
- ▶ call in
- ▶ phone in *BrE*
- ▶ ring in *BrE*
- ▶ pick up the phone
- ▶ dial out

to end a phone call

- ▶ hang up
- ▶ ring off *BrE*
- ▶ put down the phone
- ▶ get off the phone

to telephone someone again later

- ▶ call back
- ▶ phone back *BrE*
- ▶ ring back *BrE*
- ▶ try back

when the phone suddenly stops working

- ▶ get cut off

ON THE TELEPHONE

to telephone a lot of people

- ▶ call around
- ▶ ring round/around *BrE*
- ▶ phone round/around

to wait for someone on the phone

- ▶ hang on
- ▶ hold on

to connect someone to another person on the phone

- ▶ put sb through
- ▶ put sb on

PROBLEMS

when a problem happens

- ▶ come up
- ▶ crop up

to find you have a problem

- ▶ run up against
- ▶ run into
- ▶ be faced with
- ▶ come up against
- ▶ be confronted with
- ▶ contend with

to deal with a problem

- ▶ deal with
- ▶ grapple with
- ▶ attend to
- ▶ sort out
- ▶ iron out
- ▶ straighten out
- ▶ get around (*also round BrE*)
- ▶ figure out *esp AmE*
- ▶ wrestle with
- ▶ grapple with
- ▶ hash out *AmE*

to prevent problems

- ▶ guard against
- ▶ hedge against

to think about or talk about a problem

- ▶ talk over
- ▶ talk through
- ▶ talk out
- ▶ think over
- ▶ think through
- ▶ thrash out
- ▶ work through

to gradually start sleeping

- ▶ doze off
- ▶ drop off
- ▶ drift off
- ▶ nod off
- ▶ get off (to sleep) *BrE*
- ▶ go off *BrE*

to feel tired suddenly and start sleeping

- ▶ crash out
- ▶ flake out
- ▶ pass out
- ▶ zonk out
- ▶ conk out *esp AmE*
- ▶ sack out *AmE*

to sleep somewhere where you usually do not sleep

- ▶ bed down
- ▶ doss down *BrE*
- ▶ kip down *BrE*
- ▶ bunk down *BrE*

to sleep later in the morning than usual

- ▶ sleep in
- ▶ lie in *BrE*

SLEEPING & AWAKE**to not go to bed**

- ▶ stay up
- ▶ wait up
- ▶ sit up

to sleep outdoors

- ▶ camp out
- ▶ sleep out *BrE*

to stop sleeping

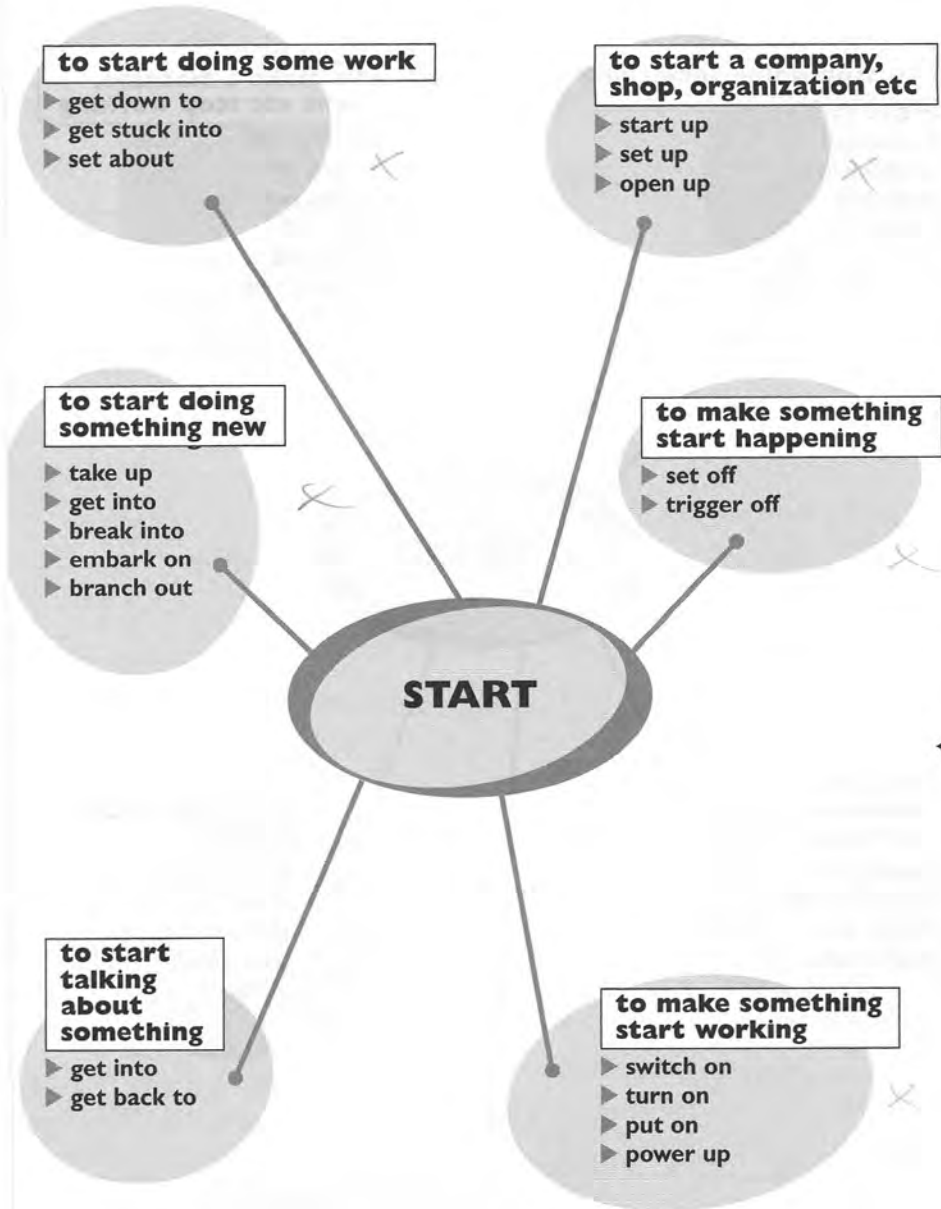
- ▶ wake up

to sleep at someone else's house

- ▶ sleep over
- ▶ stay over
- ▶ stop over *BrE*

to stop someone from sleeping

- ▶ wake sb up
- ▶ keep sb up
- ▶ knock sb up *BrE*



to stop doing something

- ▶ give up
- ▶ pack up
- ▶ chuck in
- ▶ pack in
- ▶ jack in

to make a machine, light etc stop working

- ▶ switch off
- ▶ turn off
- ▶ turn out
- ▶ put off
- ▶ flick off
- ▶ shut down

STOP**to stop annoying someone**

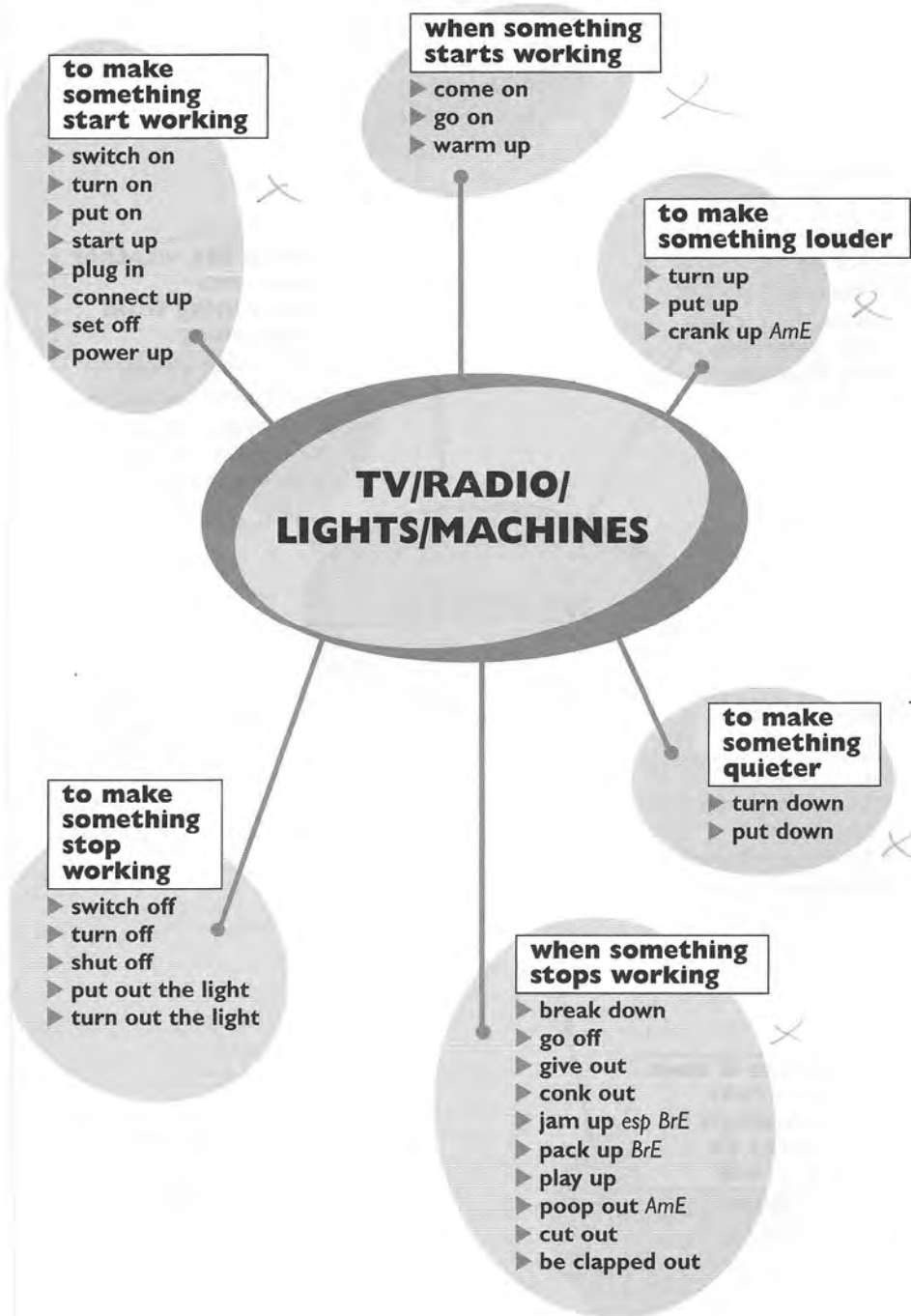
- ▶ pack it in!
- ▶ knock it off!
- ▶ back off
- ▶ leave off

a machine stops working

- ▶ break down
- ▶ conk out
- ▶ cut out
- ▶ shut down
- ▶ go down

to stop talking

- ▶ shut up
- ▶ clam up
- ▶ dry up
- ▶ break off



WEATHER

when the weather gets worse

- ▶ cloud over
- ▶ close in
- ▶ blow up
- ▶ come on to

when the weather gets better

- ▶ brighten up
- ▶ clear up
- ▶ warm up
- ▶ let up
- ▶ blow over
- ▶ blow itself out

when the weather prevents something from happening

- ▶ be rained off *BrE*
- ▶ be rained out *AmE*
- ▶ be snowed in
- ▶ be socked in *AmE*
- ▶ be washed out

when it rains a lot

- ▶ pour down
- ▶ be pelting down
- ▶ lash down
- ▶ be tipping down *BrE*
- ▶ be chucking it down *BrE*

the sun

- ▶ come out
- ▶ go in
- ▶ beat down
- ▶ come up
- ▶ go down

when it does not rain although it looks as if it will

- ▶ hold off
- ▶ keep off

the wind

- ▶ get up
- ▶ die down
- ▶ blow down

2 **knock sth/sb back**

BrE *informal* to prevent something or someone from making progress or improving: *The delay has knocked work back two years. | You've been very ill, and if you go to Mick's party it will really knock you back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set back**

3 **knock sb back**

BrE *informal* to shock or surprise someone: *When my Dad went off with another woman, it knocked us all back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shock**

4 **knock sb back sth**

BrE *informal* to cost you a particular amount of money, especially a lot of money: *A new computer will knock you back at least a thousand pounds. | How much did the flights knock you back?*

* SIMILAR TO: **set back**

5 **knock sth/sb back** **knock back sth/sb**

BrE *informal* to refuse an offer that someone has made: *The football club made an offer for the thirty-five-year-old player, but it was knocked back.*

* SIMILAR TO: **turn down**

knock down1 **knock sb down** **knock down sb**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a vehicle knocks someone down, it hits them so that they fall to the ground and may be injured or killed: *Michael Hutchence was knocked down by a taxi as he left the nightclub. | As Tracey was getting out of her car, a motorcycle nearly knocked her down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock over, run over**

2 **knock down sth** **knock sth down**

to deliberately destroy and remove a building or a part of a building: *We could knock down this wall and have one large room instead of two. | A lot of the older houses were knocked down to make space for new ones.*

* SIMILAR TO: **demolish formal**

3 **knock sth down** **knock down sth**

to reduce the price of something

+ to *The agents recommended knocking the price down to £150,000, and we agreed.*

+ from *He's knocked down the painting from \$200 to \$170.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

knockdown ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a knockdown price is very cheap: *In the end the land was sold at a knockdown price.*

4 **knock sb down**

informal to persuade someone to reduce the price of something they are selling you

+ to *She wanted £2,000 for the car, but I knocked her down to £1,800.*

5 **knock down sth** **knock sth down**

to prove or argue that an idea, suggestion etc is not right, or not worth considering: *They knocked down the proposal on the grounds that it was not practical. | His argument was completely illogical, and easily knocked down.*

knock off1 **knock off sth** **knock sth off** ✕

informal to reduce a price by a particular amount: *Discount travel agencies may be able to knock off a few hundred dollars from the price of international tickets. | I'll knock £100 off your loan if you repay it by the end of the month.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off, deduct formal**

● OPPOSITE: **add on**

2 **knock it off!**

spoken informal used to tell someone to stop doing something that is annoying you: *Knock it off, Liz! There's no reason to drive like an idiot!*

* SIMILAR TO: **stop it!, cut it out!**

3 **knock off sth** **knock sth off** ✕

informal to reduce a total by a particular amount: *I'd like to knock a minute off my running time. | I've been knocking off 200 extra calories a day but still not losing weight.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

4 **knock off sb/sth** **knock sb/sth off**

AmE *informal* to defeat a person or team in a race, game etc: *The Bulls had knocked off The Rockets in the first round, winning 109-34. | The new Ohio Representative knocked off his opponent by only 1,000 votes in the last election.*

* SIMILAR TO: **defeat**

5 **knock off** ✕

informal to stop working because it is time to go home, have your midday meal etc: *All the factory workers knock off at 3 p.m. on Fridays. | I'm going to knock off early today.*

* SIMILAR TO: **finish work**

6 **knock off sb** **knock sb off** ✕

informal to murder someone: *He'll get knocked off for sure if the gang finds out where he's hiding. | The gang knocked them off and quickly fled the scene.*

* SIMILAR TO: **murder, bump off informal**

7 **knock off sth**

informal to copy a product without permission, usually so you can sell it for less money than the real product: *This store is known for knocking off young, designer styles and turning them into affordable clothing.*

* SIMILAR TO: **copy**

knockoff ADJ

informal cheaply made to look like something more expensive

knockoff N [C]

informal a cheap, low-quality product that is made to look like a similar product of higher quality: *Channel 12's new game show is just a knock-off of 'Hollywood Squares.'*

8 **knock off sth** **knock sth off**

informal to produce or finish something very easily and quickly: *Although famous for his long novels, Ken Bradford also likes to knock off short stories from time to time. | I had tons of work to do, but I knocked it off in no time and went out for a beer.*

* SIMILAR TO: **churn out**

9 **knock sth off** **knock off sth**

BrE informal to steal something: *Who would want to knock off these old bicycles? | knock-off goods*

* SIMILAR TO: **steal, nick** BrE informal

10 **knock off sb** **knock sb off**

BrE informal to have sex with someone: *Apparently he'd been knocking off one of his secretaries in the lunch hour;*

* SIMILAR TO: **screw** informal, **have it off with sb** BrE spoken informal

knock out

1 **knock sb out** **knock out sb**

to make someone become unconscious, for example by hitting them in a fight or giving them drugs: *Louis knocked out his opponent in the first round. | I hit him on the jaw and knocked him out. | The nurse gave him some pills to knock him out.*

knock yourself out (=make yourself unconscious, especially by hitting your head on something) *She fell against the sink and managed to knock herself out.*

knockout ADJ

informal a knockout blow is a blow that makes someone unconscious: *a knockout punch*

2 **knock sb/sth out** **knock out sb/sth**

to defeat a person or a team in a competition so that they can no longer take part: *England had been knocked out of the World Cup.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be eliminated** formal

knockout N [C]

BrE a competition in which only the people or teams that win one part play in the next part, until one person or team has defeated all the others: *a semi-final knockout | a knockout competition*

3 **knock sb out**

informal if something knocks you out, you are surprised by how good it is: *When I first saw the movie, it really knocked me out.*

knockout ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

informal extremely good: *another knockout performance by Oasis*

be a knockout V PHRASE

informal if someone or something is a knockout, they are extremely good or attractive: *She was a real knockout in that dress.*

4 **knock sth out** **knock out sth**

AmE to stop the flow of electricity to an area: *High winds have knocked out power in many parts of North Chicago.*

5 **knock sb out**

informal to make someone extremely tired or sleepy: *It had been a hard day, and I was completely knocked out by the time I got home.*

knock out of

knock sth out of sb

especially BrE if you knock something out of someone, you stop them behaving in that way by being very strict and perhaps unkind: *Leonard was always trouble. His Dad tried to knock it out of him but it made no difference. | A lot of the older staff feel that their loyalty to the job has been knocked out of them.*

knock over

1 **knock sth/sb over** **knock over sth/sb**

to hit or push something or someone, usually by mistake, with the result that they fall down or onto their side: *At that moment Sally jumped up, knocking over her glass of wine. | Mike ran along the corridor and nearly knocked Catherine Crane over in his hurry.*

2 **knock sb over** **knock over sb**

to hit someone with a car while you are driving, with the result that they fall down and are injured or killed: *An eighty-two-year-old woman was knocked over by a van outside her home in Darlington on Sunday.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock down, run over**

knock together

1 **knock sth together** **knock together sth**

informal to make something quickly and without much effort, especially using things that you find or have by chance: *They'd got sheets*

K

of plastic and bits of wood and knocked them together into some sort of shelter.

* SIMILAR TO: **knock up, cobble together**

2 **knock sth together** **knock together sth**

BrE if you knock together two or more buildings or rooms, you make them into one building or room, by removing the wall that separates them: *Two or three little rooms were knocked together to make one big spacious kitchen.*

knock up

1 **knock up sth** **knock sth up**

knock sb up sth

informal to make something, quickly and without much effort, especially using things that you have or find by chance: *She was the sort of girl who could knock up wonderful dinners in fifteen minutes.* | *Why don't you ask Ian – he could easily knock some shelves up for you.* | *Could you knock us up some cold ham and salad for lunch?*

2 **knock sb up**

old-fashioned informal if a man knocks a woman up, he makes her pregnant (=a baby starts to grow inside her body), especially when they are not married

get (sb) knocked up *Don't tell anyone, but Bobby's been in a lot of trouble – he got a young girl knocked up over a year ago.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make sb pregnant**

3 **knock sb up** **knock up sb**

BrE to wake someone, usually during the night, by knocking on the door of their room or house: *It was a great holiday, but we had to be knocked up at three in the morning to catch the plane home.*

* SIMILAR TO: **wake up, rouse** formal

4 **knock up sth** **knock sth up**

BrE if you knock up a particular number of points when you are playing a sport or a game, you succeed in winning them: *Cockbain played well for his side, knocking up 59 out of 150.* | *Gloucester knocked up a new record at the weekend – they beat Bridgend by forty-two points to fifteen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **clock up, notch up** especially BrE

5 **knock up**

BrE if you knock up when you play a sport like tennis, you practise hitting the ball to another player, before you start to play a match: *Shall we knock up for a few minutes first?* | *Come and join us – we're only knocking up.*

knock-up N [C]

BrE when players of a sport like tennis practise for a short time before they start to play a match: *The crowd stood up and*

applauded Becker when his record was read out during the knock-up.

KNOW

knew, known, knowing

know of

1 **know of sb/sth** NOT PROGRESSIVE

to have heard or read about something or someone, so that you know that they exist: *I know of a woman in Dublin who went to prison for five years for stealing a few pounds.* | *"Did Mr McCarron have any enemies that you know of?" the police inspector asked.*

2 **little/nothing is known of sth/sb**

used to say that there is little or no information about something or someone: *Little is known of Henry Best's early years, although his collection of books indicate a good education.*

KNUCKLE

knuckled, knuckled, knuckling

knuckle down

knuckle down

informal to start to work or study more seriously than you have been doing: *Murray called on his players to knuckle down after a series of disappointing results.*

+ to *When Kylie returned to school she was determined to knuckle down to the job of passing her exams.*

* SIMILAR TO: **buckle down**

knuckle under

knuckle under

to agree to do what someone is trying to force you to do: *Nancy was bullying him now and that was the kind of thing he understood. But would he knuckle under or oppose her?*

+ to *The people will not knuckle under to violence and force.*

KOWTOW

kowtowed, kowtowed, kowtowing

kowtow to

kowtow to sb/sth

to do whatever someone who has power or authority wants you to do: *Fabia really loved Vick. But her pride would not allow her to kowtow to him.* | *Since the pharaohs were considered gods, the poor Egyptians were forced to kowtow to their demands.*

L

LABOUR BrE **LABOR** AmE

laboured, labored, labouring BrE
labored, labored, laboring AmE

labour under BrE
labor under AmE

1 labour under a misapprehension/ illusion etc

formal to believe something that is not true, especially with the result that you make wrong decisions: *Western governments still labour under the illusion that diplomatic problems can be resolved by the use of force.*

2 labour under sth

formal to be badly affected by something which makes it difficult for you to progress or be successful: *Many of the world's poorest countries labor under a massive burden of debt. | During the trial the defence laboured under an unfair disadvantage, in that they did not have access to all the evidence.*

LACE

laced, laced, lacing

lace up

lace up sth lace sth up ✕

to fasten shoes, boots, or other clothes by tying the laces (=pieces of string used for fastening shoes etc): *She sat down and laced up her shoes. | The boy pulled his boots onto his feet, lacing them up with his trembling fingers.*

* SIMILAR TO: **tie up** BrE, **do up**

lace-ups ALSO **lace-up shoes** N [PLURAL]
BrE shoes that you fasten with laces

lace with

1 lace sth with sth USUALLY PASSIVE ✕

to put alcohol or a drug into someone's food or drink, especially secretly: *Staff found more food in the kitchen which had been laced with the same poison. | a thermos of coffee laced with brandy*

* SIMILAR TO: **spike**

2 be laced with sth

if something is laced with a particular quality, it contains some of it all the way through: *Leigh's play is heavily laced with irony. | The whole history of the Orient Express is laced with an air of romance and mystery.*

LADLE

ladled, ladled, ladling

ladle out

1 ladle out sth **ladle sth out**

to serve soup or other food onto dishes using a big spoon: *Alice began ladling out the stew.*

* SIMILAR TO: **spoon out**

2 ladle out sth **ladle sth out**

especially BrE to give people a lot of something, especially information, advice, or praise, without considering whether it is reasonable, suitable, or necessary: *Schools are constantly ladling out advice on drugs and sex to young people.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dole out** informal, **dish out**

LAG

lagged, lagged, lagging

lag behind

1 lag behind **lag behind sb/sth**

to make less progress or be less successful than someone or something else: *In the past girls lagged behind boys in math and science. | When it comes to nuclear technology, Britain lags a long way behind France and the US.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall behind**

2 lag behind **lag behind sb/sth**

to move more slowly than the other people or things in a group, so that you are a long distance behind them: *She noticed that Elisabeth was lagging behind, and paused to wait for her. | His horse was lagging behind all the others in the race.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall behind**

LAGER**be lagered up****be lagered up**

BrE spoken informal to be drunk after drinking too much beer: *The lads must have been well and truly lagered up by the time they left the club.*

* SIMILAR TO: **be drunk**, **pissed** BrE spoken informal

LAM

lammed, lammed, lamming

lam into**lam into sb**

BrE old-fashioned informal to hit someone or speak angrily to them: *They charged through the crowd, lamming into anyone who got in their*

way. | *I know Feargal lammed into you yesterday, but he doesn't mean half of what he says.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay into sb** informal

LAND

landed, landed, landing

land in

land (sb) in trouble/jail/court etc

to get into a bad situation, or put someone in a bad situation: *I hope I haven't landed you in trouble with the boss.* | *Her husband had a violent temper, which often landed him in court.* | *Gasgoine landed in trouble after an all-night drinking session with his friends.*

land sb in it BrE informal (=cause a lot of trouble for someone, especially by telling a person in authority about something wrong they have done) *You've really landed me in it this time! I wish you'd kept quiet!*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop sb in it** BrE informal

land up

1 land up

BrE to finally arrive in a place or situation after a lot of other things have happened, especially when this was not intended: *She got on the wrong train and landed up somewhere just outside Newcastle.* | *The letter eventually landed up on his desk a few days later.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end up, finish up** BrE informal, **wind up**

2 land up doing sth

BrE if you land up doing something, you do it as a result of a series of events, although you did not originally intend to do it: *I expect I'll land up having to do the whole thing myself, as usual.*

* SIMILAR TO: **end up, finish up** BrE informal, **wind up**

land with

land sb with sth

 USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE if you are landed with something, especially a job that no one else wants to do or a fine or bill etc, you have to deal with it or pay it: *Penny was always being landed with the job of looking after the kids at weekends.* | *At the end of the trial the defendants found themselves landed with court costs of over \$1 million.* | *I knew he'd try to land me with the job of clearing up.*

land yourself with sth BrE (=get into situation in which you have to deal with something, or have to pay a lot of money) *I'd do what they say if I were you. You don't want to land yourself with a huge fine.*

* SIMILAR TO: **saddle with, lumber with** BrE informal

LAP

lapped, lapped, lapping

lap up

1 lap up sth lap sth up

to enjoy something or accept it eagerly, even though it may not be sincere or true – use this especially about praise or attention from other people, or something that someone says: *Ian was clearly lapping up all the attention from his new group of fans.* | *Whenever there's a new story about the royal family, the public are always quick to lap it up.* | *He is constantly surrounded by eager students, lapping up his words of wisdom.*

* SIMILAR TO: **go far, eat up** AmE informal

2 lap up sth lap sth up

if an animal laps up milk, water etc, it drinks the milk, water etc: *The cat was lapping up the milk.*

LAPSE

lapsed, lapsed, lapsing

lapse into

1 lapse into silence/unconsciousness/ a deep sleep etc

to become silent, unconscious, or asleep: *Laura lapsed into a frosty silence, staring blindly out through the window.* | *She crawled into her sleeping bag and immediately lapsed into unconsciousness.*

2 lapse into sth

 NOT PASSIVE

to change into a much worse state or condition: *The economy continued to lapse into decline, with manufacturing output down by over 10%.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fall into**

3 lapse into sth

 NOT PASSIVE

to start behaving or speaking in a way that you used to speak or behave in in the past but are now trying not to do so: *Normally she spoke with a very posh English voice, but now and again she lapsed into her native Glasgow accent.* | *Joe managed to give up the drinking for a few months, but he soon lapsed back into his old ways again.*

* SIMILAR TO: **slip into**

LARD

be larded with

be larded with sth

if speech or writing is larded with a particular kind of words or remarks, it contains a lot of them – used to show disapproval: *His speech was larded with all the usual clichés*

about 'rights and responsibilities', and 'the importance of family values'.

* SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

LARK

larked, larked, larking

lark about/around

lark about/around USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE to have fun by behaving in a silly way – use this especially about children and young people: *The kids took little interest in her lessons, and spent most of the time larking about.*

* SIMILAR TO: **fool about/around**, **mess about/around** informal

LASH

lashed, lashed, lashing

lash down

lash down ✕

if the rain lashes down, a lot of rain falls and there is also often a lot of wind: *It was a wild evening. The rain was lashing down and the wind was howling through the trees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour down**, **bucket down** BrE informal

lash into

lash into sb

to criticize someone or something very strongly or angrily: *Buchanan lashed into the plan, saying it would cause more problems than it would solve.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay into**

lash out

1 lash out

to suddenly speak angrily to someone or suddenly criticize someone very strongly

+ **at/against** *Anwar lashed out in fury at his colleagues, accusing them of racism. | Preachers were lashing out against the hypocrisy of the US government.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hit out**

2 lash out

to suddenly try to hit or attack someone

+ **with** *Brendan lashed out with his fist and caught the thief on the jaw.*

+ **at** *He felt like lashing out at her and strangling her.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hit out**

3 lash out on sth lash out sth (on sth)

BrE informal to suddenly spend a lot of money on something, especially a surprisingly large

amount of money: *How many people are going to want to lash out £50 on a haircut?*

* SIMILAR TO: **splash out** BrE informal

lash up

lash sth up **lash up sth**

BrE informal to do something badly, especially by making silly mistakes: *Don't give it to Lauren – she'll only lash it up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **cock up** BrE informal, **mess up** informal

LAST

lasted, lasted, lasting

last out

1 last out sth last out

BrE to continue living or continue working properly – use this especially about someone who is very ill, or something that is very old or in bad condition: *His father wasn't expected to last out the night. | She wasn't sure if her voice would last out until the end of the concert.*

* SIMILAR TO: **last**

2 last out sth last out

BrE to continue what you are doing until the job, journey, or experience etc is finished, even though it is difficult or tiring: *The witness was so exhausted that she might not have lasted out the afternoon in court without fainting. | "Do you want me to stop the car?" "No, I think I can last out till we get home."*

3 last out last out sth

BrE if supplies of something last out, there is enough for people to use during a period of time: *Is there enough fuel to last out until the next delivery? | Supplies of hay for the cattle probably won't last out the winter.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hold out**, **last**

LATCH

latched, latched, latching

latch on/onto

latch on **latch onto sth**

BrE informal to understand what someone means or realize that something is happening: *When they explained what kind of songs they wanted, Frank latched on really quickly. | By the time I'd latched onto what was happening, the thieves were already halfway down the street with my wallet.*

* SIMILAR TO: **catch on**, **cotton on** BrE informal

latch on to/onto

1 latch on to/onto sth

to decide that something is very good or useful and start using it: *People are starting to*

latch onto the idea of shopping on the Internet.

2 latch on to/onto sth latch on to/onto sb

to pay a lot of attention to something or someone because you think they are important or interesting: *The press are always quick to latch onto any story involving the Royal family.* | *Viewers latched on to Jackie Corkhill as a character and sympathized with all the problems she had with the men in her life.*

3 latch on to/onto sb

latch yourself on to/onto sb

to spend time with someone and talk with them, especially when they do not want you with them: *A young man had latched onto her earlier on in the evening, and she was wondering how she could get rid of him politely.*

* SIMILAR TO: **glom onto** AmE

4 latch on to/onto sth

to become firmly joined or stuck to something: *If the insect latches onto your skin, one way of removing it is to use a burning cigarette.*

* SIMILAR TO: **glom onto** AmE

LAUGH

laughed, laughed, laughing

laugh at

1 laugh at sth

to think that an idea, suggestion etc is very silly and should not be considered in a serious way: *People used to laugh at the idea that one day man could travel to other planets – now it will soon be a reality.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pour scorn on, ridicule** formal

2 laugh at sb

to make jokes about someone and make unkind remarks about them: *The other kids used to laugh at him and call him names.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make fun of, mock**

3 laugh at sth

to seem not to care about something that other people think is serious: *Young offenders just laugh at warnings from the police – they know they can't be punished and sent to prison.*

laugh off

laugh sth off laugh off sth

to pretend that you are not worried about a problem or hurt by a criticism by laughing and making jokes about it: *When news of the scandal first came out, White House staff tried to laugh it off.* | *Cochrane laughed off suggestions that the club was not happy with his performance, and were planning to sack him.*

LAUNCH

launched, launched, launching

launch into

launch into sth

to suddenly start talking about something or doing something, especially with a lot of enthusiasm: *He then launched into a blistering attack on his critics.* | *Her husband was about to launch into a detailed description of his plans for redecorating the house when, fortunately for us, the phone rang.*

launch out

launch out

BrE to start doing something new, especially something that involves a lot of risk: *He left his father's firm and launched out in business on his own.*

* SIMILAR TO: **strike out**

LAVISH

lavished, lavished, lavishing

lavish on/upon

● **Lavish upon** is more formal than **lavish on** and is mostly used in writing.

lavish sth on/upon sb

lavish sth on/upon sth

to give someone or something a lot of praise or attention, spend a lot of money on them, or give them a lot of presents: *When the series was first shown, the media lavished praise on its creator David Lynch.* | *the royal shopaholic who lavished a fortune on an endless array of new outfits*

* SIMILAR TO: **heap on/upon**

LAY

laid, laid, laying

lay about

lay about sb

old-fashioned to attack someone by hitting them violently: *His attackers began laying about him with sticks.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lay into** informal, **set about** especially literary

lay aside

1 lay aside sth lay sth aside

to stop doing something or stop thinking about something, especially so that you are able to do something else: *The two communities will have to lay aside their differences and learn to live in peace with each other.* | *He had*

laid aside his own business commitments in order to help his wife.

* SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put aside**

2 lay aside sth lay sth aside

to keep something, especially money, and not use it now, so that you can use it in the future: *They had laid aside a small amount of money each month in order to deal with just this type of emergency.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put aside**

lay before

lay sth before sb/sth

to give something to a parliament, court, person in authority etc to consider, so that they can make a decision, make a new law, give advice etc: *Legislation was laid before Parliament last spring, banning the sale of handguns.* | *Based on the evidence laid before the court, there was only one possible verdict – guilty.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put before**

lay down

1 lay down sth lay sth down

to officially establish a rule or way of doing something, or say officially what someone should do: *The Geneva Convention lays down conditions for the treatment of prisoners of war.* | *The right of every American to bear arms is laid down in the US constitution.*

+ **that** *The Sex Discrimination Act lays down that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stipulate** *formal*, **set down**

2 lay down your weapons/arms/guns etc

to stop fighting, or agree to give up your weapons: *Many of the soldiers had already begun to lay down their arms before the final peace treaty was signed.* | *The terrorists have so far refused to lay down any of their weapons, and can continue their campaign of violence at any time.*

* SIMILAR TO: **surrender** *formal*

3 lay down the law

to tell someone very firmly what they should or should not do, especially in a way that annoys or upsets them: *Her father had started laying down the law about what time she was supposed to come back home.*

4 lay down sth lay sth down

to establish something that will develop in the future: *The course aims to lay down the basis for a career in teaching.* | *The foundations of future health are laid down in childhood.*

* SIMILAR TO: **establish**

5 lay down sth lay sth down

technical if you lay down a wine, you store it and keep it for several years, in order to improve its taste: *Maison du Vin has a wide range of fine Bordeaux wines which are suitable for laying down.*

6 lay down a challenge

to ask someone if they will try to compete with you or defeat you, or do something very difficult, especially something that no one has been able to do before: *Following the challenge laid down by President Kennedy in the early 60s, the first Americans finally landed on the moon in 1969.*

* SIMILAR TO: **throw down**

7 lay down your life

formal to give up your life in order to help other people, for example in a war to defend your country: *a memorial to the soldiers who laid down their lives in the First World War*

* SIMILAR TO: **give your life**

8 lay down sth lay sth down

formal to give up something, for example your right to something: *Britain has so far been unwilling to lay down its claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give up, abandon, renounce** *formal*

9 lay down sth lay sth down

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a layer of something such as rock is laid down, it forms gradually and becomes a solid mass: *deposits of limestone which were laid down millions of years ago*

lay for

lay for sb

AmE informal old-fashioned to wait for someone so you can attack them: *He threatened to lay for me later if I didn't stop talking to his girlfriend.*

lay in

lay in sth lay sth in

to obtain and store a supply of something so that you can use it in the future: *The villagers have begun laying in supplies of food and firewood for the winter.*

* SIMILAR TO: **get in, stock up, hoard**

lay into

1 lay into sb/sth

informal to criticize someone or something very strongly, especially in a way that seems unreasonable or unfair: *When I got home my wife started laying into me because I'd forgotten it was our wedding anniversary.* | *Spielberg laid*

into his critics in a recent article in *Newsweek* magazine.

* SIMILAR TO: **rip into** *informal*

2 lay into sb

informal to attack someone and hit or kick them: *Her husband laid into the photographer with his fists and grabbed his camera from him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **attack**

lay off

1 lay off sb lay sb off

to stop employing a worker because there is not enough work for him or her to do: *Thousands of workers in the auto and steel industries were laid off during the recession of the late 1980s. | The company has recently suffered huge losses and has been forced to lay off some of its employees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **make redundant**

lay-offs N [PLURAL]

when a company stops employing workers because there is not enough work for them to do: *There are expected to be lay-offs at Rover's Longbridge factory because of the fall in demand for new cars.*

2 lay off sth

to stop doing or having something, especially in order to rest or because it may have a bad effect on your health: *His doctors have told him to lay off the drugs and the all-night partying.*

* SIMILAR TO: **stay off**

lay-off N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

a period when you stop doing something: *Shearer returns to football next week after a 3-month lay-off due to injury.*

3 lay off sb

spoken to stop annoying, upsetting, or hurting someone: *Listen, just lay off, will you? She doesn't need you telling her what to do. | Lay off him, Jonno! He's never done anything to you.*

* SIMILAR TO: **leave sb alone**

lay on

1 lay on sth

BrE to provide something, especially food or entertainment, or cars, buses etc in order to take people somewhere: *The organizers had laid on a huge meal for everyone who took part in the race. | Special buses were laid on to take the fans to the airport.*

* SIMILAR TO: **provide**

2 lay it on (thick)

a informal to describe or complain about something in a way that makes it seem much worse or more serious than it really is:

Whenever Claire's ill she always lays it on and makes out she's about to die, even if it's only a cold.

* SIMILAR TO: **exaggerate**

b informal to praise someone too much and talk a lot about how much you admire them, in a way that seems insincere: *He kept saying what a wonderful boss she was, and really laying it on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **exaggerate**

3 lay sth on sb

AmE informal to tell someone something that they did not know before and that is unpleasant or annoying: *I hate to lay this on you, but it looks like you owe \$400 in taxes this year.*

4 lay sth on sb

to give someone something such as a responsibility, job, or problem that is difficult to deal with: *I'm sorry to lay this on you, but we need someone to give a talk in Italy next week.*

* SIMILAR TO: **saddle with, lumber with**

lay on/upon

● **Lay upon** is more formal than **lay on** and is mostly used in writing.

lay stress/emphasis on/upon sth

to say or consider that something is particularly important or necessary: *Great emphasis is laid on trying to help students develop skills that will be useful to them in later life. | The Pope laid emphasis upon the need for a peaceful end to the crisis in Kosovo.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put stress/emphasis on/upon**

lay out

1 lay out sth lay sth out

to put or arrange something on a surface: *Ashi laid out the clothes she was going to wear that day on the bed. | The plates were already laid out for the evening meal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **put out**

2 lay out sth lay sth out USUALLY PASSIVE

to arrange or plan the way something is organized – use this especially about a building, town, or garden, or the design of a book, magazine etc: *The palace gardens are laid out in the same style as the ones at Versailles. | The magazine is badly laid out, and it is often difficult to find what you want.*

layout N [C]

the way something is arranged or designed, for example a building, town, garden, or a page in a book, magazine etc: *a change from the traditional newspaper layout | The layout of the office makes it possible for the boss to watch us all while we are working.*

3 lay out sth lay sth out

to explain your plans or reasons for doing something clearly and in detail, in an official document or speech: *The Director General laid out his plans for the future of the BBC.* | *Israel and Jordan have laid out plans for a peace agreement.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set out, outline**

4 lay out sth lay sth out

informal to spend money on something, especially a large amount of money: *I've already had to lay out £500 for the course fees.*

* SIMILAR TO: **shell out** informal, **fork out** informal

outlay N [SINGULAR, U]

the amount of money that you have to spend in order to buy something or start doing something: *For a relatively small outlay you can acquire a second home in one of the most beautiful parts of Europe.* | *She wasn't hoping to make a huge profit – she just wanted to get back her initial outlay.*

5 lay out

AmE to lie in the sun: *We laid out by the pool all afternoon.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sunbathe**

6 lay sb out

to hit someone so hard that they become unconscious: *She swung her umbrella at him, and practically laid him out.*

* SIMILAR TO: **knock out**

7 lay out sth/sb lay sth/sb out

to prepare a dead body so that it can be buried: *Evita Peron's body was laid out in a glass-topped coffin.*

lay up

1 be laid up

informal to have to stay in bed because you are ill or injured: *Both his legs were broken and he was laid up for nine months.*

+ **with** *Chas isn't coming in to work today – he's laid up in bed with flu.*

2 be laid up

if a boat, car, or piece of equipment is laid up, it is stored somewhere while it is not being used: *All the fishing boats were laid up for the winter.* | *The limousine had been laid up during the war and last ran in 1962.*

3 lay up

to hide or stay somewhere without doing anything for a period of time: *Captain Warr's men laid up all the following day, expecting to be attacked at any moment.* | *The otters find shelter in the undergrowth by the river and lay up there during the day.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hide out, hole up**

4 lay up problems/trouble (for yourself)

to do something that will cause problems for yourself in the future: *I really think that anyone who goes out with a married man is just laying up trouble for themselves.*

* SIMILAR TO: **store up**

5 lay up sth lay sth up

to collect and store a supply of something so that you can use it in the future: *The villagers were already laying up firewood for the winter.*

* SIMILAR TO: **store up, stock up, get in**

LAZE

lazed, lazed, lazing

laze around

ALSO **laze about** BrE

laze around/about

to spend time relaxing and not doing very much: *We spent the day lazing around on the beach.* | *My eldest son just lazes about at home all day – I don't know what to do with him.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax, lounge around, doss about/around** BrE informal

LEAD

led, led, leading

lead astray

1 lead sb astray USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone believe something that is not true with the result that they make the wrong choice or decision: *Don't be led astray by promises of free insurance or free drinks in vacation brochures.* | *Officials may have led people astray by telling them that it was safe to eat beef.*

* SIMILAR TO: **mislead**

2 lead sb astray

to encourage someone to do bad things that they would not normally do: *The boy's mother has tried to stop him stealing, but she's convinced it's older boys who lead him astray.*

lead into

lead into sth

if one subject, discussion, piece of music etc leads into another, the second one follows naturally from the first because there is a clear connection between them: *A video called 'The Dating Game' was shown, which leads into a class discussion of boy/girl relationships.* | *A slow clarinet melody leads into the finale of this great symphony.*

lead off**1 lead off** **lead off sth**

to begin a discussion or event by saying or doing something: *At the Blue Note Club, jazz pianist John Einweck leads off the evening at 8 p.m.*

+ with *The latest issue of the newsletter leads off with a report on tax bills.*

* SIMILAR TO: **start off, kick off** *informal*

2 lead off

BrE if one room, road, path etc leads off another, you can get to the first one directly from the second: *The shop is on Southey Street, a narrow road leading off the High Street. | A kitchen area with cooker and fridge leads off the living room.*

3 lead off **lead off sth**

AmE to be the first player to try to hit the ball in an inning (=period of play) in the game of basketball: *Roberto Kelly led off the 10th inning with his second home run of the game.*

lead on**1 lead sb on**

to deceive someone by telling them things that are not true, especially by making them believe that you love them: *He led her on right until the last minute: the wedding was arranged, all the guests were at the church, and he didn't turn up!*

* SIMILAR TO: **deceive, string along** *informal*

2 lead sb on

to encourage someone to do something that they should not do: *Many young kids start smoking at school, led on by their friends. | "Why don't you try? It can't do any harm," she said, leading him on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **egg on, goad on**

lead on to/onto**lead on to/onto sth**

especially BrE to cause something to develop or make it possible for someone to do something at a later time: *If a young child has problems with language, this may lead on to additional difficulties at school. | an advanced course of study that leads onto university | I took a job as a secretary in a publishing company, hoping that his would lead onto other things.*

lead to**lead to sth** NOT PASSIVE

to cause something to happen, especially some time later: *the events which led to the downfall of Margaret Thatcher | Air-traffic controllers are worried that these proposals*

could lead to a major accident. | The bank has offered a reward for information leading to the arrest of the robbers.

* SIMILAR TO: **result in, cause**

lead up to**1 lead up to sth**

if a series of events or days, weeks etc lead up to an important event, they come before it: *a discussion of the events leading up to the Second World War | San Francisco will take on a festival atmosphere in the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl.*

the lead-up to sth N [SINGULAR]

BrE the period of time before an important event: *A record number of stores are opening on Sundays in the lead-up to Christmas.*

2 lead up to sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to gradually introduce a particular subject into a conversation or speech, especially something that may be embarrassing or upsetting: *I could see that he was leading up to a request for more money. | He was obviously leading up to something with all that talk about the company's financial problems.*

* SIMILAR TO: **work up to**

LEAF

leafed, leafed, leafing

leaf through**leaf through sth**

to turn the pages of a book or magazine quickly, looking at what is there without reading it carefully: *He picked up a copy of Life magazine and began to leaf through it while he waited. | I leafed through my notebook for Rick Bergen's address.*

* SIMILAR TO: **flick through, flip through, thumb through**

LEAK

leaked, leaked, leaking

leak out**leak out**

if secret information leaks out, people find out about it and it becomes publicly known: *News of the royal couple's marriage problems began to leak out to the media. | Parents were furious when rumours of plans to close the school began to leak out two weeks ago.*

LEAN**lean on****1 lean on sb**

to depend on someone for support and encouragement, especially at a difficult time:

Friendship is important – you need someone you can trust and lean on for support.

* SIMILAR TO: **depend on, rely on**

2 lean on sb

to try to persuade someone to do something by using influence or threats

lean on sb to do sth *A group of senators has been leaning on Republican leaders to cut welfare.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pressurize**

lean towards especially BrE

lean toward AmE

lean towards/toward sth

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to tend to support a particular opinion or decision

lean towards/toward doing sth *Yeltsin was leaning towards running for re-election. | Their eldest daughter seems to be leaning towards a career in computing.*

LEAP

leaped, leaped, leaping especially AmE
leapt, leapt, leaping especially BrE

leap at

leap at sth

to eagerly accept the opportunity to do something: *If I got the opportunity to go to the Wimbledon finals, I'd leap at it.*

leap at the chance/opportunity *When her boss asked if she'd like to go to the Rio conference, she leaped at the chance.*

* SIMILAR TO: **jump at**

leap in

leap in

to suddenly start doing or saying something, especially without thinking carefully: *Alan immediately leapt in and started shouting at everyone.*

* SIMILAR TO: **dive in, jump in**

leap on/upon

● **Leap upon** is more formal than **leap on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 leap on/upon sb

to suddenly jump towards someone and attack them violently: *The bigger boys leapt on him as he came out of school. | computer games with monsters waiting to leap on you at every corner*

* SIMILAR TO: **pounce on/upon**

2 leap on/upon sth

to immediately show a lot of interest in

something or eagerly accept a suggestion: *The President admitted he'd lied, and of course the newspapers leaped on the story.*

* SIMILAR TO: **pounce on, seize on/upon**

leap out at

1 leap out at sb

to suddenly move forward and attack or frighten someone: *She walked quickly down the darkened street, terrified that at any moment someone would leap out at her.*

2 leap out at sb

if something leaps out at you, you notice it quickly especially because it is important, unusual, or you like it very much: *I looked quickly through some magazines hoping that some interesting ideas would leap out at me.*

† **at Hazlitt is a superb writer: on page after page sentences leap out at you to be noted and remembered.**

* SIMILAR TO: **jump out at**

LEAVE

left, left, leaving

leave aside

leave aside sth **leave sth aside**

to not consider or talk about a particular subject immediately, so that you can consider something else first: *Let's leave aside the question of cost – which computer would be the best one for us to buy?*

leaving aside sth/leaving sth aside (=not including something) *Leaving aside alcohol and tobacco, prices rose only two percent last year.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ignore, disregard** formal

leave behind

1 leave sth/sb behind

to not take something or someone with you when you leave or go to a place, either because you forgot to take them or because you left them there deliberately: *I think I left my credit card behind at the restaurant. | Make sure you don't leave anything behind in your hotel room. | Environmental campaigners want shoppers to leave their cars behind and use public transport instead. | My wife refuses to be left behind when I go on business trips abroad.*

2 leave behind sth leave sth behind you

to cause a particular situation to exist after leaving a place or position or power: *The hurricane swept through the islands, leaving behind a trail of destruction | The previous government left a huge budget deficit behind them.*

3 leave sth behind/leave sth behind you

to no longer be affected by a situation, attitude, or system, especially one that has prevented you from making progress or being successful: *I felt very bitter after the divorce, but I've left all that behind now.* | *democratic societies trying to leave communism behind them*

4 leave sb/sth behind leave behind sb/sth

if you leave behind your family or possessions when you die, they remain after you have died: *Captain Morgan was killed in a tragic accident today. He leaves behind his wife, Anna, and their two sons, Chris and Matthew.* | *The band has recorded 'Free as a Bird', using vocal tracks left behind by the late John Lennon.*

5 leave sb behind leave behind sb

to make progress much more quickly than someone else: *The Eastern European countries put on a stunning performance at the games – they left the rest of the world behind.*

be/get left behind *I don't want to miss any of the classes or I'll get left behind.*

6 leave sth behind leave behind sth

if a substance is left behind as the result of a process, it remains or is the result of the process after it has finished: *When the liquid is heated, the water evaporates, leaving the salts behind.*

leave off

1 leave off sth leave off

to stop doing something

leave off doing sth especially BrE *He left off kicking the youth and started going through his pockets.*

start/begin etc where sb/sth leaves off (=start from the point where someone stopped before, or start from the point where a story ended before) *Her second novel begins where her first one left off.* | *The computer saves the game so you can start where you left off.*

* SIMILAR TO: stop

2 leave off. spoken informal, especially BrE

used to tell someone to stop doing something, especially when they are annoying you: *Leave off, Sethe – you're hurting me!*

* SIMILAR TO: give over! BrE informal, cut it out!/cut that out! spoken informal

leave out

1 leave out sb/sth leave sth/sb out

to not include someone or something, either deliberately or accidentally: *You've left out a zero in this phone number.* | *Right at the end of*

the exam, I realized I'd left out something important.

+ of Fans were shocked that Giggs had been left out of the team.

* SIMILAR TO: omit, exclude

2 feel left out

to feel as if you are not accepted or welcome in a group of people: *Everyone seemed to know each other at the club and I felt really left out.*

3 leave it out! BrE spoken informal

used to tell someone that you do not believe what they have just said: *"I love you. I didn't mean to hurt you."* *"Oh, leave it out, Mick – I've heard it all before!"*

* SIMILAR TO: come off it! spoken informal, knock it off informal

be left over

1 be left over

if something such as money or food is left over, you still have some after you have used or eaten as much as you need: *After we've paid the bills there's never any money left over at the end of the month.*

+ from Dan made a sandwich with some cold chicken left over from lunch.

leftovers N [PLURAL]

food that has not been eaten at the end of a meal: *Shall I throw away the leftovers, or do you want to use them for something else?*

leftover ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

leftover food is food that has not been eaten at the end of a meal: *Here are some great recipes for ways to use leftover turkey.*

2 be left over

if a thing, belief, or habit is left over from the past, it still exists, although the situation that caused it has changed

+ from Kay was standing near a huge puddle left over from that morning's summer storm. | *He keeps his hair very short – a habit left over from his days in the army.*

leftover N [C]

something that remains from an earlier time, although the situation that caused it has changed: *The restaurant's name – The Old Mill – is a leftover from the days when flour was produced here.*

leave to

1 leave sb to sth

spoken to go away and let someone continue what they are doing, without interrupting them: *I'll leave you to your meal and call again at a more convenient time.*

leave sb to it *The meeting still hadn't finished by 7 o'clock, so we left them to it*

and went for a drink. | "I'll be finished in an hour." "Right. I'll leave you to it – see you later."

2 leave sth to sb

to give something to someone after you die: *She left the house to her son, but all her money went to the Church.*

leave to/leave up to

leave sth to sb

spoken to let someone decide and be responsible for something without trying to influence them: "What colour shall we paint this room?" "I'll leave that up to you," Jasper said.

leave it (up) to sb (to do sth) *Don't worry about the computer – leave it to me, I'll get it fixed. | Most patients will leave it up to the doctor to decide what's best.*

LECH

leched, leched, leching

lech after/over

lech after/over sb

BrE informal if a man leches after a woman or a girl he shows that he finds her sexually attractive and desirable in a way that is unpleasant or annoying: *He was one of those middle-aged men who are always leching after young girls.*

LEND

lent, lent, lending

lend out

lend out sth

to let someone borrow or use something for a period of time: *Many libraries have CDs that they can lend out, just like books.*

+ to I wanted to borrow Duncan's guitar, but he's lent it out to someone else.

* SIMILAR TO: **lend, loan**

lend to

lend itself to sth

to be suitable for being used for a particular purpose or being treated in a particular way: *It's an old house, and it doesn't lend itself to a very modern style of decoration. | Much of the 2,000-mile border is isolated, lending itself to the smuggling of drugs and illegal immigrants.*

LET

let, let, letting

let down

1 let sb down

let down sb

to fail to do something that someone is relying on you to do, in a way that is disappointing or annoying: *The builder promised that he'd come today, but he's let me down again. | My car never let me down all winter. | The education system is letting down our children.*

be let down (by sb) *The working class in this country have always been let down by the politicians who claim to represent them.*

feel let down (by sb) (=when you feel disappointed because someone fails to do something that you are relying on them to do) *I felt really let down when he didn't turn up for our date.*

let the side down BrE (=fail to do what the other people in your family, team etc expect you to do) *Martin's sisters all went to university, and he feels he's let the side down by failing to get a place.*

letdown N [SINGULAR]

something that is disappointing because it is not as exciting, interesting, or successful as you expected: *Her wedding night was such a letdown. | The Raiders need to win this match; they can't afford any more letdowns this season.*

2 let down sth/sb

let sth/sb down

to make something or someone less successful than they should be, by not achieving a good enough standard: *It's quite a good film, but the ending lets it down.*

let yourself down *His written work is fine; it's his spoken language that's letting him down.*

3 let sth down

let down sth

BrE if you let down a tyre, or something else that has air in it, you allow all the air to come out: *When he came back to his bike, some idiot had let his tyres down. | If you've finished with the airbed, I'll let it down.*

* SIMILAR TO: **let the air out of sth, deflate** formal

● OPPOSITE: **blow up, pump up, inflate** formal

4 let sth down

let down sth

to make a skirt, dress, or pair of trousers longer by cutting the stitches at the bottom, unfolding some of the material, and stitching it again: *Mum, can you let these trousers down? They're too short.*

let in

1 let sb in

let in sb

to allow someone to enter a room or building, especially by opening the door: *Pauline*

was banging on our door. "Let me in!" she screamed. | The doorman had a key to the apartment, so he let them in. | Try The Tube – a smart new club in the centre of town – but they won't let you in if you're wearing jeans.

let yourself in I've got a key, so I can let myself in if you're not home when I arrive.

* SIMILAR TO: **admit** formal

2 let in sth let sth in

to allow air, light, water etc to enter a place: *Then the door opened, letting in a cold damp gust of wind.* | *I pulled back the curtains to let in as much light as possible*

inlet N [C]

the part of a machine through which liquid or gas can enter: *Check the water inlet to make sure it isn't blocked.*

let in for

let yourself in for sth

informal to become involved in something that may be difficult or cause you problems: *Tracy's thrilled that she's pregnant – she doesn't know what she's letting herself in for!* | *Hutton joined the Tigers in June, but he must have wondered what he'd let himself in for when they lost the first three matches.*

let in on

let sb in on sth

to tell someone about a secret, or about something that only a few people know about: *Shall I let you in on a secret? We're getting married next year.* | *Could someone please let me in on the joke – what's so funny?*

* SIMILAR TO: **let into**

let into

1 let sb into sth

to allow someone to enter a place: *Immigration officials refused to let him into the country.* | *Youths attacked a sixty-year-old woman after she let them into her house in Jerviston Street yesterday.*

let yourself into sth (=open the door to a room or building with a key and go in) *She only had time to park her car and let herself into her apartment before he arrived.*

* SIMILAR TO: **admit** formal

2 let sb into a secret

BrE to tell someone something that is secret or private: *I'll let you into a secret – James is not Kath's real father.* | *Junior officers who were on duty had not been let into the secret of what was going to happen.*

* SIMILAR TO: **let in on**

3 be let into sth

BrE if something is let into a wall or other

surface, it is fixed into a space or hole in the surface: *It was a large room under the roof, with a window let into the sloping ceiling.* | *Prisoners were handcuffed to iron rings let into the walls.*

* SIMILAR TO: **set into**

let off

1 let sb off let off sb

to not punish someone when they have done something wrong: *"I'm sorry, I'm late!" "I'll let you off this time."* | *Beaney should have been booked for that foul, but the referee let him off.*

+ **with** *Kids who are caught stealing are often just let off with a warning.*

let sb off lightly (=give someone a punishment that is less serious than they deserve) *You have been fined for this offence in the past: this time I am not letting you off so lightly.*

2 let sb off sth let sb off let off sb

to allow someone not to do a job that they are supposed to do, or not to pay a debt that they owe: *Will you let me off the washing up tonight? I want to go out early.* | *A spokesman said the government was willing to let the company off its \$8 million debt.*

3 let off sth let sth off

to make something such as a bomb explode, or to fire a gun: *Terrorists let off a massive bomb in the city centre.* | *"Stop right there!" he yelled, and let off a warning shot.* | *What time do they start letting off the fireworks?*

4 let sb off

to stop a car, bus etc to allow someone to get out: *Ask the taxi driver to let you off by the post office.* | *Do you want me to let you off here?*

* SIMILAR TO: **drop off** informal, **set down**

5 let off sth let sth off

BrE to rent part of a building to someone: *The Burtons let off part of the house and lived in the rest.* | *Part of the building is let off as a separate factory.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rent out**, **let out** BrE

6 let off sth let sth off

to produce heat, gas, sound etc: *It's only a small radiator, so it doesn't let off much heat.* | *The ship let off a couple of blasts from its siren and slowly began to move away from the dock.*

* SIMILAR TO: **give off**, **produce** formal, **emit** formal

7 let off

BrE informal to allow air to escape from your bottom, making a rude noise and an unpleasant smell: *Ugh! What a stink! Who's let off?*

* SIMILAR TO: **fart**, **break wind**

let on**let on** USUALLY NEGATIVE

informal if you don't let on about a secret or about your feelings, you do not tell other people about them: *Carol's living with her boyfriend now, but don't let on to Mum, will you?* | *Perhaps Anna's death upset him more than he let on.*

† about *Lizzy made Kate promise not to let on about the money.*

let out**1a let sb out let out sb**

to allow someone to leave somewhere: *"Stop the car and let me out," Elly screamed.*

† of *Hanson was recently let out of prison to spend the weekend with his wife, Brenda.* | *She still looks very ill – they shouldn't have let her come out of the hospital.*

1b let sb out let out sb

to open or unlock a door so that someone can leave somewhere: *Haley went downstairs to let the cat out.* | *The youth was trapped inside the building, and had to ask a passer-by to let him out.*

let yourself out *She crept through the dark silent house and let herself out into the garden.*

2 let out sth NOT PASSIVE

literary to make a particular sound: *Eugene let out a long loud laugh when he heard what had happened.* | *Without thinking, I touched the metal bar. It was so hot I almost let out a scream.* | *As soon as he had gone, they all let out a deep sigh of relief.*

* SIMILAR TO: **utter** formal

3 let out sth let sth out

to express or get rid of strong feelings, especially when you feel very angry or upset about something: *Sometimes it's good to cry and just let it all out.*

outlet N [C]

a way of expressing or getting rid of strong feelings about something: *Hope described his boxing career as the perfect outlet for his aggression.*

4 let sth out let out sth

to allow air, water etc to escape or flow out of something: *The kitchen door was open, letting out all the warmth from the room.*

let out a breath (=breathe air out of your lungs) *"Could you take a deep breath," the doctor said, "and then let it out slowly."*

outlet N [C]

a hole or pipe that air or water can flow out of: *For both the bath and the sink, you have to buy the taps and the waste outlet separately.*

5 let sth out let out sth

to tell people something that was intended to be a secret: *George was the only person who could have let this information out.* | *I was worried he might let out my secret.* | *Who let out that it's my birthday today?*

let the cat out of the bag (=tell people something that was intended to be a secret) *Mr Dunn let the cat out of the bag about the government's true intentions.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reveal**

6 let out sth let sth out

BrE to allow someone to rent a house, apartment etc that you own: *We could let out a room to make a bit of extra cash.* | *The house next door, Number 3, was let out as three flats.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rent out, let**

7 let sb out of a contract/agreement

to allow someone not to have to do what they have agreed to do in a contract: *Kaelin was let out of his radio contract in order to pursue film and TV roles.*

let-out N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

BrE something that allows someone to avoid doing something unpleasant or something that they do not want to do: *The insurance company refused to pay anything in the end because of some let-out in the contract.*

8 let sth out let out sth

to sew up a piece of clothing in a way that makes it wider or looser than before, so that someone can fit into it: *I'll never get into this skirt again unless I can let it out a bit.*

● OPPOSITE: **take in**

let through**let sb/sth through let through sb/sth****let sb/sth through sth**

to allow someone or something to pass through and get somewhere: *The security guard refused to let me through the gate.* | *There were thick velvet curtains that didn't let any light through.*

† to *Reports came in that Jordan was letting shipments through to Iraq.*

let up**1 let up**

if bad weather or an unpleasant situation lets up, it stops or becomes less serious than before: *I'll drive you into town as soon as the snow lets up.* | *The economic crisis showed no sign of letting up.*

* SIMILAR TO: **ease off/up**

let-up N [SINGULAR, U]

a pause in bad weather or an improvement in an unpleasant situation

+ in *Many houses were flooded and still there was no let-up in the rain.*

2 let up

USUALLY NEGATIVE

to stop doing something or to do it less than before, especially when you have been doing it continuously in a very determined way or in a way that annoys someone: *Little kids ask questions all the time. They won't let up.*

+ in/on *A police spokesman said that they would not let up in their campaign against drugs. | When his headaches returned, Fred was advised to let up on his studies.*

let-up N [SINGULAR, U]

when you stop doing something that you have been doing or you do it less than before

+ in *The government wants no let-up in the war against the rebels.*

LEVEL

levelled, levelled, levelling BrE
leveled, leveled, leveling AmE

level at

level sth at sb/sth

to aim a gun at someone or something: *The men pushed us into a dark room and guns were levelled at our heads.*

level at/against

level sth at/against sb USUALLY PASSIVE

if you level a criticism, charge, or accusation at someone, you publicly criticize them or say that they have done something wrong: *A number of criticisms were levelled at the book. | Accusations of racism and corruption have been levelled against the police.*

* SIMILAR TO: aim at

level off/out

1 level off/out

if the amount or rate of something levels off, it stops increasing or decreasing and stays at the level it has reached: *Car sales in Japan levelled out in September after several months of growth.*

+ at *The world population could level off at around 8.5 billion by the middle of the next century.*

* SIMILAR TO: stabilize [formal]

● COMPARE: drop off

2 level off/out

if an aircraft levels off, it begins to travel forward at the height it has reached instead of going up or down: *Mark undid his seatbelt as the jet leveled off.*

3 level off/out

if a road levels off, it begins to go forward on one level instead of going up or down: *At the top of the hill the road levelled out and we stopped to look at the view.*

4 level sth off/out level off/out sth

to make the surface of something flat and smooth: *Put the cake mixture in a tin and level it off with a spoon. | You should level out the soil with a rake before sowing the seeds.*

* SIMILAR TO: flatten

level with

level with sb NOT PASSIVE

informal to tell someone the truth about a situation, when you have not been completely honest about it before: *I decided to level with Charlie. But I made him swear not to tell anyone else.*

LICK

licked, licked, licking

lick up

lick sth up lick up sth

to drink or eat something by moving your tongue across it: *The cat was licking up something that had been spilt on the floor.*

LIE

lay, lain, lying

lie ahead

lie ahead

if a particular situation or problem lies ahead, this is what will happen or what someone will experience in the future: *A long hard struggle lies ahead before we can arrive at a diplomatic settlement.*

+ of *I felt very anxious about what lay ahead of me.*

+ for *A great future lies ahead for this talented twenty-three-year-old girl.*

* SIMILAR TO: lie before sb

lie around

ALSO: lie about BrE

1 be lying around/about (sth)

informal if something is lying around, someone has left it carelessly in a place where it should not be: *They'd left the dirty plates lying around and the wine bottles on the floor. | Have you seen my watch lying around anywhere? | It's not a good idea to leave so much money lying about the house.*

2 lie around/about

informal to spend your time being lazy and doing very little, especially lying down: *My fifteen-year-old son just lies around all day, watching videos.* | *If you enjoy drinking, eating and lying about, this could be the holiday for you.*

* SIMILAR TO: **laze around, doss about/around**
BrE *informal*

lie back**lie back**

to move your body backwards from a sitting position until you are lying down or almost lying down: *I lay back and closed my eyes to listen to the music.*

lie before**lie before sb** NOT PASSIVE

if something lies before you, you will have to deal with it or you will experience it in the future: *A major challenge lies before us.* | *In the past most women accepted without question the life that lay before them.*

* SIMILAR TO: **lie ahead**

lie behind**lie behind sth** NOT PASSIVE

to be the reason or explanation for a situation, action etc, especially when it is not clear or not generally known: *Anna never discussed what lay behind the break-up of her marriage.* | *These statistics are interesting but we need to find out what lies behind them.*

lie down**lie down**

to move into a position in which your body is flat, usually in order to sleep or rest: *He felt so tired that he went straight upstairs and lay down on his bed.*

be lying down (=be in a position in which your body is flat on a surface) *Jane was lying down on the floor, doing some exercises.*

lie-down N [SINGULAR]

BrE *informal* if you have a lie-down, you have a rest on a bed: *You don't look very well. Why don't you go and have a lie-down?*

lie in**1 lie in**

BrE to stay in bed in the morning later than usual, in order to have a rest: *Don't wake me up tomorrow morning. I'm going to lie in.*

* SIMILAR TO: **sleep in**

lie-in N [SINGULAR]

BrE *informal* if you have a lie-in, you stay in bed in the morning for longer than usual in

order to have a rest: *On Sunday mornings we usually have a lie-in.*

2 lie in sth NOT PASSIVE

if a particular quality lies in something, the quality exists in it or as a result of it: *Our company's strength lies in its excellent range of good quality products.* | *The charm of the painting lay in its simplicity.*

* SIMILAR TO: **reside in** *formal*

lie up**lie up**

BrE to hide somewhere in order to escape from people who are looking for you: *Our men lay up in the woods during the day, expecting to be attacked at any moment.* | *He had to seek shelter – somewhere to lie up and let his wounds heal.*

* SIMILAR TO: **hide out**

lie with**lie with sb** NOT PASSIVE

if something such as a fault, decision, or responsibility lies with someone, it is their fault, decision, responsibility etc, and they are responsible for dealing with it: *The fault lies with the school for not informing the parents that there was a problem.* | *The final decision on the refugees' fate lies with the government.* | *Responsibility for the environment lies with us all.*

* SIMILAR TO: **rest with**

LIFT

lifted, lifted, lifting

lift off**lift off**

if a space vehicle or plane lifts off, it leaves the ground in order to start a journey: *The space shuttle and its six astronauts will lift off on Sunday at 6.30 am.* | *The plane lifted off and began to climb steeply.*

* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

lift-off N [C,U]

when a space vehicle leaves the ground in order to travel into space: *Ten minutes to lift-off.* | *They decided they would attempt a lift-off, in spite of the bad weather.*

LIGHT

lit, lit, lighting
lighted, lighted, lighting

light on/upon

● **Light upon** is more formal than **light on** and is mostly used in writing.

light on/upon sth NOT PASSIVE

literary to suddenly notice or find something,

by chance: *Then my eye lit on that morning's newspaper.* | *Among all the books he lit upon a small volume of poetry.*

light up

- 1 **light up sth** **light sth up**

to make something bright with light or to shine light on something: *There was a storm that lit up the night sky all over Colorado.* | *In the centre of the town the main streets were all lit up for Christmas.* | *The sun shone on her head, lighting up her hair.*

- 2 **light up** **light up sth** **light sth up**

if your face or eyes light up, or a smile lights up your face, you suddenly look very pleased, happy, or excited: *Steve's eyes lit up as he described his new project.* | *Suddenly we saw him coming towards us, a smile lighting up his face.*

+ with *Bella's face lit up with pleasure at the thought of a holiday.*

- 3 **light up** **light up sth** NOT PASSIVE

informal to light a cigarette, pipe etc and begin to smoke it: *She took a cigarette from the pack, lit up and offered them around.* | *Watson sat down at a table and lit up his pipe.*

- 4 **light up**

if something lights up, it begins to shine brightly, because lights inside it start working: *If anybody tries to enter the building at night, the whole place lights up and an alarm goes off.* | *The computer screen lit up and Jonathon typed in a code.*

- 5 **light up sth**

to make a place seem happier or more interesting and attractive: *A smile from Jimmy always seemed to light up the world.* | *Vita was a fascinating woman. Her presence lit up the room.*

light up sb's life (=make someone's life happier and more interesting) *Just the thought of her lit up his life.*

* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up**

light upon

SEE **light on/upon**

LIGHTEN

lightened, lightened, lightening

lighten up

- 1 **lighten up sth** **lighten sth up**

lighten up

to make something look lighter or to become lighter: *White walls would certainly lighten up the room.* | *Outside the sky was just beginning to lighten up.*

- 2 **lighten sth up** **lighten up sth**

to make something less serious and more enjoyable: *The film script was too depressing so we've tried to lighten it up a little.* | *Is the atmosphere at work boring? Here are a few ways in which you can lighten things up.*

- 3 **lighten up**

spoken informal to behave in a less serious way and be more relaxed and friendly with other people: *Dad's so tense all the time. I wish he'd lighten up a little.*

* SIMILAR TO: **relax, not take things so seriously**

LIKEN

likened, likened, likening

liken to

liken sth/sb to sth/sb

BrE to describe something or someone as similar to another thing or person: *The newspapers likened the new hospital to a five-star hotel.* | *In the Christian religion, God is likened to a father.*

* SIMILAR TO: **compare**

LIMBER

limbered, limbered, limbering

limber up

limber up

especially BrE to do gentle exercises in order to stretch your muscles and prepare your body for a sport or competition

+ for *The athletes were already limbering up for the race.*

* SIMILAR TO: **loosen up**

LINE

lined, lined, lining

line up

- 1 **line up** **line sb up** **line up sb**

to stand in a line or to make people stand in a line: *The children were ordered to line up according to their height.* | *The rebels had lined the captives up and threatened to shoot them.*

be lined up (=be standing in a line) *Hundreds of people were lined up, all helping to put out the fire.*

line-up N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

a row of people that the police bring together. A member of the public then tries to help the police by looking at the people and deciding whether they have seen any of them before, especially at the scene of a crime: *The victim later identified Thomas from a police line-up.*

2 line sth up line up sth

to arrange things in a row: *After dinner, we lined our chairs up in front of the television.* | *I stared at the dentist's instruments lined up in front of me.*

3 line sth/sb up line up sth/sb

USUALLY PASSIVE

to arrange for something to happen or for someone to take part in an event, programme, competition etc: *The organizers had lined up a team of experts to discuss their views.* | *We have some great comedy acts lined up for you this evening.*

line-up N [C]

the group of people who have been chosen to take part in a particular event, programme, team etc: *The concert featured an all-star line-up of Bowie, Annie Lennox, George Michael and others.* | *There are a few changes to the England line-up for next week's game against Brazil.*

4 line up

if a lot of people, organizations etc line up to do something, they are all very eager to do it: *She's a brilliant lawyer. People will line up to hire her.* | *People are lining up to buy these new luxury apartments.*

* SIMILAR TO: **queue up**

5 line up sth line sth up

to make something straight or in the right position in relation to something else: *Make sure you have lined up the text on the page, before you print it out.* | *Line the shelves up carefully before fixing them permanently.*

line up against

1 line up against sb/sth NOT PASSIVE

if people line up against someone or something, they all oppose that person or thing: *Democrats quickly lined up against the tax cuts.* | *My brothers were soon involved in the argument too, all of them lined up against me.*

* SIMILAR TO: **oppose**

● OPPOSITE: **line up behind**

2 line up against sb

to compete against someone in a sports competition: *The French team will line up against Brazil in the World Cup Final.*

line up behind/with

line up behind/with sb NOT PASSIVE

if people line up behind someone or something, they all support that person or thing: *The majority lined up behind Leroy and the proposal was passed.* | *Conservatives have usually lined up with big business in commercial disputes.*

* SIMILAR TO: **support**

● OPPOSITE: **line up against**

LINGER

lingered, lingered, lingering

linger on

1 linger on

to continue to exist, especially for longer than was expected: *The disease only lingers on in very poor areas.* | *In some places, the old way of life still lingers on.*

the memory lingers on *The war might be over, but the memory lingers on.*

* SIMILAR TO: **remain**

2 linger on linger on sth NOT PASSIVE

to stay somewhere for a long time or longer than expected: *It was past twelve o'clock, but some of the guests were still lingering on.*

sb's eyes/gaze lingers on sb/sth *literary* (=someone continues to look at someone or something for a long time) *"Is that really true?" he asked, his eyes lingering on her face.*

linger over

linger over sth

to take a long time doing something, usually in order to enjoy it: *There was still one couple in the restaurant, lingering over coffee and cigarettes.*

LINK

linked, linked, linking

link up

1 link up

to join together, especially with another person or organization in order to do something together

+ with *A few years ago the Rover car company linked up with its rival Honda.* | *The Pet Shop Boys linked up with Liza Minelli and produced one of their best records.* | *The two parties linked up to form the Social Democratic Party, or SDP.*

* SIMILAR TO: **join up, merge**

link-up N [C]

when two or more companies, organizations etc join together: *Shares in the company rose sharply as news of the link-up got out.*

2 link up sth/sb link sth/sb up

to connect two or more places, people, or things: *Millions of people around the world are now linked up by the Internet.* | *The Channel Tunnel linked up Britain and France for the first time.* | *This is part of a huge programme to link up Europe's air traffic control systems.*